

CHAPTER 147**(HB 161)**

AN ACT relating to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

WHEREAS, the 2016 General Assembly enacted legislation establishing a certification program within the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Contract Compliance, Finance and Administration Cabinet, for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has publicly declared that one of his administration's key objectives is to promote a robust economic climate in the Commonwealth, and as a military veteran, he actively supports veterans in their entrepreneurial endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Contract Compliance has undertaken outreach efforts to engage the service-disabled veteran-owned business community; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of all citizens of the Commonwealth to increase the number of service-disabled veteran-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, large procurement contracts are facilitated by the Finance Cabinet's Office of Procurement Services, and the Cabinet's Small Purchase Authority guidelines allow executive branch agencies to solicit and contract for goods and services between \$1,000 to \$20,000, depending on the specific authority granted to an agency; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly seeks to encourage agencies to widen their reach to solicit and work with service-disabled veteran-owned businesses on smaller contract opportunities and to assist these businesses in seeking portions of multi-faceted contracts that may be fulfilled by a service-disabled veteran-owned businesses;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. (1) The Finance and Administration Cabinet shall require executive branch agencies to promote and publicize opportunities for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses to contract for goods and services, and shall actively engage and counsel veterans' organizations on the contract opportunities available to service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

(2) The Office of Procurement Services shall provide state agencies with information on how to locate service-disabled veteran-owned vendors and businesses.

(3) Agencies that use their Small Purchase Authority shall solicit at least one quote from a service-disabled veteran-owned vendor or business unless there are no service-disabled veteran-owned vendors or businesses that can provide the particular product or service in question.

(4) Agencies shall document businesses that are solicited when quotes are issued and shall record which vendors are service-disabled veteran-owned vendors or businesses.

➔Section 2. The success of this outreach process shall be measured by monitoring the number of service-disabled veteran-owned businesses registered in eMARS, the increase in solicitations issued to service-disabled veteran-owned businesses, the increase in quotes received from service-disabled veteran-owned businesses, and the increase in the value of contracts issued to service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

➔Section 3. By October 1 of each year, the Finance and Administration Cabinet shall submit an annual report detailing their efforts to assist service-disabled veteran-owned businesses to the Legislative Research Commission for distribution to the appropriate interim joint committees or standing committees for their review and consideration.

Signed by Governor March 27, 2017.