

The Regulatory Reform Commission
July 14, 2016 11:00 a.m.
100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

Commissioners in Attendance

Jim Soltesz, *Chief Executive Officer of Soltesz*

Abba David Poliakoff, *Gordon Feinblatt LLC*

Jay Steinmetz, *CEO OF Barcoding Inc.*

Jennifer Rhodes, *Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland Extension*

Howard “Blackie” Bowen, *President of Ewing Oil Company Inc.*

William Grant, *Former Chief Executive Officer of First United Bank & Trust*

Welcome

The Regulatory Reform Commission convened at 11:10 a.m. on July 14, 2016.

Abba Poliakoff and Jim Soltesz co-chaired the meeting and welcomed the Commissioners and audience.

Mr. Poliakoff gave updates on:

- The Governor appointed State Senator Robert R. Neall as the Senior Advisor to the Governor and the Director of the newly formed Office of Transformation and Renewal. As head of the Office of Transformation, Mr. Neall will look into the structure of state government. His primary focus will be on three areas: efficiency improvements, greater accountability and performance benchmarks, and improved customer services throughout Maryland state government.
- Governor Hogan created the Commission to Modernize State Procurement
- Governor Hogan established the Office of Performance Improvement, which is a new system to track customer service, programs in large departments, and consolidation of IT.
- Governor Hogan signed a new piece of legislation regarding construction contracts and change orders
- Governor Hogan cut over \$600,000 fee reductions across Maryland

Discussion with Occupation and Business Licensing Workgroup – Victoria Wilkins

Discussed List of Regulations for Repeal or Amendment:

- Workers Compensation did not submit recommendations because they overhauled 2 years ago
- Victoria discussed some highlights of potential recommendations:
 - Division of Unemployment Insurance - Clarify the instructions for filing initial unemployment insurance claims
 - Real Estate Appraisers - Remove the dollar amount of exam fee and change the language to reflect the fee set by the exam vendor
 - Office of Cemetery Oversight - Amend the rule that a license submit a certificate of good standing and now have staff work with State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) to make that determination

- Safety Inspection Unit - Change the language of the boiler regulations to specify that inspections must occur and inspections must be entered prior to certificate expiration. This will allow the unit to move to anniversary dates instead of rolling certificate expiration dates giving building owners a set date annually to work with
- Mechanical Licensing - Removes obsolete dates for CPC requirements
- SDAT - Amend to specifically authorize electronic filings. Also amend to remove requirements for original signature.
- Maryland Racing Commission – eliminate the fee an individual must currently pay to obtain a license to participate in thoroughbred and harness racing

Discussion with Environment and Land Use Workgroup – Secretary Belton & Secretary Grumbles
Discussed List of Regulations for Repeal or Amendment:

- Highlights from potential recommendations:

- Revision to federal shellfish aquaculture permitting process

This initiative supports the following recommendations in the Regulatory Reform Report 1) Adopt Electronic Documentation and Online Filings and 2) Streamlining the Review Process.

- Upgrade DNR environmental review database and screening tool to support electronic web-based permit review

- On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems (Septic Systems)

MDE is reviewing this regulation which requires Best Available Technology (BAT) septic systems be installed outside the critical area for all new construction and replacement septic systems where the Approving Authority determines the existing septic system is not adequate to serve the proposed alteration or altered building. The goal is to amend the regulation to alter the geography to which the requirement applies, create an exception process, and/or allow greater flexibility to achieve the same level of reductions through other means.

- Wetlands & Waterway Construction

The Regulatory Reform Commission Report raised a number of issues including assumption of the Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting program, and also embraced some of these reforms more generally including delegation of State programs to local governments that have adequate authority and resources, streamlining permitting processes, and embracing 3rd-party certification and review processes.

- Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) - Improve the Convenience and Customer Experience

This reform supports the Regulatory Reform Commission Report's recommendation to improve customer service across State government.

Discussion with Healthcare Workgroup

Discussed List of Regulations for Repeal or Amendment:

- Highlights from potential recommendations:
 - Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) - The licensing regulations for various provider types will be amended to allow for the electronic submission of both initial and renewal license application, thus saving providers the costs and delays resulting from being required to submit paper applications via mail or fax.
 - Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) - This regulation will be revised to allow a laboratory license to be valid for 6 years rather than 2 years to decrease the provider's administrative burden for relicensure.
 - Licensure Procedures for a Health Care Facility within a Correctional Institution – Application - This regulation will be revised to allow for electronic filing of application documentation.
- Issues with Health Department licensing fees for food services has been responded to
- There was a letter from Shirley Applebee, a complaint received via website: DHMH would like to see copy of the full letter that was assigned to DLLR and DHMH regarding guns and mental health

COMMENT: When something is submitted to this Commission, it is read and acted upon. The Administration jumps on it and this is how we do good business in Maryland.

Discussion with Financial Services Workgroup

- Commissioner Redmer is focused on outreach with industry and business. And plans to have town hall meetings across the state. Invited are insurance, producers and bankers to come out and express concerns about specific regulations
- Regulation chart being vetted internally
- Online submissions being addressed
 - Streamlining processes and addressing concerns
 - Public affairs person puts information on twitter and other avenues to advertise public meeting

Comments

The next Commission meeting is on August 24th, 2016.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:07 p.m.