

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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1 Representative Attkisson offered the following:

2
3 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

4 Remove lines 174-268 and insert:

5 Section 2. Section 288.7002, Florida Statutes, is created
6 to read:

7 288.7002 Small business advocate.--

8 (1) DEFINITIONS.--

9 (a) "Advocate" means the Florida Small Business Advocate,
10 who is also the Director of the Office of Small Business
11 Advocate.

12 (b) "Director" means the Director of the Office of Small
13 Business Advocate.

14 (c) "Office" means the Office of Small Business Advocate.

15 (2) OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE.--The Office of
16 Small Business Advocate is established, assigned to, and

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17 administratively housed within the Florida Small Business
18 Development Center Network. The director shall be the Florida
19 Small Business Advocate.

20 (3) DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE;
21 APPOINTMENT; DUTIES.--

22 (a) The advocate shall be selected by the director of the
23 Florida Small Business Development Center Network and shall be
24 an employee of or under contract with the Florida Small Business
25 Development Center Network. Preferred qualifications for the
26 advocate include at least 5 years' experience in small business,
27 extensive knowledge of the issues and challenges of importance
28 to small business, and actual experience in small business
29 advocacy and assistance.

30 (b) The duties and functions of the advocate shall include
31 the following:

32 1. Act as staff for the Small Business Regulatory Advisory
33 Council.

34 2. Serve as principal advocate in the state on behalf of
35 small businesses, including, but not limited to, advisory
36 participation in the consideration of all legislation and
37 administrative rules that affect small businesses and advocacy
38 on state policy and programs related to small businesses on
39 disaster preparedness and recovery, including providing
40 technical assistance.

41 3. Represent the views and interests of small businesses
42 before agencies whose policies and activities may affect small
43 businesses. Among other activities, the advocate may encourage
44 standardized applications and information packages that would

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45 include all the information needed by each agency that a
46 business has to deal with to prevent an applicant from having to
47 fill out duplicative information on forms from various agencies.

48 4. Enlist the cooperation and assistance of public and
49 private agencies, businesses, and other organizations in
50 disseminating information about the programs and services
51 provided by all levels of government that are of benefit to
52 small businesses and information on how small businesses can
53 participate in, or make use of, those programs and services.

54 5. Issue a report every 2 years evaluating the efforts of
55 agencies that significantly regulate small businesses, to assist
56 minority and other small business enterprises and to make
57 recommendations that may be appropriate to assist the
58 development and strengthening of minority and other small
59 business enterprises.

60 6. Consult with experts and authorities in the fields of
61 small business investment, venture capital investment, and
62 commercial banking and other comparable financial institutions
63 involved in the financing of business; with individuals with
64 regulatory, legal, economic, or financial expertise, including
65 members of the academic community; and with individuals who
66 generally represent the public interest.

67 7. Seek the assistance and cooperation of all agencies and
68 departments providing services to, or affecting, small business,
69 to ensure coordination of state efforts.

70 8. Receive and respond to complaints from small businesses
71 concerning the actions of agencies and the operative effects of
72 state laws and regulations adversely affecting those businesses.

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73 The advocate shall establish an annual process for small
74 businesses to nominate agency rules or programs for reform. The
75 advocate shall publish those nominations online and update the
76 status of agency action on the proposed reforms twice yearly.

77 9. Counsel small businesses on how to resolve questions
78 and problems concerning the relationship of small business to
79 state government.

80 10. Maintain, publicize, and distribute an annual list of
81 persons serving as small business ombudsmen throughout state
82 government.

83 11. Coordinate a statewide conference on small business
84 with public and private organizations and entities impacting
85 small business in the state.

86 12. Coordinate annual public meetings to share best
87 practices for small business disaster preparedness. The meetings
88 shall be held in consultation with regional and statewide small
89 business organizations and shall take place in different
90 locations throughout the state.

91 (4) REPORTS, DOCUMENTS, AND INFORMATION FURNISHED TO THE
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T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

96 Remove lines 12-13 and insert:
97 for the council to issue a report; creating s. 288.7002, F.S. ;
98 providing