



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB3017

Introduced 2/16/2023, by Rep. Lance Yednock

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 608/5
20 ILCS 608/10
20 ILCS 608/15

Amends the Business Assistance and Regulatory Reform Act. Modifies requirements concerning the Office of Business Permits and Regulatory Assistance. Provides that the Office shall implement reforms to improve interagency coordination and encourage expeditious permit issuance. Provides that the Office shall use information technology tools to track project schedules and metrics in order to improve transparency and accountability of the permitting process, reduce uncertainty and delays, and reduce costs and risks to taxpayers. Defines terms. Makes other changes.

LRB103 06043 HLH 53299 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Business Assistance and Regulatory Reform
5 Act is amended by changing Sections 5, 10, and 15 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 608/5)

7 Sec. 5. Goal. The goal of this Act is to improve the
8 State's business climate by making it easier for ~~small and~~
9 ~~mid-size~~ businesses to deal with State requirements for doing
10 business. This goal will be achieved through providing quick,
11 accurate information on existing requirements, ~~and~~ avoiding
12 unnecessary requirements, and expediting permit issuance.

13 (Source: P.A. 88-404.)

14 (20 ILCS 608/10)

15 Sec. 10. Executive Office. There is created an Office of
16 Business Permits and Regulatory Assistance (hereinafter
17 referred to as "office") within the Department of Commerce and
18 Community Affairs (now Department of Commerce and Economic
19 Opportunity) which shall (i) ~~consolidate existing programs~~
20 ~~throughout State government,~~ provide assistance to businesses
21 ~~with fewer than 500 employees~~ in meeting State requirements
22 for doing business, (ii) consolidate existing programs

1 throughout State government, and (iii) perform other functions
2 specified in this Act. The office shall implement reforms to
3 improve interagency coordination that allow for expeditious
4 permitting issuance. The office shall use information
5 technology tools to track project schedules and metrics in
6 order to improve transparency and accountability in the
7 permitting process, reduce uncertainty and delays, and reduce
8 costs and risks to taxpayers. The ~~By March 1, 1994, the office~~
9 ~~shall complete and file with the Governor and the General~~
10 ~~Assembly a plan for the implementation of this Act.~~
11 ~~Thereafter, the~~ office shall carry out the provisions of this
12 Act, subject to funding through appropriation.

13 (Source: P.A. 98-463, eff. 8-16-13.)

14 (20 ILCS 608/15)

15 Sec. 15. Providing Information and Expediting Permit
16 Reviews.

17 (a) The office shall provide an online information system
18 using a website ~~toll free business assistance number. The~~
19 ~~number shall be~~ advertised throughout the State. Interested
20 businesses shall ~~If requested, the caller will~~ be sent a basic
21 business kit, describing the basic requirements and procedures
22 for doing business in Illinois. ~~If requested, the caller shall~~
23 ~~be directed to one or more of the additional services provided~~
24 ~~by the office. All persons providing advice to callers on~~
25 ~~behalf of the office and all persons responsible for directly~~

1 ~~providing services to persons visiting the office or one of~~
2 ~~its branches shall be persons with small business experience~~
3 ~~in an administrative or managerial capacity.~~

4 (b) (Blank).

5 (c) Any applicant for permits required for a business
6 activity may confer with the office to obtain assistance in
7 the prompt and efficient processing and review of
8 applications. The office shall ~~may~~ designate an employee of
9 the office to act as a permit assistance manager to:

10 (1) facilitate contacts for the applicant with
11 responsible agencies;

12 (2) arrange conferences to clarify the requirements of
13 interested agencies;

14 (3) consider with State agencies the feasibility of
15 consolidating hearings and data required of the applicant;

16 (4) assist the applicant in resolution of outstanding
17 issues identified by State agencies; and

18 (5) coordinate federal, State and local regulatory
19 procedures and permit review actions to the extent
20 possible.

21 (d) The office shall publish an online ~~a~~ directory of
22 State business permits and State programs to assist ~~small~~
23 businesses.

24 (e) The office shall attempt to establish agreements with
25 local governments to allow the office to provide assistance to
26 applicants for permits required by these local governments.

1 (f) (Blank). ~~Interested State agencies shall, to the~~
2 ~~maximum extent feasible, establish procedures to expedite~~
3 ~~applications for infrastructure projects. Applications for~~
4 ~~permits for infrastructure projects shall be approved or~~
5 ~~disapproved within 45 days of submission, unless law or~~
6 ~~regulations specify a different period. If the interested~~
7 ~~agency is unable to act within that period, the agency shall~~
8 ~~provide a written notification to the office specifying~~
9 ~~reasons for its inability to act and the date by which approval~~
10 ~~or disapproval shall be determined. The office may require any~~
11 ~~interested State agency to designate an employee who will~~
12 ~~coordinate the handling of permits in that area.~~

13 (g) In addition to its responsibilities in connection with
14 permit assistance, the office shall provide general regulatory
15 information by directing businesses to appropriate officers in
16 State agencies to supply the information requested.

