

SENATE BILL 2117

By Norris

AN ACT to create a committee to study, identify, and remove unnecessary barriers that hinder the ability of small businesses to compete in the marketplace.

WHEREAS, small businesses comprise the majority of firms in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, national research conducted over a period of years indicates that small businesses are particularly important sources of innovation and employment growth; and

WHEREAS, at the same time, small businesses are often disproportionately burdened by regulatory requirements that frequently assume access to technical and financial resources that may be difficult to obtain or prohibitively expensive for small businesses; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should work to ensure that Tennessee is inviting to and supportive of small businesses, without compromising important regulatory goals and purposes; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. There is created a special joint committee to study, identify, and remove unnecessary barriers that hinder the ability of small businesses to compete in the marketplace.

SECTION 2. The special joint committee shall perform a comprehensive review of Tennessee's statutes, rules, and regulations governing business activity as part of its mission delineated in Section 1. The committee shall also review Tennessee's requirements for businesses to participate in public contracts.

SECTION 3. The committee shall consist of three (3) members of the house of representatives and three (3) members of the senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

SECTION 4. All appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

SECTION 5. All legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the general assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

SECTION 6. The special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

SECTION 7. The special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the one hundred sixth general assembly no later than February 1, 2010, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.