

As Introduced

133rd General Assembly

Regular Session

2019-2020

H. B. No. 115

Representatives Riedel, Roemer

**Cosponsors: Representatives Antani, Jones, McClain, Jordan, Romanchuk, Lang,
Becker, Seitz, Merrin, Stein, Hood, Lipps, Ginter, Dean, Wiggam, Butler, Kick,
Carfagna, Scherer**

A BILL

To amend sections 106.021 and 106.03 and to enact 1
sections 101.354, 101.355, 121.031, 121.95, 2
121.951, 121.952, and 121.953 of the Revised 3
Code to require certain agencies to reduce the 4
number of regulatory restrictions and to amend 5
the versions of sections 106.021 and 106.03 of 6
the Revised Code that are scheduled to take 7
effect August 18, 2019, to continue the 8
provision of this act on and after that 9
effective date. 10

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 106.021 and 106.03 be amended and 11
sections 101.354, 101.355, 121.031, 121.95, 121.951, 121.952, 12
and 121.953 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 13

Sec. 101.354. The joint committee on agency rule review 14
shall advise and assist state agencies in preparing base and 15
revised inventories of regulatory restrictions, and shall advise 16
and assist state agencies in achieving specified percentage 17

reductions in regulatory restrictions in the Administrative Code 18
in accordance with sections 121.95, 121.951, 121.952, and 19
121.953 of the Revised Code. 20

Annually, not later than the fifteenth day of June, 21
beginning in 2020, the executive director of the joint committee 22
shall prepare an historical report aggregating the reports 23
received from state agencies for the preceding year. In the 24
report, the executive director also shall describe the work of 25
the joint committee over the preceding year with respect to 26
reduction of regulatory restrictions, and shall indicate, out of 27
the total number of regulatory restrictions inventoried by state 28
agencies, the percentage by which state agencies have reduced 29
those regulatory restrictions. The report also shall provide 30
recommendations for statutory changes, where appropriate, 31
brought to the attention of the joint committee as contributing 32
to the adoption of regulatory restrictions. The report shall be 33
submitted to the members of the joint committee. 34

The joint committee shall publish the report on its web 35
site, and shall transmit copies of the report electronically to 36
the general assembly. 37

Sec. 101.355. The joint committee on agency rule review, 38
in consultation with legislative information systems, shall 39
create and maintain a system that state agencies shall use to 40
enter regulatory restriction data, create required inventories, 41
and transmit copies of inventories, reports, and any other 42
documents to the joint committee and the general assembly under 43
sections 121.95, 121.951, and 121.953 of the Revised Code, and 44
that will assist the joint committee in aggregating reports and 45
performing other prescribed duties under sections 101.354, 46
121.95, 121.951, 121.952, and 121.953 of the Revised Code. 47

The joint committee, in consultation with legislative information systems, also shall develop a web site to convey information regarding the reduction of regulatory restrictions by state agencies to the public. 48
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Sec. 106.021. If, upon reviewing a proposed rule or revised proposed rule, the joint committee on agency rule review makes any of the following findings with regard to the proposed rule or revised proposed rule, the joint committee may recommend to the senate and house of representatives the adoption of a concurrent resolution to invalidate the proposed rule or revised proposed rule or a part thereof: 52
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(A) The proposed rule or revised proposed rule exceeds the scope of its statutory authority. 59
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(B) The proposed rule or revised proposed rule conflicts with the legislative intent of the statute under which it was proposed. 61
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(C) The proposed rule or revised proposed rule conflicts with another proposed or existing rule. 64
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(D) The proposed rule or revised proposed rule incorporates a text or other material by reference and either the agency has failed to file the text or other material incorporated by reference as required by section 121.73 of the Revised Code or the incorporation by reference fails to meet the standards stated in sections 121.72, 121.75, and 121.76 of the Revised Code. 66
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(E) The agency has failed to prepare a complete and accurate rule summary and fiscal analysis of the proposed rule or revised proposed rule as required by section 127.18 of the Revised Code. 73
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(F) The agency has failed to demonstrate through the business impact analysis, recommendations from the common sense initiative office, and the memorandum of response that the regulatory intent of the proposed rule or revised proposed rule justifies its adverse impact on businesses in this state.

(G) The agency has failed to justify the proposed amendment or rescission of a rule containing a regulatory restriction.

