

REGULATORY REFORM

The Patrick Administration's on-going regulatory reform efforts have included 60 state agencies, 446 sets of reviewed regulations and 286 regulations that have been amended or eliminated. This is the most significant and impactful regulatory reform initiative in Massachusetts, designed to cut unnecessary red tape and increase the ease of doing business in Massachusetts. The regulatory reform initiative has four parts:

- A comprehensive review of existing regulations
- A systematic and coordinated process for regulators to consider economic impacts for newly proposed regulations
- Public reporting of small business impacts impact for all regulatory changes to improve transparency during the public rule-making process
- Partnerships with the regulated community to share responsibility for creating a balanced regulatory environment

To date, the regulatory reform effort has made doing business in Massachusetts easier for thousands of businesses. Key successes include:

- Streamlining the tax return extension process for small business to make applications easier. This reform alone will help 71,388 businesses.
- Standardized permitting and police escort fees for oversized loads on the MassPike, a move that allows for freer transit of trucks while still maintaining public safety parameters.
- Making it easier to approve requests for access to MassDOT property, including curb cuts and other construction access permits, eliminating regulatory hurdles that were slowing down progress.
- Pending legislation that combines and removes some professional boards, along with other changes that will improve administrative efficiencies and lower fees for thousands of professionals who are licensed through the Division of Professional Licensure.

Talking Points

- The Patrick Administration is committed to creating an economic environment that works smoothly for businesses and reduces costs as much as possible.
- Our regulatory reform changes may seem small, but they are significant, positive steps forward for thousands of businesses.
- To stay competitive, both in business and in government, we need to continually reevaluate our processes and look for opportunities to improve efficiencies. That is exactly what we are doing here in Massachusetts. We are focusing our regulations on what's necessary, and eliminating what's not.
- Through our comprehensive review of regulations across state government, we are making Massachusetts an even better place to do business, and are showing other states how regulatory review can be effective.
- The proposed legislation reshaping the Division of Professional Licensure are indicative of the common-sense changes we are undertaking, which will provide an easier regulatory structure for small-business owners.
- By merging or eliminating some boards, reducing harsh re-entry fees and eliminating some requirements that are outmoded due to technology, the fresh

look we are bringing to licensing and regulations will help thousands of businesses and licensed professionals.