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This bill applies existing data classifications for businesses requesting public benefits to a business applying to participate in the small business procurement programs authorized by section 16C.16 to 16C.21.

Under this bill, businesses applying for the programs would have certain financial information designated as private or nonpublic at the application stage. Then, if the business receives “financial assistance” or “a benefit from the government entity” (Minn. Stat. § 13.591, subd. 2), some of its financial information is reclassified as public data.

The small business procurement programs allow certified businesses to receive a preference in selling their products or services or bidding on construction projects to the state. Programs exist for small businesses in economically disadvantaged areas, veteran-owned small businesses, and targeted group small businesses. For the targeted group program, the commissioner of administration periodically designates businesses that are majority-owned and operated by women, persons with a substantial physical disability, or specific minorities as targeted group businesses.