

SUBJECT: Authorizing regional business certification programs

COMMITTEE: County Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Ramsay, B. Brown, Chisum, Farabee, Hilderbran, Krusee, Salinas, Swinford

0 nays

1 absent — G. Lewis

WITNESSES: None

DIGEST: HB 2729 would authorize any combination of certain local government entities to agree to establish a regional business certification program. The consolidated entity created for this purpose would provide rules and regulations for contracting and procurement from certified businesses. The bill would specify that participating political subdivisions should have the greatest possible flexibility in organizing the certification program.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house.

SUPPORTERS SAY: Many political subdivisions require that businesses be certified if they want to bid on contracts for public works and other projects. In large metropolitan areas, this means that businesses must seek separate certification from several different political subdivisions.

HB 2729 would allow a group of political subdivisions, including counties, municipalities, special districts, and others, to agree to establish a regional business certification program. A business that was certified by the consolidated entity would be eligible to bid on public projects in each of the member political subdivisions.

Consolidated certification would save time and money for businesses. Businesses still would have to meet all existing requirements for certification, but would not have to fill out paperwork for each individual political subdivision. Administration of the certification process could be centralized,

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speeding up the bidding process. This would save each government entity time and tax dollars as well.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.