



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5180

Introduced 2/10/2026, by Rep. Mary Gill

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 608/5  
20 ILCS 608/10  
20 ILCS 608/15  
20 ILCS 608/16 new  
20 ILCS 608/20  
20 ILCS 608/25 new

Amends the Business Assistance and Regulatory Reform Act. Provides that the Office of Business Permits and Regulatory Assistance may establish a matching grant program to incentivize and assist units of local government in improving the use of technology tools for permitting and licensing processes. Sets forth reporting requirements for State agencies with jurisdiction over business permitting or licensing. Creates an Interagency Business Permitting and Licensing Reform Advisory Committee to coordinate business permitting and licensing processes. Sets forth provisions concerning membership of the advisory committee.

LRB104 18866 SPS 32311 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, 15, and 20 and by  
6 adding Sections 16 and 25 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 608/5)

8 Sec. 5. Goal. The goal of this Act is to improve the  
9 State's business climate by making it easier for businesses to  
10 deal with State requirements for doing business. Subject to  
11 appropriation, this goal will be achieved through providing  
12 detailed reporting, providing prompt, accurate information  
13 about existing requirements, avoiding unnecessary  
14 requirements, and increasing the transparency and  
15 accessibility of permitting processes by consolidating status  
16 updates from State agencies regarding the issuance of permits  
17 for covered projects. The State shall encourage units of local  
18 government to use technology tools and adopt policies that  
19 improve local permitting and licensing processes.

20 (Source: P.A. 103-538, eff. 1-1-24.)

21 (20 ILCS 608/10)

22 Sec. 10. Executive Office. There is created an Office of

1 Business Permits and Regulatory Assistance (hereinafter  
2 referred to as "office") within the Department of Commerce and  
3 Community Affairs (now Department of Commerce and Economic  
4 Opportunity) which shall provide assistance to businesses in  
5 meeting State requirements for doing business and perform  
6 other functions specified in this Act. The office shall use  
7 information technology tools to track schedules for covered  
8 projects and metrics in order to improve transparency and  
9 accountability in the permitting and licensing process, reduce  
10 uncertainty and delays, and reduce costs and risks to  
11 taxpayers. The office shall carry out the provisions of this  
12 Act, subject to funding through appropriation.

13 (Source: P.A. 103-538, eff. 1-1-24.)

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 advertised throughout the State. Interested  
19 businesses shall be sent, electronically, a basic business  
20 kit, describing the basic requirements and procedures for  
21 doing business in Illinois.

22 (b) (Blank).

23 (c) Any applicant for permits or licenses required for a  
24 business activity may confer with the office to obtain  
25 assistance in the prompt and efficient processing and review

1 of applications. The office shall, subject to appropriation,  
2 designate an employee of the office to act as a permit  
3 assistance manager to:

4 (1) facilitate contacts for the applicant with  
5 responsible agencies;

6 (2) arrange conferences to clarify the requirements of  
7 interested agencies;

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

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

12 (5) coordinate federal, State and local regulatory  
13 procedures and permit review actions to the extent  
14 possible.

15 (d) The office shall publish an online directory of State  
16 business permits and State programs to assist businesses.

17 (e) The office shall ~~attempt to~~ establish agreements with  
18 local governments to allow the office to provide assistance to  
19 applicants for permits required by these local governments.

20 (f) (Blank).

21 (f-5) Subject to appropriation, the office may establish a  
22 matching grant program to incentivize and assist units of  
23 local government in improving the use of technology tools for  
24 permitting and licensing processes.

25 (g) In addition to its responsibilities in connection with  
26 permit assistance, the office shall provide general regulatory

1 information by directing businesses to appropriate officers in  
2 State agencies to supply the information requested.

3 (h) The office shall help businesses to locate and apply  
4 to training programs available to train current employees in  
5 particular skills, techniques or areas of knowledge relevant  
6 to the employees' present or anticipated job duties. In  
7 pursuit of this objective, the office shall provide businesses  
8 with pertinent information about training programs offered by  
9 State agencies, units of local government, public universities  
10 and colleges, community colleges, and school districts in  
11 Illinois.

12 (i) The office shall help businesses to locate and apply  
13 to State programs offering to businesses grants, loans, loan  
14 or bond guarantees, investment partnerships, technology or  
15 productivity consultation, or other forms of business  
16 assistance.

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

20 (k) The office shall provide confidential on-site  
21 assistance in identifying problems and solutions in compliance  
22 with requirements of State and federal environmental  
23 regulations. The office shall work through and contract with  
24 the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center to provide  
25 confidential on-site consultation audits that (i) assist  
26 regulatory compliance and (ii) identify pollution prevention

1 opportunities.

