AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 29, 2019
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2019
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2019–20 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL
No. 23

Introduced by Assembly Member Burke

December 3, 2018

An act to amend Section 12098.1 of, and to add Sections 12098.8 and 12098.9 to, the Government Code, relating to economic development.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 23, as amended, Burke. Office of Small Business Advocate: Deputy of Business and Workforce Coordination.

Existing law establishes the Office of Small Business Advocate within the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development, also known as GO-Biz, and prescribes the duties and functions of the Small Business Advocate, who is also the Director of the Office of Small Business Advocate. Among these duties, the director is to serve as the principal advocate in the state on behalf of small businesses and to represent the views and interests of small businesses before other state agencies the policies and activities of which may affect small businesses. Existing law requires the advocate to prepare and submit a written annual report to the Governor and to the Legislature that describes the activities and recommendations of the office.

This bill would establish a Deputy of Business and Workforce Coordination in the Office of Small Business Advocate, to be appointed by the Director of the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development. The bill would require the deputy Office of Small Business
Advocate to collaborate and coordinate with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, State Department of Education, and Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges specified entities to determine the extent to which existing workforce development efforts and programs address the labor needs of small businesses across industry sectors and regions in the state and to engage industry and business on ways to better align career technical education courses, workforce training programs, and pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs with regional and local labor market demand. The bill would require the deputy to establish a team to cover all industry sectors across all regions in the state to execute the mission and responsibilities of the deputy. The bill would require the deputy to prepare and submit to the Legislature a biennial report on outreach efforts and progress, as prescribed. The bill would define terms for its purposes. office to collaborate and coordinate with those specified entities to identify and advocate for the needs of small businesses relative to that alignment. The bill would require the office to include in its annual report information about its activities pursuant to the bill. The bill would make related legislative findings and declarations.


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

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares the following:
(1) California’s labor market is increasingly reliant upon a better-trained workforce.
(2) California has a projected shortfall of one to one and one-half million workers with some postsecondary education, but not a bachelor’s degree.
(3) If California is unable to adequately address workforce needs, this state risks foregoing economic opportunities and reducing our market competitiveness, thus limiting or altering our state’s economic growth.
(4) Wages increase on average from 20 to 30 percent when comparing California workers who have had some postsecondary education to those with only a high school diploma.
(5) It is critical for California to not only address the widening gap between the trained labor supply and the demand for
high-growth professions but to also incentivize further training in
coloration working in those occupations.
(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to
incentivize systems that better facilitate communication and
partnerships between businesses, labor advocates, and educational
institutions for the purpose of creating tailored workforce training
programs that both increase worker participation and further the
attainment of increased skills.
SEC. 2. Section 12098.1 of the Government Code is amended
to read:
  12098.1. The following definitions apply to this article, unless
otherwise indicated:
(a) “Advocate” means the Small Business Advocate who is also
the Director of the Office of Small Business Advocate.
(b) “Deputy” means the Deputy of Business and Workforce
Coordination.
(c) “Director” means the Director of the Office of Small
Business Advocate.
(d) “Office” means the Office of Small Business Advocate.
SEC. 3. Section 12098.8 is added to the Government Code, to
read:
  12098.8. (a)–The Deputy of Business and Workforce
Coordination is hereby established in the office. The Director of
the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development
shall appoint the deputy.
  (b) The deputy shall collaborate and coordinate with the Labor
and Workforce Development Agency, State Department of
Education, and Office of the Chancellor of the California
Community Colleges to engage industry and business to better
align career technical education courses, workforce training
programs, and pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs
with regional and local labor market demand. The deputy shall
establish a team to cover all industry sectors across all regions in
the state to execute the mission and responsibilities of the deputy.
As used in this subdivision, “industry sectors” and “region” have
the same meaning as each term is defined in Section 88822 of the
Education Code.
  (c) The deputy shall prepare and submit to the Legislature, on
a biennial basis, a report on outreach efforts and progress towards
aligning career technical education courses, workforce training programs, and pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs with regional and local labor market demand.

(d) (1) The requirement for submitting a report imposed under subdivision (c) is inoperative on January 1, 2024, pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.

(2) A report to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (c) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

SEC. 4. Section 12098.9 is added to the Government Code, to read:

12098.9. (a) The office shall collaborate and coordinate with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the State Department of Education, the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, local workforce boards, the Employment Training Panel, and other public and private workforce development entities to determine the extent to which existing workforce development efforts and programs address the labor needs of small businesses across industry sectors and regions in the state. In addition to other areas of collaboration, the office shall engage industry and business on ways to better align career technical education courses, workforce training programs, and pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs with regional and local labor market demand.

(b) In dominant and emerging industry sectors and regions that are determined to be underserved or unserved, the office shall support and, where necessary, augment existing workforce efforts and outreach strategies to execute the missions and responsibilities of the office.

(c) The office shall collaborate and coordinate with agencies and stakeholders listed in subdivision (a) to identify and advocate for the needs of small businesses relative to the alignment of career technical education courses, workforce training programs, and pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs with regional and local labor market demand.

(d) The office shall include information about its activities pursuant to this section in the annual report required pursuant to Section 12098.4.