

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill clarifies that certain small business certification programs are subject to existing data practices provisions that govern access to data about the business requesting certification.

Small business certification programs are administered by some local governments, as well as the department of administration, and may include certification that a business is small and/or that it is minority-owned, woman-owned, or veteran-owned.

The law that would apply to these programs includes a two-tiered process for classifying data submitted by a business in order to receive the certification. Financial information about the business is classified as private data when the application is submitted. The data would later become public – with several exceptions—once the certification is complete. Data that would remain private even after the certification include business plans; income and expense projections not related to the financial assistance provided; customer lists; income tax returns; and design, market, and feasibility studies not paid for with public funds.