

HCS HB 715 -- RED TAPE REDUCTION COMMISSION

SPONSOR: Hill

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Government Oversight by a vote of 7 to 3.

This bill creates the "Red Tape Reduction Act" and the Office of Regulatory Management. A Chief Regulatory Management Officer shall be appointed by the Governor and must be an existing member of the Governor's staff. The office may make reasonable requests for staff assistance from existing departments such as the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules or the Joint Committee on Legislative Research. The office will conduct a baseline measurement of regulations through a review of all agency regulations currently in place, as specified in the bill. The bill creates a cap on the total number of regulations, ensuring a zero net increase in regulatory requirements beginning six months after its enactment. The goal of the commission shall be a reduction of 35% of the existing regulations.

The office shall share information with the Office of the Secretary of State for the establishment of a website allowing the public to stay informed of all regulatory requirements and the progress towards the administrative red tape reduction goal. The website shall have a searchable online database of all current regulatory requirements, as specified in the bill. The website may be linked with an existing website and is subject to appropriation to the office of the Secretary of State.

The office also establishes a commission to be known as "Red Tape Reduction Commission." The members of the commission include the Speaker of the House and three individuals appointed by the speaker. The remaining members are specified in the bill.

The private sector members shall have a term lasting two years. No member of the commission shall receive compensation for serving on the commission, except for any actual or necessary expenses. All state agencies and political subdivisions of the state responsible for the administration of regulatory regulations shall cooperate with and assist the commission in the performance of its duties and shall make available all books, records, and information requested under the Open Records Act commonly known as the Sunshine Law. The commission shall meet as often as necessary and its main focus will be preparing suggestions for the General Assembly regarding current regulatory requirements that could be sunset. Criteria for decision making are specified in the bill.

At least every six months, the suggestions of the Red Tape

Reduction Commission shall be compiled into reports and sent to the office for review, and the office shall review the reports and submit a list of recommended regulations to be sunset by the General Assembly. Each house of the General Assembly may act on the recommendations in any manner allowed for constitutional passage of a normal bill or resolution with the force and effect of law.

The Red Tape Commission shall operate openly and transparently by listing all members of the commission on the website created by the office, conducting all meetings under Section 610.020, RSMo, commonly known as the Sunshine Law, and posting all biannual reports on the website created by the office in a searchable format.

The bill contains a severability clause.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will result in greater economic efficiency by ensuring that regulations are screened from the top down to ensure that they are necessary for the public welfare. The general public often lacks the capacity to make suggestions and considerations involving detailed administrative rules or to engage in the rulemaking process as this costs time and money. The legislature has a responsibility to reduce unnecessary regulations.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hill; Americans For Prosperity - Missouri; National Federation of Independent Business; Missouri Retailers Association; Missouri Grocers Association; and Associated Industries of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.