Sec. 106.03. Prior to the review date of an existing rule, the agency that adopted the rule shall do both of the following:

(A) Review the rule to determine all of the following:

(1) Whether the rule should be continued without amendment, be amended, or be rescinded, taking into consideration the purpose, scope, and intent of the statute under which the rule was adopted;

(2) Whether the rule needs amendment or rescission to give more flexibility at the local level;

(3) Whether the rule needs amendment or rescission to eliminate unnecessary paperwork;

(4) Whether the rule incorporates a text or other material by reference and, if so, whether the text or other material incorporated by reference is deposited or displayed as required by section 121.74 of the Revised Code and whether the incorporation by reference meets the standards stated in sections 121.72, 121.75, and 121.76 of the Revised Code;

(5) Whether the rule duplicates, overlaps with, or conflicts with other rules;

(6) Whether the rule has an adverse impact on businesses,

as determined under section 107.52 of the Revised Code; 105

(7) Whether the rule contains words or phrases having 106
meanings that in contemporary usage are understood as being 107
derogatory or offensive;~~and~~ 108

(8) Whether the rule requires liability insurance, a bond, 109
or any other financial responsibility instrument as a condition 110
of licensure; and 111

(9) Whether a rule that contains one or more regulatory 112
restrictions should be amended or rescinded to reduce regulatory 113
restrictions. 114

In making its review, the agency shall consider the 115
continued need for the rule, the nature of any complaints or 116
comments received concerning the rule, and any relevant factors 117
that have changed in the subject matter area affected by the 118
rule. 119

(B) On the basis of its review of the existing rule, the 120
agency shall determine whether the existing rule needs to be 121
amended or rescinded. 122

(1) If the existing rule needs to be amended or rescinded, 123
the agency, on or before the review date of the existing rule, 124
shall commence the process of amending or rescinding the 125
existing rule in accordance with its review of the rule. 126

(2) If the existing rule does not need to be amended or 127
rescinded, proceedings shall be had under section 106.031 of the 128
Revised Code. 129

Upon the request of the agency that adopted an existing 130
rule, the joint committee on agency rule review may extend the 131
review date of the rule to a date that is not later than one 132

hundred eighty days after the review date assigned to the rule 133
by the agency. Not more than two such extensions may be allowed. 134

Sec. 121.031. The administrative department head of an 135
administrative department created under section 121.02 of the 136
Revised Code, or an administrative department head appointed 137
under section 121.03 of the Revised Code may direct an otherwise 138
independent official or state agency that is organized under the 139
administrative department or administrative department head as 140
necessary to achieve reductions in regulatory restrictions in 141
rules in compliance with sections 121.95, 121.951, 121.952, and 142
121.953 of the Revised Code. 143

Sec. 121.95. As used in sections 121.95, 121.951, 121.952, 144
and 121.953 of the Revised Code, "state agency" means an 145
administrative department created under section 121.02 of the 146
Revised Code or an administrative department head appointed 147
under section 121.03 of the Revised Code, and state agencies 148
organized under an administrative department or administrative 149
department head. "State agency" also includes the offices of the 150
attorney general, secretary of state, auditor of state, and 151
treasurer of state, as well as the department of education, 152
state lottery commission, Ohio casino control commission, state 153
racing commission, and the public utilities commission of Ohio. 154
Rules adopted by an otherwise independent official or entity 155
organized under a state agency shall be attributed to the agency 156
under which the official or entity is organized for the purposes 157
of sections 121.95, 121.951, 121.952, and 121.953 of the Revised 158
Code. 159

Not later than December 31, 2019, a state agency shall 160
review its existing rules to identify rules having one or more 161
regulatory restrictions that require or prohibit an action and 162

prepare an inventory of the regulatory restrictions in its 163
existing rules. Examples of words suggesting that a rule 164
incorporates a regulatory restriction include "shall," "must," 165
"require," "shall not," "may not," and "prohibit." A rule of 166
law, phrased in indicative mood, also may constitute a 167
regulatory restriction. This inventory is the "base inventory." 168

In the inventory, the state agency shall indicate all of 169
the following: 170

(A) The regulatory restriction; 171

(B) The rule number of the rule in which the regulatory 172
restriction appears; 173

(C) The statute under which the regulatory restriction was 174
adopted; 175

(D) Whether removing the regulatory restriction would 176
require statutory change; 177

(E) Any other information the joint committee on agency 178
rule review considers necessary. 179

The state agency shall compute and state the total number 180
of regulatory restrictions indicated in the inventory. 181

The state agency shall post the inventory on its web site, 182
and shall electronically transmit a copy of the inventory to the 183
joint committee. The joint committee shall review the inventory, 184
and shall transmit the inventory electronically to the general 185
assembly after it has been reviewed. 186

The inventory requirement does not apply to an internal 187
management rule or any rule required to be adopted verbatim by 188
the controlling statute. 189

Sec. 121.951. (A) (1) A state agency shall amend or rescind 190
rules identified in its inventory of regulatory restrictions as 191
necessary to reduce the total number of regulatory restrictions 192
by thirty per cent, according to the following schedule: 193

