



Regulatory Streamlining – Manufacturing

Update to the Legislature per HB1818 Section 2(9)

Progress to Date

House Bill 1818 provides the opportunity to facilitate meaningful and measurable improvements to the business experience of complying with sometimes unclear, redundant, and conflicting regulatory requirements. For some time, the business community has been requesting this type of multi-jurisdictional approach using the perspective of business owners. Commerce has explored business-government partnerships for the pilot project with the manufacturing sector, and we have now identified initial project partners. We expect to launch the manufacturing pilot project in the coming weeks.

A separate, related regulatory-reform partnership between the state, the City of Seattle and King County helps restaurants navigate the myriad state and local requirements for starting a food service business. As part of that process, Commerce developed regulatory assistance tools and techniques – with the longer-term expectation to adapt those tools to other sectors, including manufacturing.

The tools – including a simple and intuitive regulatory “path” graphic, checklists of regulatory requirements, and value-added tips – have been enthusiastically received by the Seattle restaurant community. The manufacturing pilot project presents the opportunity to help manufacturers reduce time and costs through development of similar tools. It also is an opportunity to identify areas where local and state agencies can integrate or streamline requirements, thereby reducing the confusion – and frustration – of prospective and established business operators.

Moving Forward

As we have pursued partnerships with manufacturers, and state and local government agencies, some potential project partners have expressed concerns about the required 50 percent match requirement. Our response to those concerns is to emphasize that in-kind funding can meet the match requirement of HB1818.

During FY2014, Commerce spent \$10,583 of the \$49,000 appropriation. It became increasingly clear through our research and recruitment efforts that it would take longer than anticipated to convene an appropriate project. Commerce returned the balance of the 2014 appropriation. For FY2015, we anticipate expending most of the \$49,000 allotted for the project.

Contact Information

Cheryl Smith, 360-725-2808, cheryl.smith@commerce.wa.gov

Washington Department of Commerce | 1011 Plum St. SE | P.O. Box 42525 | Olympia, WA 98504-2525