

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 19, 2022

SENATE BILL

No. 1325

Introduced by Senator Gonzalez

February 18, 2022

An act to add Article 6.3 (commencing with Section 12099.8) to Chapter 1.6 of Part 2 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to economic development.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1325, as amended, Gonzalez. California Techquity Innovation Program.

Existing law establishes the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) to serve the Governor as the lead entity for economic strategy and the marketing of California on issues relating to business development, private sector investment, and economic growth.

This bill would establish the California Techquity Innovation Program, to be administered by GO-Biz, to fund grants or investments, upon appropriation by the Legislature, that advance equity in tech entrepreneurship in California, and support ~~underserved, equity-forward entrepreneurs and business owners in geographic areas that are socioeconomically disadvantaged or that have limited venture capital funding opportunities.~~ *underserved and underrepresented entrepreneurs, technology accelerators, incubators, fully accredited institutions of higher education, local government, and public-private partnerships that support, advise, and uplift underrepresented entrepreneurs.* The bill would establish the California Techquity Innovation Program Fund for purposes of supporting the program. *The bill would require GO-Biz to establish guidelines in order to maintain oversight of the California*

Techquity Innovation Program, including, but not limited to, guidelines for grant approval, program operations, and reporting by grant recipients.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Article 6.3 (commencing with Section 12099.8)
 2 is added to Chapter 1.6 of Part 2 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the
 3 Government Code, to read:

4
 5 Article 6.3. California Techquity Innovation Program and Fund
 6

7 12099.8. (a) The Governor’s Office of Business and Economic
 8 Development (GO-Biz) shall establish and administer the
 9 California Techquity Innovation Program, which shall fund grants
 10 or investments that advance equity in tech entrepreneurship in
 11 California, and support ~~underserved, equity-forward entrepreneurs~~
 12 ~~and business owners in geographic areas that are socioeconomically~~
 13 ~~disadvantaged or that have limited venture capital funding~~
 14 ~~opportunities.~~ *underserved and underrepresented entrepreneurs,*
 15 *technology accelerators, incubators, fully accredited institutions*
 16 *of higher education, local governments, and public-private*
 17 *partnerships that support, advise, and uplift underrepresented*
 18 *entrepreneurs.*

19 (b) Under the program, GO-Biz shall fund ~~competitive~~ grants
 20 for, but not limited to, any of the following purposes:

21 (1) Financial grants for ~~tech accelerators and incubators~~
 22 *technology accelerators, incubators, fully accredited institutions*
 23 *of higher education, local governments, and public-private*
 24 *partnerships that support minority-led, women-led, and lesbian,*
 25 *gay, bisexual, or transgender persons-led technology* ~~businesses.~~
 26 *businesses and technology businesses led by persons with*
 27 *disabilities.*

28 (2) Financial grants for underrepresented venture capital
 29 managers and underserved entrepreneurs developing economic
 30 opportunities based in California.

31 (3) Financial grants to fund regional workforce development
 32 partnerships that advance equity in tech employment.

1 (4) Financial grants to fund research to evaluate the effectiveness
2 of investing in equity entrepreneurship and workforce, including
3 establishing partnerships with ~~local universities~~ *local, fully*
4 *accredited institutions of higher education* to lead these studies.

5 (c) *GO-Biz shall provide priority to applicants that do all of*
6 *the following:*

7 (1) *Provide services, technical assistance, and support that is*
8 *not currently or adequately provided by a regional Inclusive*
9 *Innovation Hub established pursuant to Article 6.2 (commencing*
10 *with Section 12099.1) to underrepresented entrepreneurs.*

11 (2) *Demonstrate access to matching funds from local or federal*
12 *programs, public-private partnerships, or venture capital managers*
13 *who support underserved, equity-forward entrepreneurs.*

14 (d) *GO-Biz shall establish guidelines in order to maintain*
15 *oversight of the California Techquity Innovation Program,*
16 *including, but not limited to, guidelines for grant approval,*
17 *program operations, and reporting by grant recipients.*

18 (e)

19 (e) The California Techquity Innovation Fund is hereby
20 established in the State Treasury, to be administered by GO-Biz.
21 Moneys in the fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, shall
22 be used by GO-Biz to implement and administer this article.