
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5679

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Brown, Chase, King, Litzow, Dammeier, Schoesler, Rivers, Smith, Braun, Hewitt, Sheldon, and Tom)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/13.

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 and perform, within
6 existing funds, a formal review process of its existing rules every
7 five years. The goal of the review is to decrease the numbers of,
8 simplify the process, and decrease the time required for obtaining
9 licenses, permits, and inspections, as applicable, in order to reduce
10 the regulatory burden on businesses without compromising public health
11 and safety. Benchmarks 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 report back to the applicable committees of the
15 legislature with its review process 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 perform,
19 within existing funds, a formal review process of its existing rules
20 every five years. The goal of the review is to decrease the numbers
21 of, simplify the process, and decrease the time required for obtaining
22 licenses, permits, and inspections, as applicable, in order to reduce
23 the regulatory burden on businesses without compromising public health
24 and safety. Benchmarks must be adopted to assess the effectiveness of
25 streamlining efforts. The department must establish a process for
26 effectively applying sunset provisions to rules when applicable. The
27 department must report back to the applicable committees of the
28 legislature with its review process 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 perform, within
32 existing funds, a formal review process of its existing rules every
33 five years. The goal of the review is to decrease the numbers of,
34 simplify the process, and decrease the time required for obtaining
35 licenses, permits, and inspections, as applicable, in order to reduce

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

--- END ---