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**SENATE BILL 5679**

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**State of Washington**

**63rd Legislature**

**2013 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Brown, Chase, King, Litzow, Dammeier, Schoesler, Rivers, Smith, Braun, Hewitt, Sheldon, and Tom

Read first time 02/08/13. Referred to Committee on Governmental Operations.

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 and annually perform a  
6 formal review process of its existing rules. The goal of the review is  
7 to decrease the numbers of, simplify the process, and decrease the time  
8 required for obtaining licenses, permits, and inspections, as  
9 applicable, in order to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses  
10 without compromising public health and safety. Benchmarks must be  
11 adopted to assess the effectiveness of streamlining efforts. The  
12 department must establish a process for effectively applying sunset  
13 provisions to rules when applicable. The department must report back  
14 to the applicable committees of the legislature with its review process  
15 and benchmarks by January 2014.

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

18 The department of labor and industries must establish and annually  
19 perform a formal review process of its existing rules. The goal of the  
20 review is to decrease the numbers of, simplify the process, and  
21 decrease the time required for obtaining licenses, permits, and  
22 inspections, as applicable, in order to reduce the regulatory burden on  
23 businesses without compromising public health and safety. Benchmarks  
24 must be adopted to assess the effectiveness of streamlining efforts.  
25 The department must establish a process for effectively applying sunset  
26 provisions to rules when applicable. The department must report back  
27 to the applicable committees of the legislature with its review process  
28 and benchmarks by January 2014.

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

31 The department of health must establish and annually perform a  
32 formal review process of its existing rules. The goal of the review is  
33 to decrease the numbers of, simplify the process, and decrease the time  
34 required for obtaining licenses, permits, and inspections, as  
35 applicable, in order to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses

1 without compromising public health and safety. Benchmarks must be  
2 adopted to assess the effectiveness of streamlining efforts. The  
3 department must establish a process for effectively applying sunset  
4 provisions to rules when applicable. The department must report back  
5 to the applicable committees of the legislature with its review process  
6 and benchmarks by January 2014.

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