

Date of Hearing: June 1, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
SCR 169 (Gonzalez) – As Introduced April 29, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 39-0

SUBJECT: Women’s Small Business Month.

SUMMARY: Designates October 2026 as Women’s Small Business Month; and, encourages all citizens to recognize the economic importance of women’s small businesses in California. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Women-owned businesses represent 42 percent of all businesses and women of color account for 50 percent of all female business owners. Among women, women of color are the fastest growing demographic of new business owners.
- 2) Women continue to trailblaze across industries every day, starting nearly one-half of all new businesses in the United States in 2021.
- 3) Women small business owners create valuable opportunities for women workers because they are more likely to hire a more diverse workforce. In 2020, it was found by Small Business Majority that one in four women business owners employ nearly all women, with 75 percent to 100 percent, inclusive, of their workforce being women workers.
- 4) Although more women are embracing entrepreneurship, they often face challenges not typically shared by their male counterparts, including defying social expectations, limited access to social and business networks, overcoming barriers to access capital and new market expansion, owning a sense of accomplishment, building a support network and obtaining mentorship, and balancing business and family life.
- 5) Despite demanding and long hours, women become business owners to implement a new business idea or vision, enjoy the freedom of being an entrepreneur, or to solve a specific industry problem.
- 6) Women-owned businesses are key to our overall economic success, and their importance is rapidly growing.
- 7) October is recognized as Women’s Small Business Month because the law that allowed women to take out a loan in their own name, the Women’s Business Ownership Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-533), was signed on October 25, 1988.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800