17 (h) The office shall help businesses to locate and apply
18 to training programs available to train current employees in
19 particular skills, techniques or areas of knowledge relevant
20 to the employees' present or anticipated job duties. In
21 pursuit of this objective, the office shall provide businesses
22 with pertinent information about training programs offered by
23 State agencies, units of local government, public universities
24 and colleges, community colleges, and school districts in
25 Illinois.

26 (i) The office shall help businesses to locate and apply

1 to State programs offering to businesses grants, loans, loan
2 or bond guarantees, investment partnerships, technology or
3 productivity consultation, or other forms of business
4 assistance.

5 (j) To the extent authorized by federal law, the office
6 shall assist businesses in ascertaining and complying with the
7 requirements of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

8 (k) The office shall provide confidential on-site
9 assistance in identifying problems and solutions in compliance
10 with requirements of State and federal environmental
11 regulations. The office shall work through and contract with
12 the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center to provide
13 confidential on-site consultation audits that (i) assist
14 regulatory compliance and (ii) identify pollution prevention
15 opportunities.

16 (k-5) Until July 1, 2012, the office shall provide
17 confidential on-site assistance, including, but not limited
18 to, consultation audits, to identify problems and solutions
19 regarding compliance with the requirements of the federal
20 Occupational Safety and Health Administration. On and after
21 July 1, 2012, the Department of Labor shall provide
22 confidential on-site assistance, including, but not limited
23 to, consultation audits, to identify problems and solutions
24 regarding compliance with the requirements of the federal
25 Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

26 (l) The office shall provide information on existing loan

1 and business assistance programs provided by the State.

2 (m) Each State agency having jurisdiction to approve or
3 deny a permit shall have the continuing power heretofore or
4 hereafter vested in it to make such determinations. The
5 provisions of this Act shall not lessen or reduce such powers
6 and shall modify the procedures followed in carrying out such
7 powers only to the extent provided in this Act.

8 (n) ~~(1)~~ Each State agency shall fully cooperate with the
9 office in providing information, documentation, personnel or
10 facilities requested by the office.

11 ~~(2) Each State agency having jurisdiction of any permit to~~
12 ~~which the master application procedure is applicable shall~~
13 ~~designate an employee to act as permit liaison office with the~~
14 ~~office in carrying out the provisions of this Act.~~

15 (o) (1) The office shall identify, develop, and track
16 metrics for timeliness of permit reviews, permit decisions,
17 and project outcomes ~~has authority, but is not required, to~~
18 ~~keep and analyze appropriate statistical data regarding the~~
19 ~~number of permits issued by State agencies, the amount of time~~
20 ~~necessary for the permits to be issued, the cost of obtaining~~
21 ~~such permits, the types of projects for which specific permits~~
22 ~~are issued, a geographic distribution of permits, and other~~
23 ~~pertinent data the office deems appropriate.~~

24 The office shall administer and expand the use of online
25 transparency tools providing:

26 (i) tracking and reporting metrics;

1 (ii) development and posting of schedules for permit
2 reviews and permit decisions;

3 (iii) the sharing of best practices relating to
4 efficient project permitting and reviews; and

5 (iv) the visual display of relevant geospatial data to
6 support the permitting process. ~~make such data and any~~
7 ~~analysis of the data available to the public.~~

8 (2) The office shall ~~has authority, but is not required,~~
9 ~~to~~ conduct or cause to be conducted a thorough review of any
10 agency's permit requirements and the need by the State to
11 require such permits. The office shall draw on the review, on
12 its direct experience, and on its statistical analyses to
13 prepare recommendations regarding how to:

14 (i) eliminate unnecessary or antiquated permit
15 requirements;

16 (ii) consolidate duplicative or overlapping permit
17 requirements;

18 (iii) simplify overly complex or lengthy application
19 procedures;

20 (iv) expedite time-consuming agency review and
21 approval procedures; or

22 (v) otherwise improve the permitting processes in the
23 State.

24 The office shall submit copies of all recommendations
25 within 5 days of issuance to the affected agency, the
26 Governor, the General Assembly, and the Joint Committee on

1 Administrative Rules.

2 (p) The office shall ~~has authority to~~ review State forms
3 ~~on its own initiative or upon the request of another State~~
4 ~~agency~~ to ascertain the burden, if any, of complying with
5 those forms. If the office determines that a form is unduly
6 burdensome to business, it may recommend to the agency issuing
7 the form either that the form be eliminated or that specific
8 changes be made in the form.

9 (q) Not later than March 1 of each year, beginning March 1,
10 1995, the office shall submit an annual report of its
11 activities during the preceding year to the Governor and
12 General Assembly. The report shall describe the activities of
13 the office during the preceding year and shall contain
14 statistical information on the permit assistance activities of
15 the office.

16 (Source: P.A. 97-787, eff. 7-13-12; 98-346, eff. 8-14-13.)