

HB 3084 -- SMALL BUSINESS FEE REDUCTION ACT

SPONSOR: Rush

This bill establishes the "Small Business Start-up Fee Reduction Act" and authorizes reduced or waived state fees for eligible micro-businesses during their start-up period.

The bill creates a new section in Chapter 620, RSMo, defining an eligible business as a Missouri-based micro-business with three or fewer employees, excluding the owner, during the first 24 months after formation.

The bill authorizes eligible businesses to receive reductions or waivers of certain state fees during the start-up period, including fees associated with forming a limited liability company, business name registration, state vendor certification, and annual reporting or registration requirements.

The Department of Economic Development is required to coordinate with the Secretary of State to establish and annually update a fee-reduction schedule, which must be published on the Department's website. Fee reductions or waivers are subject to standards and procedures developed by the Department and contingent upon appropriations by the General Assembly.

The bill requires the Department and the Secretary of State to reduce or waive annual registration and report filing fees for eligible micro-businesses and prohibits the assessment of penalties or late fees for first-time filings made during the start-up period, provided reasonable efforts to comply are demonstrated.

The bill authorizes the Department to enter into partnerships with Missouri-based agencies, chambers of commerce, and entrepreneurial organizations to offer voluntary business support services, including planning assistance, marketing support, financial literacy training, access to contracting opportunities, and mentorship programs. Participation in such programs is not required to receive fee reductions or waivers.

The bill requires the Department to submit an annual report to the General Assembly beginning January 1 of each year detailing the number of businesses receiving fee reductions, the cost to the state, business growth or stability, and survival rates beyond the start-up period. The Department must also publish the

report on its website and provide copies to the public upon request.

The bill contains rulemaking provisions subject to Chapter 536, RSMo, and provides that the grant of rulemaking authority and any rules adopted after August 28, 2026, are invalid if legislative review authority is held unconstitutional. The bill becomes effective January 1, 2027.