

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 391****2019 Regular Session****Foil**

VETERANS: Provides for the certification of veteran-owned businesses

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Extends the definition of "veteran-owned business" to include businesses owned by a Gold Star surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law creates The Veterans First Business Initiative to be administered by La. Economic Development (LED) to certify a business as veteran-owned.

Proposed law defines "veteran-owned business" as a business owned at least fifty-one percent by a veteran or a Gold Star surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces.

Proposed law provides legislative intent in the creation of The Veterans First Business Initiative to indicate the intention to honor the sacrifice that La. veterans have made, encourage them to start a business, and to recognize businesses as veteran-owned.

Proposed law envisions a cooperation among LED, the La. Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA), local chambers of commerce, regional economic development organizations, and local economic development organizations throughout the state to promote veteran-owned businesses.

Proposed law provides that the intent of The Veterans First Business Initiative shall include outreach to veterans who own businesses to encourage and assist the veteran to apply for the program and to facilitate interactions between veteran-owned businesses and veterans seeking employment.

Proposed law requires LED to create the application and certification process, and create and maintain a database of veteran-owned businesses which is searchable on its website.

Proposed law requires the creation of an insignia which will identify a business as being certified as veteran-owned.

Proposed law requires the cooperation of LED and LDVA in order to confirm veteran status and promote the program.

Proposed law requires LED to cooperate with LDVA and local and regional economic development organizations and chambers of commerce in order to promote the initiative and veteran-owned businesses.

Proposed law requires LED to promulgate rules to implement proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 51:3201-3208)