



Carrington & Associates, LLC

*"Continuing A Tradition of Excellence"*

**SB 689 Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs - Duties of the Special Secretary - Minority Business Enterprises - SUPPORT**

Carrington & Associates, LLC SUPPORTS SB689. This bill expands the duties of the Special Secretary for the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs to include establishing a mentorship program, conducting a feasibility study for creating a technical assistance program to provide support to minority businesses in bids for procurement contracts, providing certain training and educational opportunities for non-minority prime contractors on their responsibilities with respect to minority businesses, and establishing a certain annual awards program; etc.

This bill addresses a need that has gone unfulfilled for far too long; mentoring minority and women-owned startup businesses to assist them in successfully launching their enterprises. The ability for new and/or prospective new businesses to learn first-hand from other entities that face similar challenges and hurdles will inevitably lead to better outcomes for both profitability and long-term stability. We thank Senator Syndor for this forward-thinking legislation to provide not only support for new minority and women-owned businesses, but ensuring that the state recognize the efforts of the mentors and new business ventures annually.

For these reasons, Carrington & Associates, LLC enthusiastically supports SB689 and asks for your FAVORABLE report.