2       (k-5) ~~Until July 1, 2012, the office shall provide~~  
3 ~~confidential on-site assistance, including, but not limited~~  
4 ~~to, consultation audits, to identify problems and solutions~~  
5 ~~regarding compliance with the requirements of the federal~~  
6 ~~Occupational Safety and Health Administration.~~ On and after  
7 July 1, 2012, the Department of Labor shall provide  
8 confidential on-site assistance, including, but not limited  
9 to, consultation audits, to identify problems and solutions  
10 regarding compliance with the requirements of the federal  
11 Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

12       (1) The office shall provide information on existing loan  
13 and business assistance programs provided by the State.

14       (m) Each State agency having jurisdiction to approve or  
15 deny a permit shall have the continuing power heretofore or  
16 hereafter vested in it to make such determinations. The  
17 provisions of this Act shall not lessen or reduce such powers  
18 and shall modify the procedures followed in carrying out such  
19 powers only to the extent provided in this Act.

20       (n) (1) Each State agency shall, subject to appropriation,  
21 fully cooperate with the office in providing information,  
22 documentation, personnel or facilities requested by the  
23 office.

24       (2) Each State agency shall annually provide the office  
25 with processes and timelines for all permits and licenses over  
26 which it has jurisdiction.

1 (o) (1) The office shall, subject to appropriation,  
2 identify and track metrics for the timeline of permit reviews,  
3 permit decisions, and project outcomes for covered projects  
4 and any additional projects deemed feasible.

5 The office shall, subject to appropriation, administer and  
6 expand the use of online transparency tools providing:

7 (i) tracking and reporting metrics;

8 (ii) posting of regulatory timelines for permit  
9 reviews and permit decisions; those timelines shall be  
10 provided to the office by each State agency having  
11 jurisdiction over permits and licenses;

12 (iii) the sharing of best practices relating to  
13 efficient project permitting and reviews; those best  
14 practices shall be provided to the office by each State  
15 agency having jurisdiction over permits and licenses; ~~and~~

16 (iv) a visual display of relevant geospatial data to  
17 support the permitting process; ~~and~~

18 (v) a distributable, individualized, and electronic  
19 assessment of the permit or license applicant's position  
20 in the queue for project authorization, as applicable; and

21 (vi) a web-based dashboard or portal that compiles all  
22 relevant information from this subsection in an accessible  
23 format available at no additional cost to permit or  
24 license applicants.

25 (2) The office may conduct or cause to be conducted a  
26 thorough review of any agency's permit requirements and the

1 need by the State to require such permits. The office shall  
2 draw on the review, on its direct experience, and on its  
3 statistical analyses to prepare recommendations regarding how  
4 to:

5 (i) eliminate unnecessary or antiquated permit  
6 requirements;

7 (ii) consolidate duplicative or overlapping permit  
8 requirements;

9 (iii) simplify overly complex or lengthy application  
10 procedures;

11 (iv) expedite time-consuming agency review and  
12 approval procedures; or

13 (v) otherwise improve the permitting processes in the  
14 State.

15 The office shall submit copies of all recommendations  
16 within 5 days of issuance to the affected agency, the  
17 Governor, the General Assembly, and the Joint Committee on  
18 Administrative Rules.

19 (p) The office may review State forms to ascertain the  
20 burden, if any, of complying with those forms. If the office  
21 determines that a form is unduly burdensome to business, it  
22 may recommend to the agency issuing the form either that the  
23 form be eliminated or that specific changes be made in the  
24 form.

25 (q) Not later than March 1 of each year, beginning March 1,  
26 1995, the office shall submit an annual report of its

1 activities during the preceding year to the Governor and  
2 General Assembly. The report shall describe the activities of  
3 the office during the preceding year and shall contain  
4 statistical information on the permit assistance activities of  
5 the office.

6 (q-5) Nothing in this Section shall preclude the office or  
7 the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity from using  
8 technology tools to assist, identify, and track metrics for  
9 permits and licenses for projects outside the scope of a  
10 covered project.

11 (r) All provisions of this Section are subject to  
12 adequate appropriation for the purpose of carrying out  
13 provisions of this Section.

14 (Source: P.A. 103-538, eff. 1-1-24.)

15 (20 ILCS 608/16 new)

16 Sec. 16. Business permitting and licensing digitalization  
17 pilot program. The office, in coordination with each State  
18 agency having jurisdiction over business permitting or  
19 licensing, shall administer a business permitting and  
20 licensing digitalization pilot program. Under the pilot  
21 program, the office shall create an online aggregator and  
22 repository that contains applicant data and resources for  
23 businesses applying for a permit or a license under the  
24 jurisdiction of a State agency.

1 (20 ILCS 608/20)

2 Sec. 20. Review of rules and regulations; reporting.

3 (a) As used in this Section:

4 "Small business" means a corporation or a concern,  
5 including its affiliates, that is independently owned and  
6 operated, not dominant in its field, and employs fewer than 50  
7 full-time employees or has gross annual sales of less than  
8 \$4,000,000. For purposes of a specific rule, an agency may  
9 define small business to include employment of 50 or more  
10 persons if it finds that such a definition is necessary to  
11 adapt the rule to the needs and problems of small businesses  
12 and organizations.

