

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6354

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As of January 26, 2012

**Title:** An act relating to filing of business forms with state agencies.

**Brief Description:** Requiring state agencies to offer electronic filing for business forms.

**Sponsors:** Senators Rolfes, Kastama, Chase, Tom, Frockt and McAuliffe.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Economic Development, Trade & Innovation: 1/23/12.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE & INNOVATION

**Staff:** Edward Redmond (786-7471)

**Background:** The Business License Service (BLS), within the Department of Revenue, provides a single location where businesses may apply for a master license incorporating separate licenses issued by different state agencies. Presently over 100 state licenses, 200 state endorsements, and 70 city licenses are available via BLS. BLS provisions do not apply to certain regulated business and professional activities including those regulated under the Consumer Loan Act, credit unions, banks and trust companies, mutual savings banks, savings and loan associations, and those regulated under the insurance statutes.

In addition to licensure requirements, there are also agency specific documents, forms, and fees that a business must take notice of and timely satisfy. Currently agencies are not required by statute to provide businesses with an electronic option for completing such materials.

**Summary of Bill:** A state agency that requires a business to complete a document, a form, or a payment of fee in paper format must, with limited exceptions, provide the business with an option to complete such materials electronically. Unless otherwise obligated, a business may authorize a second party to complete such filing requirements on its behalf.

Exceptions to the electronic filing requirement apply when there is a legal requirement for materials to be completed in paper format or when it is not feasible for such materials to be completed electronically. If applicable, the director of an agency or the director's designee must, within existing resources, establish and maintain a process to notify the public as to what materials have been exempted from electronic filing.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: This bill is being brought forward as a precautionary measure as the Legislature looks at creating a centralized web portal. When we initially started looking into this bill over the summer, we looked at all the different agency codes in statute. Some agencies required certified copies and written statements to be submitted. Instead of going through each piece of the code and writing or electronic option, we decided to write an overriding section that calls for all agencies to provide an electronic option for businesses. This bill allows the agencies to figure out how they want to implement this; it could be as simple as allowing businesses to send documents via PDF.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Rolfes, prime sponsor.