

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM & HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 855

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 19, 2022

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 855.

As amended by the committee, this bill creates a State business assistance program to establish contracting agency procurement goals for socially and economically disadvantaged business enterprises.

The business assistance program establishes an annual goal for State contracting agencies, as well as guidelines for public institutions of higher education, in awarding contracts to certified and qualified business enterprises. The program is designed to assist socially and economically disadvantaged businesses in obtaining State government contracts in the following areas: construction, architecture and engineering; professional services; goods and services; and information technology services.

The purpose of this bill is to recognize the need to encourage, nurture, and support the growth of socially and economically disadvantaged businesses, to foster their development, and to increase the number of qualified competitors in the marketplace.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) require both of the criteria in the definition of “economically disadvantaged” to be met, concerning an impaired ability to compete and personal net worth (not either one of the two); and

(2) add to the definition of “socially disadvantaged” that a physical disability includes, but is not limited to, a service-connected disability declared by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or its successor.

These amendments make this bill identical to Assembly Bill No. 2146 (2R).