

Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey
State of Tennessee



NEWS RELEASE

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**Small Business Advocate legislation
passed by House**

*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 has passed the House of Representatives by an overwhelming bipartisan majority. The law requires each state department to appoint a liaison to the small business advocate to resolve problems caused by excessive government regulation. The bill will now be sent to Governor Bredesen to be signed into law.

“Small businesses create the vast majority of jobs in our state and nation,” said Lt. Governor Ramsey. “Government should not interfere with their growth and should look for ways to make that growth easier. This legislation ensures that small business has a partner in state government 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.

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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