

**Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey**  
**State of Tennessee**



**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Small Business Advocate legislation  
passes Senate**

*Bill by Lt. Governor Ramsey will require departments  
work with small business advocate*

(Nashville) – Legislation sponsored by **Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey (R-Blountville)** to create a small business advocate within state government today passed the state Senate. The bill also requires each state department to appoint a liaison to the small business advocate to resolve problems caused by excessive government regulation.

“Government should help small businesses start and grow, not stand in the way,” said Lt. Governor Ramsey (R-Blountville). “This legislation ensures that small business has a partner in state government working to solve their problems and makes every state department accountable to Tennessee’s job creators.”

Under this law, each department and agency in state government that has any regulatory authority over business activity would appoint a person from existing personnel to serve as a contact person for the small business advocate when the advocate has an issue or question concerning the department or agency.

“Small businesses provide the vast majority of jobs in our state and nation,” said Lt. Governor Ramsey. “We need them to thrive if we are to grow our way out of the current economic climate. This legislation helps achieve that goal.”

The small business advocate will report annually to the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture committee and the Commerce committee of the House of Representatives to evaluate the activities of department and agency personnel, including a rating of the responsiveness to small business owners' concerns. This bill also requires that the small business advocate prepare an annual report on the advocate's activities, findings and recommendations to the governor, members of the general assembly and to the heads of affected state departments and agencies.

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