

Legislative Bills for the 2015 Legislative Session  
Small Business Advisory Council December 16, 2015

**Bills Signed by the Governor:**

**AB 413 (Chávez) California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program**

**Summary:** The California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program addresses the special needs of disabled veterans by assisting state procurement authorities in meeting or exceeding the disabled veteran enterprise participation goal of 3 percent for procurement contracts. Existing law, under the program, authorizes a child or spouse to continue to operate a disabled veteran business enterprise for three years after the death or the certification of a permanent medical disability of a disabled veteran who was the majority owner of that enterprise, but only for purposes of any contract entered into before his or her death or certification of disability. This bill would delete the provision that only allows a child or spouse to operate the business for purposes of the contracts entered into before death or certification of disability. The bill would clarify the scope and purpose of the provision authorizing a child or spouse to continue to operate a disabled veteran business enterprise for three years after the death or the certification of a permanent medical disability of a disabled veteran who was the majority owner of that enterprise.

**AB 532 (McCarty) State agencies: collection of data: race or ethnic origin**

**Summary:** Existing law requires state agencies, boards, or commissions that directly or by contract collect demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of Californians, and state agencies conducting surveys as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of state civil service employees, to use separate collection categories for each major Asian and Pacific Islander group. This bill would require any state agency, board, or commission that directly or by contract collects demographic data, as soon as reasonably feasible and in no event later than January 1, 2022, to provide forms that offer respondents the option of selecting one more ethnic or racial designations.

**SB 703 (Leno) Public contracts: prohibitions: discrimination**

**Summary:** Existing law authorizes state agencies to enter into contracts for the acquisition of goods or services upon approval by the Department of General Services. Existing law sets forth various requirements and prohibitions for those contracts, including, but not limited to, a prohibition on entering into contracts for the acquisition of goods or services of \$100,000 or more with a contractor that discriminates between spouses and domestic partners or same-sex and different-sex couples in the provision of benefits. Existing law provides that a contract entered into in violation of those requirements and prohibitions is void and authorizes the state or any person acting on behalf of the state to bring a civil action seeking a determination that a contract is in violation and therefore void. Under existing law, a willful violation of those requirements and prohibitions is a misdemeanor. This bill would also prohibit a state agency from entering into contracts for the acquisition of goods or services of \$100,000 or more with a contractor that discriminates between employees on the basis of gender identity in the

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provision of benefits, as specified. By expanding the scope of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

**Bills Vetoed by the Governor:**

**AB 429 (Dahle) Public contracts: preferences: forest products**

**Summary:** Existing law generally requires state agencies to comply with competitive bidding procedures in soliciting and evaluating bids for public works projects. Existing law authorizes bidding preferences for certain categories of business owners. This bill would require a state agency, as specified, that contracts for, or acquires, lumber or other solid wood products, excluding paper and other types of secondary manufactured goods, to give preference, to the extent consistent with federal law, if price, fitness, and quality are equal, based upon verifiable, self-certification from the supplier, to lumber and other solid wood products that are harvested in compliance with the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973, rules governing federal timber sales, or a forest certification program identified by the Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, as prescribed. The bill would authorize the Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to identify, after consideration at a public hearing, a forest certification program or programs that may be used for the purpose of purchasing preferences for lumber and solid wood products. The bill would require the Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to notify the Department of General Services of this identification in writing.