



TO: The Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania Senate State Government  
Committee

FROM: Alisha Wells, Manager, Government Affairs

DATE: Oct. 24, 2011

RE: Support for changes to Regulatory Review Act

---

On behalf of its thousands of statewide member businesses of all sizes and crossing all industry sectors, the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry is writing to express support for legislation that would consider input from small businesses regarding how they would be impacted by proposed regulations. We respectfully request that you vote in favor of H.B. 1349, which we understand is scheduled to be voted on by the Senate State Government Committee on Oct. 25, 2011.

Pennsylvania Chamber members recognize the important role that the regulatory system plays in citizens' health and safety. Unfortunately, the current regulatory system fails to take into account the cost of regulations on business. Many times, regulations move through the system before businesses even know about them. This leaves companies in the precarious position of trying to quickly react to regulations and leaves them with no opportunity to provide feedback regarding potential impacts. The current system penalizes businesses by failing to take into account the cost pressures associated with government regulations and mandates, which ultimately impacts job creators' ability to effectively and efficiently operate.

This legislation would require that a regulatory flexibility analysis be conducted by the state agency proposing a new regulation or a change to an existing regulation. If the regulation was found to have a negative impact, small businesses could be held to less stringent compliance or reporting requirements; more workable deadlines for compliance; alternative performance standards; or even full exemption from the proposed regulation as long as health, safety, environment or public welfare are not adversely impacted. Soliciting input from businesses is the first step to striking a balance between public welfare with economic growth. The reduction of sometimes burdensome and unnecessary regulatory hurdles will allow small business greater flexibility and ensure compliance with reasonable, necessary regulations in a manner that does not take away from their ability to operate.

PA Chamber members applaud efforts to review the state's complex regulatory maze, and hopes this will promote a change in the regulatory culture that balances economic growth with public health and safety. We encourage your support of H.B. 1349.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alisha Wells at 717 720-5431 or at [awells@pachamber.org](mailto:awells@pachamber.org).