



Sen. Ram Villivalam

Filed: 4/21/2023

10300HB3017sam001

LRB103 06043 HLH 60797 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 3017

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 3017 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Business Assistance and Regulatory Reform
5 Act is amended by changing Sections 5, 10, and 15 and by adding
6 Section 7 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 ~~small and~~
10 ~~mid-size~~ businesses to deal with State requirements for doing
11 business. Subject to appropriation, this ~~This~~ goal will be
12 achieved through providing prompt ~~quick~~, accurate information
13 about ~~on~~ existing requirements, ~~and~~ 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

1 for covered projects.

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

3 (20 ILCS 608/7 new)

4 Sec. 7. Covered project. As used in this Act, "covered
5 project" means any project in Illinois that: (1) involves the
6 construction of infrastructure for renewable or conventional
7 energy production, electricity transmission, surface
8 transportation, aviation, ports and waterways, water resource
9 development, broadband, pipelines, or manufacturing; (2)
10 requires authorization or environmental review by a State
11 agency; (3) is likely to require a total future investment of
12 more than \$20,000,000; and (4) is the subject of a petition for
13 recognition as a covered project that has been approved by the
14 Department.

15 (20 ILCS 608/10)

16 Sec. 10. Executive Office. There is created an Office of
17 Business Permits and Regulatory Assistance (hereinafter
18 referred to as "office") within the Department of Commerce and
19 Community Affairs (now Department of Commerce and Economic
20 Opportunity) which shall ~~consolidate existing programs~~
21 ~~throughout State government,~~ provide assistance to businesses
22 ~~with fewer than 500 employees~~ in meeting State requirements
23 for doing business and perform other functions specified in
24 this Act. The office shall use information technology tools to

1 track schedules for covered projects and metrics in order to
2 improve transparency and accountability in the permitting
3 process, reduce uncertainty and delays, and reduce costs and
4 risks to taxpayers. The ~~By March 1, 1994, the office shall~~
5 ~~complete and file with the Governor and the General Assembly a~~
6 ~~plan for the implementation of this Act. Thereafter, the~~
7 office shall carry out the provisions of this Act, subject to
8 funding through appropriation.

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

10 (20 ILCS 608/15)

11 Sec. 15. Providing Information and Expediting Permit
12 Reviews.

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

1 (b) (Blank).

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

8 (1) facilitate contacts for the applicant with
9 responsible agencies;

10 (2) arrange conferences to clarify the requirements of
11 interested agencies;

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

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

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

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

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

25 (f) (Blank). ~~Interested State agencies shall, to the~~
26 ~~maximum extent feasible, establish procedures to expedite~~

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

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

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

24 (i) The office shall help businesses to locate and apply
25 to State programs offering to businesses grants, loans, loan
26 or bond guarantees, investment partnerships, technology or

1 productivity consultation, or other forms of business
2 assistance.

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

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

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

24 (l) The office shall provide information on existing loan
25 and business assistance programs provided by the State.

26 (m) Each State agency having jurisdiction to approve or

1 deny a permit shall have the continuing power heretofore or
2 hereafter vested in it to make such determinations. The
3 provisions of this Act shall not lessen or reduce such powers
4 and shall modify the procedures followed in carrying out such
5 powers only to the extent provided in this Act.

6 (n) (1) Each State agency shall, subject to appropriation,
7 fully cooperate with the office in providing information,
8 documentation, personnel or facilities requested by the
9 office.

10 (2) Each State agency shall annually provide the office
11 with processes and timelines for all permits having
12 jurisdiction of any permit to which the master application
13 procedure is applicable shall designate an employee to act as
14 permit liaison office with the office in carrying out the
15 provisions of this Act.

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

26 The office shall, subject to appropriation, administer and

1 expand the use of online transparency tools providing:

2 (i) tracking and reporting metrics;

3 (ii) posting of regulatory timelines for permit
4 reviews and permit decisions; those timelines shall be
5 provided to the office by each State agency having
6 jurisdiction over permits;

7 (iii) the sharing of best practices relating to
8 efficient project permitting and reviews; those best
9 practices shall be provided to the office by each State
10 agency having jurisdiction over permits; and

11 (iv) a visual display of relevant geospatial data to
12 support the permitting process. ~~make such data and any~~
13 ~~analysis of the data available to the public.~~

14 (2) The office may ~~has authority, but is not required,~~ to
15 conduct or cause to be conducted a thorough review of any
16 agency's permit requirements and the need by the State to
17 require such permits. The office shall draw on the review, on
18 its direct experience, and on its statistical analyses to
19 prepare recommendations regarding how to:

20 (i) eliminate unnecessary or antiquated permit
21 requirements;

22 (ii) consolidate duplicative or overlapping permit
23 requirements;

24 (iii) simplify overly complex or lengthy application
25 procedures;

26 (iv) expedite time-consuming agency review and

1 approval procedures; or

2 (v) otherwise improve the permitting processes in the
3 State.

4 The office shall submit copies of all recommendations
5 within 5 days of issuance to the affected agency, the
6 Governor, the General Assembly, and the Joint Committee on
7 Administrative Rules.

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

15 (q) Not later than March 1 of each year, beginning March 1,
16 1995, the office shall submit an annual report of its
17 activities during the preceding year to the Governor and
18 General Assembly. The report shall describe the activities of
19 the office during the preceding year and shall contain
20 statistical information on the permit assistance activities of
21 the office.

22 (r) All provisions of this Section are subject to adequate
23 appropriation for the purpose of carrying out provisions of
24 this Section.

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