

Senator Jim Hughes

Ohio's Common Sense Initiative Office (CSIO)

A: Ohio's small business rule review process, created by Substitute Senate Bill 2. Reformed the way businesses are regulated in Ohio to better help employers navigate state regulations and cut red tape.

B: CSIO has helped to improve the process on the front end to better ensure regulations are reasonable and that businesses are able to comply.

I. Senate Bill 2: Established the Common Sense Initiative Office (CSIO) within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor

A. According to the Small Business Administration, Ohio was home to over 900,000 small businesses in 2008

B. The National Federation of Independent Business estimates that small employers spend approximately 45 percent more time working to comply with government regulations than larger companies do.

C. Ohio Regulatory Reform Task Force that held meetings across the state to discuss ways to make Ohio's regulatory system more efficient and identify duplication or unnecessary regulations.

II. CSIO: Requires rule-making agencies to prepare a small business impact analysis report for rules that may have any adverse impact on small businesses and a regulatory flexibility impact report.

A. Requires the submission of these reports to the CSIO and JCARR

1. JCARR has the authority to reject a rule if the state agency submitting the rule has failed to demonstrate that the regulatory intent of the rule justifies the adverse impact it would have on businesses in Ohio

a. Ohio's small business rule review process improves customer service at Ohio's state agencies

b. Created customer service performance standards for employees and officers of Ohio's state agencies

2. Regulatory reform is essential for the success of many of businesses that have faced hardships in recent times.

a. Rules up for their five-year renewal are subject to the new rule review process

b. A rule must meet specific criteria in order to prove it does not adversely impact businesses

B. Practical Applications of CSIO

1. Regulatory burden on Ohio's businesses

a. AK Steel, a company based in West Chester, Ohio

b. The Shelly Company, a road construction company located in Perry County

III. The CSIO has helped to alleviate unnecessary regulations on small businesses so they can focus on creating jobs in order for Ohio's economy to prosper once again.

A. CSIO has helped to improve the process on the front end to better ensure regulations are reasonable and that businesses are able to comply.

B. I would welcome any questions that you may have.