

By: Ordaz Perez, Price, Paddie

H.B. No. 4067

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 4067:

By: Button

C.S.H.B. No. 4067

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the small business assistance disaster recovery program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 481, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 481.00682 to read as follows:

Sec. 481.00682. OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

(1) "Declared disaster" means:

(A) a disaster declared by the president of the United States; or

(B) a state of disaster declared by the governor under Chapter 418.

(2) "Program" means the small business assistance disaster recovery program established under this section.

(b) Subject to Subsection (c), the Office of Small Business Assistance shall establish and administer the small business assistance disaster recovery program to provide small businesses in this state that have been economically affected by a declared disaster with resources and assistance. Resources and assistance provided to small businesses under the program may include:

(1) information regarding or assistance securing state and federal funding;

(2) technical or financial opportunities available to

1 the small business;

2 (3) information regarding regulations applicable to
3 the small business; and

4 (4) general information and resources related to:

5 (A) taxes and accounting;

6 (B) loan refinancing;

7 (C) basic bankruptcy procedures;

8 (D) restructuring; and

9 (E) debt protection and forgiveness options.

10 (c) The Office of Small Business Assistance may not provide
11 a small business with direct legal or accounting advice under the
12 program but may provide:

13 (1) general resources and information regarding legal
14 or accounting issues faced by small businesses; and

15 (2) referrals to lawyers, accountants, or entities
16 that provide legal or accounting advice to small businesses.

17 (d) To the extent money is available, the Office of Small
18 Business Assistance shall employ not fewer than two employees to
19 administer the program. The Office of Small Business Assistance
20 may only hire a person to administer the program who has been
21 approved by the small business advocate designated under Section
22 [481.0067](#).

23 (e) Information collected from a small business under the
24 program is confidential and is not subject to disclosure under
25 Chapter [552](#).

26 SECTION 2. The Texas Economic Development and Tourism
27 Office is required to implement Section 481.00682, Government Code,

1 as added by this Act, only if the legislature appropriates money
2 specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not
3 appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the Texas Economic
4 Development and Tourism Office may, but is not required to,
5 implement a provision of this Act using other appropriations that
6 are available for that purpose.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.