13 "State agencies" means all officers, boards, commissions,  
14 and agencies of the executive branch, including all officers,  
15 departments, boards, commissions, agencies, institutions,  
16 authorities, universities, and bodies politic and corporate  
17 thereof; and administrative units or corporate outgrowths of  
18 the State government which are created by or pursuant to  
19 statute, other than units of local government and their  
20 officers, school districts and boards of election  
21 commissioners; all administrative units and corporate  
22 outgrowths of the above and as may be created by executive  
23 order of the Governor.

24 (b) Each State agency shall scrutinize its rules,  
25 administrative regulations, and permitting processes as they  
26 pertain to small businesses in order to identify those rules,

1 regulations, and processes that are unreasonable, unduly  
2 burdensome, duplicative, or onerous to small businesses. The  
3 goal of this review is for each State agency to:

4 (1) recommend changes that will lessen the reporting  
5 and paper work requirements on small businesses while  
6 still achieving the intent of the underlying statute;

7 (2) eliminate unnecessary or antiquated permit  
8 requirements;

9 (3) consolidate duplicative or overlapping permit  
10 requirements;

11 (4) simplify overly complex or lengthy application  
12 procedures; and

13 (5) expedite time-consuming agency review and approval  
14 procedures.

15 (c) Each State agency must conduct its initial review of  
16 its rules, regulations, and permitting processes under  
17 subsection (b) of this Section within one year of the  
18 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 99th General  
19 Assembly, and every 5 years thereafter. At the conclusion of  
20 each review, each State agency must issue a report containing  
21 the results from its review and any recommendations to the  
22 Office of Business Permits and Regulatory Assistance, the  
23 Governor, and the General Assembly.

24 (d) Each State agency having jurisdiction over business  
25 permitting or licensing shall conduct an annual review and  
26 prepare a permitting and licensing performance report

1 containing the following:

2 (1) a complete list of all types of permits or  
3 licenses issued by the State agency;

4 (2) the statute and specific program under which each  
5 permit or license is issued;

6 (3) the time frame when the State agency must issue  
7 each permit or license;

8 (4) the average time frame, quantified in business  
9 days, within which each permit is actually issued;

10 (5) the number of permits or licenses applied for and  
11 issued within the calendar year;

12 (6) the number of businesses or individuals served;

13 (7) the number of complaints or grievances filed by  
14 individuals or businesses during the permitting or  
15 licensing process;

16 (8) the number of complaints or grievances resolved;

17 (9) a description of any efforts undertaken to  
18 procure, improve, or procure and improve the use of  
19 technology tools for permitting and licensing during the  
20 calendar year; and

21 (10) any additional information deemed necessary by  
22 the office.

23 No later than December 31, 2027, and each year thereafter,  
24 the State agencies subject to this subsection shall submit the  
25 permitting and licensing performance report to the office, the  
26 Governor, and the General Assembly.

1 (Source: P.A. 99-370, eff. 1-1-16.)

2 (20 ILCS 608/25 new)

3 Sec. 25. Interagency Business Permitting and Licensing  
4 Reform Advisory Committee.

5 (a) An Interagency Business Permitting and Licensing  
6 Reform Advisory Committee is established under the office to  
7 coordinate business permitting and licensing processes,  
8 consider more efficient, transparent, and functional business  
9 permitting and licensing processes, and share relevant data  
10 that may bring about increased efficiency, transparency, and  
11 functionality in the State's business permitting and licensing  
12 processes.

13 (b) The advisory committee shall consist of the following  
14 members:

15 (1) the Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity  
16 or the Director's designee, who shall serve as chairperson  
17 of the advisory committee;

18 (2) the Director of the Environmental Protection  
19 Agency or the Director's designee;

20 (3) the Secretary of Transportation or the Secretary's  
21 designee;

22 (4) the Director of Natural Resources or the  
23 Director's designee;

24 (5) the Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission  
25 or the Chairman's designee;

1           (6) the State Fire Marshal or the State Fire Marshal's  
2           designee;

3           (7) the Director of Public Health or the Director's  
4           designee;

5           (8) the Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's  
6           designee;

7           (9) the Secretary of Financial and Professional  
8           Regulation or the Secretary's designee; and

9           (10) the administrator of any other State agency  
10           deemed necessary by the office to comply with this Section  
11           or the administrator's designee.

12           (c) The Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity may  
13           appoint other stakeholders to the advisory committee,  
14           including, but not limited to:

15           (1) representatives of businesses that are frequent  
16           applicants for State permits or licenses;

17           (2) representatives of organized labor;

18           (3) representatives of municipal or county governments  
19           with permitting or licensing authority;

20           (4) attorneys or compliance professionals with  
21           experience in administrative law, environmental  
22           permitting, or occupational licensing; and

23           (5) experts in data analytics or permitting and  
24           licensing technology systems.