

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

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

Small business certifications 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.

Current data practices law provides a two-tiered process for classifying data submitted by a business in order to receive a benefit financed by public funds. 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 benefit is received. Data that would remain private 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.