

AB 393 (Cooley) – Office of Business and Economic Development: Internet Web Site

Introduced February 15, 2013, Amended May 24, 2013

This bill would require the Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) to ensure that the office's Internet Web site contains information on the fee requirements and fee schedules of state agencies.

Background:

According to the Author, small business is a cornerstone of California's economy. There are approximately 3.5 million small businesses in California, accounting for over 99% of the state's employers and roughly 50% of California's private sector employment. That said, during the recent economic downturn, California lost more than 20,000 small businesses in 2009. Additionally, Forbes recently placed California 41st in their 2012 "Best States for Business" ranking.

Small businesses are responsible for paying a variety of fees to numerous state agencies throughout the year, depending on the nature of their business. Monitoring the various fee requirements and fee schedules is an additional burden to small businesses, which already have limited capital and time, and can lead to unpaid fees, late charges, and mismanagement of their finances.

This bill will help California small businesses plan their yearly operations by making the fee requirements and fee schedules of state agencies readily available online via the GO-Biz Internet Web site.

Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development:

GO-Biz was created by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in 2011 to serve as California's single point of contact for economic development and job creation efforts. The GO-Biz offers a range of services to business owners including: attraction, retention and expansion services, site election, permit streamlining, clearing of regulatory hurdles, small business assistance, international trade development, assistance with state government, and much more.

Existing Law:

1) Establishes the GO-Biz within the Governor's Office, under the control of a director who is appointed by the Governor, for the purpose of serving as the lead entity for economic strategy and marketing of California on issues relating to business development, private sector investment and economic growth.

2) Requires the Director of the GO-Biz to ensure that the office's Internet Web site contains information to assist an individual with the licensing, permitting, and registration requirements necessary to start a business.

3) Requires a state agency that the Governor determines has licensing authority to provide accurate updated information about its licensing requirements, as provided.

This bill:

1) Requires a state agency that has licensing, permitting, or registration authority to provide direct links to information about its fee schedule to GO-Biz, as follows:

- a) Assists individuals with identifying the types of fees and their due dates.
- b) Provides direct links to the fee requirements and fee schedules for all state agencies, where available for download.
- c) Instructs individuals on how and where to submit payments.
- d) Makes legislative findings.
- e) Makes technical and clarifying changes.

Fiscal Effect:

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, costs should be minor and absorbable within existing GO-Biz resources.

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 393

Introduced by Assembly Member Cooley

February 15, 2013

An act to amend Section 12019.5 of the Government Code, relating to state government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 393, as introduced, Cooley. Office of Business and Economic Development: Internet Web site.

Existing law requires the Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development to ensure that the office's Internet Web site contains information to assist an individual with the licensing, permitting, and registration requirements necessary to start a business. Existing law also requires a state agency that the Governor determines has licensing authority to provide accurate updated information about its licensing requirements, as provided.

This bill would require the Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development to ensure that the office's Internet Web site contains information on the fee requirements and fee schedules of state agencies and would also require a state agency that the Governor determines has licensing authority to provide accurate updated information about its fee schedule, as provided.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 12019.5 of the Government Code is
 2 amended to read:

3 12019.5. (a) The Director of the Governor’s Office of Business
 4 and Economic Development shall ensure that the office’s Internet
 5 Web site contains information on the licensing, permitting, and
 6 registration requirements of state agencies, and shall include, but
 7 not be limited to, information that does all of the following:

8 (1) Assists individuals with identifying the type of applications,
 9 forms, or other similar documents an applicant may need.

10 (2) Provides a digital copy of all state licensing, permitting, and
 11 registration applications, forms, or other similar documents where
 12 made available for download. If a direct link to a digital copy
 13 cannot be provided, the digital copy shall be posted and made
 14 easily accessible for download on the Internet Web site.

15 (3) Instructs individuals on how and where to submit
 16 applications, forms, or other similar documents.

17 *(b) The Director of the Governor’s Office of Business and*
 18 *Economic Development shall ensure that the office’s Internet Web*
 19 *site contains information on the fee requirements and fee schedules*
 20 *of state agencies, and shall include, but not be limited to,*
 21 *information that does all of the following:*

22 *(1) Assists individuals with identifying the types of fees and their*
 23 *due dates.*

24 *(2) Provides direct links to the fee requirements and fee*
 25 *schedules for all state agencies. If a direct link cannot be provided,*
 26 *the information shall be posted and made easily accessible on the*
 27 *office’s Internet Web site.*

28 *(3) Instructs individuals on how and where to submit payments.*

29 ~~(b)~~

30 *(c) The Governor shall ensure that the Internet Web site is user*
 31 *friendly and provides accurate, updated information.*

32 ~~(e)~~

33 *(d) (1) Each state agency that the Governor determines has*
 34 *licensing authority shall provide accurate updated information*
 35 *about its licensing requirements and fee schedule.*

36 *(2) A state agency shall not use the Internet Web site established*
 37 *under this section as the exclusive source of information for the*
 38 *public to access licensing requirements and fees for that agency.*

1 ~~(d)~~
2 (e) The Governor, or his or her designee, may impose a
3 reasonable fee, not to exceed the actual cost to provide the service,
4 as a condition of accessing information on the Internet Web site
5 established under ~~subdivision (a)~~ *subdivisions (a) and (b)*.

O