(a) A ten per cent reduction not later than December 31, 194
2020; 195

(b) A twenty per cent reduction not later than December 196
31, 2021; and 197

(c) The thirty per cent reduction not later than December 198
31, 2022. 199

When a reduction of any percentage in regulatory 200
restrictions, whether or not as specified in this section, has 201
been achieved, the state agency may not adopt or maintain 202
regulatory restrictions that would negate the reduction. 203

(2) If a specified percentage reduction has not been 204
achieved according to the schedule, the state agency may not 205
adopt a new regulatory restriction unless it simultaneously 206
removes two or more other existing regulatory restrictions, 207
until the specified thirty per cent reduction has been achieved. 208
The state agency may not fulfill this requirement by merging two 209
or more existing regulatory restrictions into a single surviving 210
regulatory restriction. 211

(3) The state agency is encouraged to continue to reduce 212
regulatory restrictions after the specified thirty per cent 213
reduction has been achieved. 214

(B) Not later than March 15, 2021, and annually 215
thereafter, the state agency shall prepare an historical report 216
of its progress in reducing regulatory restrictions over the 217
preceding year under divisions (A) (1) and (2) of this section. 218

The state agency shall include a revised inventory of regulatory 219
restrictions with the report. 220

In the revised inventory, in addition to the information 221
required by section 121.95 of the Revised Code, the state agency 222
shall compute the net reduction in regulatory restrictions by 223
adding the number of regulatory restrictions carried forward 224
from the previous inventory to the number of regulatory 225
restrictions added since the previous inventory, and then 226
subtracting from the sum of the carried over and new regulatory 227
restrictions the number of regulatory restrictions eliminated 228
since the previous inventory. The state agency then shall 229
subtract the net reduction from the number of regulatory 230
restrictions in the base inventory, and divide the result by the 231
number of regulatory restrictions in the base inventory to 232
determine the percentage reduction in regulatory restrictions. 233

The state agency shall transmit the report electronically 234
to the joint committee on agency rule review. The joint 235
committee shall review the report, and shall transmit it 236
electronically to the general assembly. The state agency shall 237
continue preparing and transmitting a report until it has 238
reported that it has achieved the specified thirty per cent 239
reduction in regulatory restrictions. 240

Sec. 121.952. If a state agency fails to reduce regulatory 241
restrictions by a required percentage within one hundred twenty 242
days after a reduction deadline in section 121.951 of the 243
Revised Code, the joint committee on agency rule review shall 244
afford the state agency an opportunity to appear before the 245
joint committee to show cause why the agency has not achieved 246
the required reduction in regulatory restrictions. If the state 247
agency appears before the joint committee at the time scheduled 248

for the state agency to show cause, and the joint committee, by 249
vote of a majority of its members present in a meeting at which 250
a quorum of its members are present, determines that the state 251
agency has shown cause, the joint committee shall provide to the 252
general assembly recommendations of statutory changes as 253
determined necessary to accommodate the state agency's inability 254
to achieve a required reduction in regulatory restrictions. 255

Sec. 121.953. Effective January 1, 2023, the state is 256
limited in the number of regulatory restrictions that may be 257
effective at any one time to a number that is seventy per cent 258
of the aggregate total of regulatory restrictions identified by 259
all state agencies in the base inventories prepared under 260
section 121.95 of the Revised Code, as determined by the joint 261
committee on agency rule review. A state agency shall contact 262
the joint committee before submitting a proposed rule containing 263
a regulatory restriction, and the joint committee shall 264
determine whether adopting the regulatory restriction would 265
cause the state to exceed the number of regulatory restrictions 266
permitted under this section. A state agency may not adopt a 267
rule if by adopting the rule the state agency would cause the 268
number of regulatory restrictions to exceed the state limit as 269
determined by the joint committee. 270

Section 2. That existing sections 106.021 and 106.03 of 271
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 272

Section 3. That the versions of sections 106.021 and 273
106.03 of the Revised Code that are scheduled to take effect 274
August 18, 2019, be amended to read as follows: 275

