

HOUSE BILL 1085

By Alexander

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
Chapter 3, relative to the entrepreneur-in-
residence program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, is amended by adding the following as a new part.

4-3-5201. This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Entrepreneur-in-Residence Act of 2013".

4-3-5202. As used in this part:

(1) "Department" means those agencies of state government whose commissioners are appointed by the governor;

(2) "Entrepreneur-in-residence" means an individual appointed to a position under the program; and

(3) "Program" means the entrepreneur-in-residence program established pursuant to § 4-3-5203.

4-3-5203.

(a) The Tennessee entrepreneur-in-residence program is established in the office of the governor.

(b) The objectives of the program are:

(A) To provide for better outreach by the state government to the private sector;

(B) To strengthen coordination and interaction between the state government and the private sector on issues relevant to entrepreneurs and small business concerns; and

(C) To make state government programs simpler, easier to access, more efficient and more responsive to the needs of small business concerns and entrepreneurs.

4-3-5204.

(a) The governor may appoint an entrepreneur-in-residence to any department to carry out the duties described in § 4-3-5206.

(b) The governor may appoint one (1) or more entrepreneurs-in-residence under the program each year but shall appoint no more than ten (10) entrepreneurs-in-residence during any year. The governor may not appoint an entrepreneur-in-residence to a term which extends beyond June 30, 2016.

(c) The governor shall select entrepreneurs-in-residence from among individuals who:

(1) Are successful in their field;

(2) Have demonstrated success in working with small business concerns and entrepreneurs; or

(3) Have successfully developed, invented, or created a product and brought the product to the marketplace.

(d) In appointing entrepreneurs-in-residence, the governor shall attempt to place entrepreneurs-in-residence across the state in separate departments, and shall not appoint more than two (2) entrepreneurs-in-residence to positions in the same department during the same year.

4-3-5205. An entrepreneur-in-residence shall be a full-time employee of this state in the department appointed and may not serve as an entrepreneur-in-residence for more than two (2) years.

4-3-5206. An entrepreneur-in-residence shall:

(1) Assist the department and respective agencies in improving outreach to small business concerns and entrepreneurs;

(2) Provide recommendations to the commissioner of the department employing the entrepreneur-in-residence on inefficient or duplicative programs, if any, at the department;

(3) Provide recommendations to the commissioner of the department employing the entrepreneur-in-residence on methods to improve program efficiency at the department or new initiatives, if any, that may be instituted at the department;

(4) Facilitate meetings and forums to educate small business concerns and entrepreneurs on programs or initiatives of the department employing the entrepreneur-in-residence;

(5) Facilitate in-service sessions with employees of the department and the agency employing the entrepreneur-in-residence on issues of concern to entrepreneurs and small business concerns;

(6) Report directly to the commissioner of the department employing the entrepreneur-in-residence; and

(7) Provide technical assistance or mentorship to small business concerns and entrepreneurs in accessing programs at the department and the agency employing the entrepreneur-in-residence.

4-3-5207. An entrepreneur-in-residence shall be compensated as determined by the commissioner of human resources.

4-3-5208. The governor may establish an informal working group of entrepreneurs-in-residence to discuss best practices, experiences, obstacles, opportunities, and recommendations.

4-3-5209. The entrepreneur-in-residence program terminates on June 30, 2016.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.