

Hi. This is Chris Micheli with the Sacramento governmental relations firm of Aprea & Micheli and an adjunct professor at McGeorge School of Law. Today's podcast is on the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development. It's called by its acronym, GO-Biz. That's capital G-O, for governor's office, hyphen biz. GO-Biz is the name that it goes by and it's established in Title 2, Division 3, Part 2, Chapter 1.6 in the California Government Code. These sections 12096 to 12100.69, were added in 2011.

GO-Biz basically serves as the state's leader in job growth, economic development and business assistance efforts. GO-Biz prides itself on offering free consultations for incentive identification, site selection, regulatory or permitting compliance assistance, foreign direct investment and even export assistance. Every two years, GO-Biz submits an approved State Leadership Accountability Report to the department of finance and releases it to the public.

There are a number of laws in the Government Code that govern the operations of GO-Biz. It falls under sections that are known as the Economic Revitalization Act. The initial sections provide definitions and some general provisions. In Section 12096.2 that actually establishes GO-Biz in state government within the governor's office and also provides that a director shall oversee GO-Biz, and that director's appointed by, and responsible to the governor.

Now, Article 3 sets forth the powers and duties of GO-Biz, including that they shall serve the governor as the lead entity for economic strategy, as well as for marketing the State of California in regards to business development, private sector investment and economic growth. Now, as part of those powers and duties in the Government Code, GO-Biz can recommend new state policies, programs and actions in response to any economic problems or opportunities. They're also charged with coordinating policies and marketing what's ever available in California at the state and local levels.

In addition, GO-Biz is called upon to encourage collaboration among both the public and the private sectors for promoting innovation, fostering relationships with overseas entities, conducting research regarding the budget, the state's business climate, and efforts to support small business here in the State of California. The law also requires every member of the governor's cabinet, all the agency secretaries, to identify a senior manager who coordinate business support activities with GO-Biz.

Now, GO-Biz has a number of programs, including cannabis equity grants for local jurisdictions, the CalGold Program, California Community Reinvestment Grants, the California Competes Tax Credit, California Film Commission, California Made Program, the IBank, or Infrastructure Bank, International Trade and Investment, as well as the Office of the Small Business Advocate. GO-Biz also offers, if you look at its website, a number of digital service options that are provided to business owners to assist them with obtaining information and different resources for owning a business and operating a business here in the State of California.

GO-Biz also assists in determining the types of permits that a business may need, how a business can apply for state tax credits, how to register a business and, basically, how to find out any information on different regions and different occupations in the State of California. GO-Biz, obviously, has a very broad direction. Again, it's the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development that goes by the name, GO-Biz.

Thanks for joining today's podcast. I hope you enjoyed it.