

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
<b>Vote:</b>	9 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Barton, Fagan, Holvey, Kennemer, Matthews, Thatcher, Thompson, Witt, Doherty
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Weidner
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jan Nordlund, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/8, 3/27

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs Office of Secretary of State to study amount and impact of state and local government fees on small businesses and develop strategies for lessening impact on small businesses. Directs Office to implement program to help small businesses obtain fee waivers or deferrals. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Estimating cost of compliance in addition to cost of permit application
- Barriers to small business growth
- Reluctance of some small businesses to apply for permits
- Job creation by small business

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Secretary of State's Corporation Division has been instrumental in providing resources to existing or prospective businesses in Oregon. Business Xpress is an online portal developed by the Secretary of State in collaboration with key agencies to provide a one-stop-shop for businesses starting, expanding, operating, and relocating in Oregon. Business Wizard is an online tool provided by the Secretary of State's Business Information Center to help people starting a business to identify and understand which government requirements apply to them and what resource may be available to them. The Secretary of State also makes available an online license directory (<http://licenseinfo.oregon.gov>) that provides information on all known state licenses, certifications, permits, and registrations; the directory also includes federal license summary information. Beginning in 2005, local governments began entering license information.

House Bill 2643 targets assistance to prospective, new, or established businesses with 100 or fewer employees.