



- 4) Requires the small business liaison to be responsible for specified duties relating to interactions between the state agency and small businesses, including assisting the head of the agency in ensuring that the procurement and contracting processes of the state agency are administered in order to meet or exceed the 25% small business participation goal, and developing and sharing innovative procurement and contracting practices from the public and private sectors to increase small businesses.
- 5) Establishes the Office within the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GOBiz) to advocate for causes of small businesses and to provide small businesses with information they need to survive in the marketplace.

This bill:

- 1) Requires the small business liaison for each state agency to annually submit the following information to the Office:
  - a) A list of all current contracts between the state agency and a small business and the total dollar amount of each contract.
  - b) A list of all contracts of the state agency that include a subcontract with a small business and the total dollar amount paid to a small business under a contract or subcontract.
- 2) Requires, the Office to post the information described above on its internet website.

## Background

*Author's Statement.* According to the author's office, "small businesses are significant contributors to California's economy, accounting for 42.3% (\$70.1) billion of the state's exports annually. These businesses drive economic growth and mobility, creating 7.6 million jobs in 2025 alone. In order to fully leverage the goal established by AB 2019 (Petrie-Norris), California must have a standard reporting requirement to ensure state agencies are meeting and/or exceeding the required 25% participation goal for small businesses. SB 1430 will help and identify participation gaps and strengthen accountability by evaluating whether small businesses are receiving meaningful access to state contracting requirements."

*Small Business Liaison.* Current law requires a state agency that significantly regulates small businesses or that significantly impacts small businesses to designate at least one person to serve as a small business liaison utilizing existing personnel and resources. State agencies are required to widely publicize the position of small business liaison on the agency's website. The Office is also required to establish a web portal that includes the name, telephone number, internet website, and email of the small business liaison.

The small business liaison is responsible for specified duties relating to interactions between the state agency and small businesses. This includes assisting the head of the state agency in ensuring that the procurement and contracting processes of the state agency are administered in order to meet or exceed the 25% small businesses participation goal, and developing and sharing innovative procurement and contracting practices from the public and private sectors to increase small business participation in state contracting and procurement.

Other responsibilities include receiving and responding to complaints received by the agency from small businesses, providing technical advice and assisting small businesses resolving problems and questions regarding compliance with the agency's regulations and statutes, reporting small business concerns, and if appropriate, reporting recommendations to the agency secretary or to the agency head.

This bill would require the small business liaison for each state agency to annually submit contract information to the Office including, among other things, a list of all contracts of the state agency that include a subcontract with a small business. The bill would require the Office to post that contract information on its internet website.

*Office of Small Business Advocate.* Housed within GOBiz, the Office was created by AB 29 (John A. Perez, Chapter 475, Statutes of 2011) "in order to advocate for the causes of small business and to provide small businesses with the information they need to survive in the marketplace."

The Office is responsible for serving as the principal advocate in the state on behalf of small business. This includes advisory participation in the consideration of all legislation and administrative regulations that affect small businesses, advocacy on state policy and programs related to small businesses, and representing the views and interest of small businesses before other state agencies whose policies and activities may affect small businesses. The Office is also required to seek the assistance and cooperation of all state agencies and

departments providing services to, or affecting, small business, including the small business liaison, to ensure coordination of state efforts.

*Small Business Eligibility Requirements.* In order for a small business to be eligible for certification, the small business must be independently owned and operated; not dominant in its field of operation; and, its principal office must be located in California. In addition, the business must be either a business with 100 or fewer employees and an average annual gross receipts of \$15 million or less over the last three tax years; a manufacturer, as defined, with 100 or fewer employees; or, a microbusiness. A small business will automatically be designated as microbusiness, if gross annual receipts are less than \$3.5 million; or the small business is a manufacturer with 25 or fewer employees.

Upon meeting eligibility requirements, certified small businesses and microbusinesses are entitled, to among other things, a 5% bid preference. The goal of the preference is to help small and micro businesses to be more competitive in the bid process, thereby enhancing state contract awards directly or indirectly to these types of businesses. The preference is only used for computation purposes to determine the winning bidder, the contract is awarded at the actual bid amount.

In addition, certified small businesses are eligible for the State's Business Participation Program, which sets a goal for the use of small businesses in at least 25% of the state's overall annual contract dollars.

### **Prior/Related Legislation**

SB 656 (Richardson, 2025) would have required all state agencies to designate at least one person to serve as a small business liaison, as specified. Additionally, the bill would have required the small business liaison to annually submit specified information to the Office. (Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File)

SB 2019 (Petrie-Norris, Chapter 730, Statutes of 2022) codified, among other things, a 25% small business goal for state procurement and proposes a number of actions to enhance the ability and commitment of state agencies to include small business, including microbusinesses in state contracting, as specified.

AB 29 (John A. Perez, Chapter 475, Statutes of 2011) created GO-Biz and established specific tasks and duties for the office, including reorganizing such entities as the Advocate into this new office. Additionally, the bill required state agencies to furnish the Office the reports, document, and information that are

public records and that the Office deems necessary to carry out the Office's functions.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

**SUPPORT:**

None Received

**OPPOSITION:**

None Received

**DUAL REFERRAL:** Senate Governmental Organization Committee and Senate Business, Professions & Economic Development