

**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>	4 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Baertschiger, Monnes Anderson, Prozanski, Shields
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	George
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Channa Newell, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/6, 4/12

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Establishes Office of Small Business Assistance (Office) within Office of Secretary of State. Directs Office to facilitate communication between state agencies and small businesses in matters of auditing, on-site inspections, compliance monitoring, and compliance assistance. Directs Office to collaborate with small businesses and agencies to identify and recommend efficient processes for receiving concerns or complaints, participate in small business conferences or meetings, and make recommendations on resolving disputes or causes of unnecessary delay. Allows Office to conduct review and investigation into complaints received from small businesses with respect to state agencies. Specifies process for conducting review and investigation, as well as for issuing recommendations to state agencies for resolution of complaint. Continuously appropriates money to Office of Secretary of State to fund functions of Office of Small Business Assistance.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Importance of small businesses to Oregon's economy
- Interaction between small businesses and Secretary of State's Corporations Division
- Complexity of state government hinders small business operations
- Non-regulatory nature of proposed Office

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

**BACKGROUND:** The Oregon Office of the Secretary of State includes the Corporation Division, which is responsible for enabling the creation of business and streamlining access to government services and regulatory requirements in Oregon.

Senate Bill 143 creates a new office within the Office of the Secretary of State that would be responsible for providing information to small businesses, facilitating communication between small businesses and state agencies, and includes a mechanism for receiving and investigating complaints made by small businesses about state agencies.