Sec. 106.021. If, upon reviewing a proposed rule or 276
revised proposed rule, the joint committee on agency rule review 277
makes any of the following findings with regard to the proposed 278

rule or revised proposed rule, the joint committee may recommend	279
to the senate and house of representatives the adoption of a	280
concurrent resolution to invalidate the proposed rule or revised	281
proposed rule or a part thereof:	282
(A) The proposed rule or revised proposed rule exceeds the	283
scope of its statutory authority.	284
(B) The proposed rule or revised proposed rule conflicts	285
with the legislative intent of the statute under which it was	286
proposed.	287
(C) The proposed rule or revised proposed rule conflicts	288
with another proposed or existing rule.	289
(D) The proposed rule or revised proposed rule	290
incorporates a text or other material by reference and:	291
(1) The accompanying citation is not such as reasonably	292
would enable a reasonable person to whom the proposed rule or	293
revised proposed rule applies readily and without charge to find	294
and inspect the incorporated text or other material;	295
(2) The accompanying citation is not such as reasonably	296
would enable the joint committee readily and without charge to	297
find and inspect the incorporated text or other material, and	298
the agency did not file or otherwise make the incorporated text	299
or other material available without charge to the joint	300
committee; or	301
(3) The agency has treated the proposed rule or revised	302
proposed rule in whole or in part as exempt from sections 121.71	303
to 121.74 of the Revised Code on grounds the incorporated text	304
or other material has one or more of the characteristics	305
described in division (B) of section 121.75 of the Revised Code,	306
but the incorporated text or other material actually does not	307

have any of those characteristics. 308

(E) The agency has failed to prepare a complete and 309
accurate rule summary and fiscal analysis of the proposed rule 310
or revised proposed rule as required by section 106.024 of the 311
Revised Code. 312

(F) The agency has failed to demonstrate through the 313
business impact analysis, recommendations from the common sense 314
initiative office, and the memorandum of response that the 315
regulatory intent of the proposed rule or revised proposed rule 316
justifies its adverse impact on businesses in this state. 317

(G) The agency has failed to justify the proposed 318
amendment or rescission of a rule containing a regulatory 319
restriction. 320

Sec. 106.03. Prior to the review date of an existing rule, 321
the agency that adopted the rule shall do both of the following: 322

(A) Review the rule to determine all of the following: 323

(1) Whether the rule should be continued without 324
amendment, be amended, or be rescinded, taking into 325
consideration the purpose, scope, and intent of the statute 326
under which the rule was adopted; 327

(2) Whether the rule needs amendment or rescission to give 328
more flexibility at the local level; 329

(3) Whether the rule needs amendment or rescission to 330
eliminate unnecessary paperwork; 331

(4) Whether the rule incorporates a text or other material 332
by reference and, if so: 333

(a) Whether the citation accompanying the incorporation by 334

reference is such as reasonably would enable a reasonable person 335
to whom the rule applies readily and without charge to find and 336
inspect the incorporated text or other material; 337

(b) Whether the citation accompanying the incorporation by 338
reference is such as reasonably would enable the joint committee 339
on agency rule review readily and without charge to find and 340
inspect the incorporated text or other material; and 341

(c) If the rule has been exempted in whole or in part from 342
sections 121.71 to 121.74 of the Revised Code on grounds the 343
incorporated text or other material has one or more of the 344
characteristics described in division (B) of section 121.75 of 345
the Revised Code, whether the incorporated text or other 346
material actually has any of those characteristics. 347

(5) Whether the rule duplicates, overlaps with, or 348
conflicts with other rules; 349

(6) Whether the rule has an adverse impact on businesses, 350
as determined under section 107.52 of the Revised Code; 351

(7) Whether the rule contains words or phrases having 352
meanings that in contemporary usage are understood as being 353
derogatory or offensive; ~~and~~ 354

(8) Whether the rule requires liability insurance, a bond, 355
or any other financial responsibility instrument as a condition 356
of licensure; and 357

(9) Whether a rule that contains one or more regulatory 358
restrictions should be amended or rescinded to reduce regulatory 359
restrictions. 360

In making its review, the agency shall consider the 361
continued need for the rule, the nature of any complaints or 362

comments received concerning the rule, and any relevant factors 363
that have changed in the subject matter area affected by the 364
rule. 365

(B) On the basis of its review of the existing rule, the 366
agency shall determine whether the existing rule needs to be 367
amended or rescinded. 368

(1) If the existing rule needs to be amended or rescinded, 369
the agency, on or before the review date of the existing rule, 370
shall commence the process of amending or rescinding the 371
existing rule in accordance with its review of the rule. 372

(2) If the existing rule does not need to be amended or 373
rescinded, proceedings shall be had under section 106.031 of the 374
Revised Code. 375

Upon the request of the agency that adopted an existing 376
rule, the joint committee on agency rule review may extend the 377
review date of the rule to a date that is not later than one 378
hundred eighty days after the review date assigned to the rule 379
by the agency. Not more than two such extensions may be allowed. 380

Section 4. That the existing versions of sections 106.021 381
and 106.03 of the Revised Code that are scheduled to take effect 382
August 18, 2019, are hereby repealed. 383