
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1591

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By House Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Representatives Smith, Van De Wege, Magendanz, Appleton, Angel, Stonier, Schmick, Upthegrove, Ryu, Pike, O'Ban, Hayes, Blake, Wilcox, Haler, Buys, Short, Warnick, and Parker)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving the business climate and stimulating
2 job creation by requiring certain agencies to establish a formal review
3 process of existing rules; adding a new section to chapter 43.21A RCW;
4 adding a new section to chapter 43.22 RCW; adding a new section to
5 chapter 43.70 RCW; and creating a new section.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that regulatory
8 processes impose significant costs on doing business and significantly
9 influence investment behavior, location decisions, start-up activity,
10 expansions, and hiring. The legislature further finds that, for more
11 than a decade, the executive and legislative branches have called upon
12 state agencies to review their regulations to achieve meaningful
13 regulatory reform and improve the regulatory climate for Washington
14 businesses. However, a 2012 performance audit conducted by the state
15 auditor's office found that the departments of ecology, health, and
16 labor and industries have not adopted sufficient streamlining processes
17 or formally measured the results of their streamlining activities.
18 Thus, it is the intent of the legislature to formally direct these

1 three state agencies to achieve the regulatory reform that has been
2 repeatedly called for by the governor and the legislature.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21A RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 The department of ecology must establish a continuous, formal
6 review process of its rules. The review must be based on a prioritized
7 work plan and must include rules relating to licenses, permits, and
8 inspections. The review must identify rules that can be simplified,
9 amended, or repealed with a goal to reduce the regulatory burden on
10 businesses without compromising the public health or safety.
11 Performance measures must be adopted to assess the effectiveness of
12 streamlining efforts. The department must establish a process for
13 effectively applying sunset provisions to rules when applicable. The
14 department must present an update to the applicable committees of the
15 legislature regarding its review process, performance measures, and
16 accomplishments of its streamlining efforts by January 2014, and every
17 other year thereafter.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.22 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 The department of labor and industries must establish a continuous,
21 formal review process of its rules. The review must be based on a
22 prioritized work plan and must include rules relating to licenses,
23 permits, and inspections. The review must identify rules that can be
24 simplified, amended, or repealed with a goal to reduce the regulatory
25 burden on businesses without compromising the public health or safety.
26 Performance measures must be adopted to assess the effectiveness of
27 streamlining efforts. The department must establish a process for
28 effectively applying sunset provisions to rules when applicable. The
29 department must present an update to the applicable committees of the
30 legislature regarding its review process, performance measures, and
31 accomplishments of its streamlining efforts by January 2014, and every
32 other year thereafter.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW
34 to read as follows:

35 The department of health must establish a continuous, formal review

1 process of its rules. The review must be based on a prioritized work
2 plan and must include rules relating to licenses, permits, and
3 inspections. The review must identify rules that can be simplified,
4 amended, or repealed with a goal to reduce the regulatory burden on
5 businesses without compromising the public health or safety.
6 Performance measures must be adopted to assess the effectiveness of
7 streamlining efforts. The department must establish a process for
8 effectively applying sunset provisions to rules when applicable. The
9 department must present an update to the applicable committees of the
10 legislature regarding its review process, performance measures, and
11 accomplishments of its streamlining efforts by January 2014, and every
12 other year thereafter.

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