

From: [Arellano, Joey](#)
To: [Press](#)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Representative Fentrice Driskell and Senator Bobby Powell File Legislation to Amend the Black Business Loan Program
Date: Friday, February 26, 2021 11:18:05 AM

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**Representative Fentrice Driskell and Senator Bobby Powell File
Legislation to Amend the Black Business Loan Program**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, **Representative Fentrice Driskell (D-Tampa)** filed [HB 1371](#) to amend the Black Business Loan Program. **Senator Bobby Powell (D-West Palm Beach)** has filed companion bill [SB 1744](#).

The proposed legislation will provide greater transparency in the application process so that additional Loan Administrators can become eligible to service more businesses in underrepresented communities.

“I am filing this bill in response to the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 has had on black businesses. We need to make sure that we protect our black communities by providing targeted assistance,” said **Representative Fentrice Driskell**

“The goal of the Department of Economic Opportunity’s Black Business Loan Program is to level the playing field and grant financial opportunities to black enterprises. **SB 1744/HB 1371** streamlines the process to better help black businesses compete and thrive in our state economy. I am excited to file this legislation again with **Representative Driskell**,” said **Senator Bobby Powell**

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State Representative Fentrice Driskell represents Florida House District 63, which is located in Hillsborough County and includes the Tampa-area communities of Carrollwood, Lake Magdalene, Lutz, University, New Tampa, and Pebble Creek.