

Helping Cut Red Tape

Frequently Asked Regulatory Questions

Q. Who do I contact if I have a question about what licenses or permits are needed to operate a business in Rhode Island?

A. The Secretary of State's First Stop Business Information Center can provide prospective business owners with information on licensing and permitting. They can be contacted at 401-222-2185 or via the web at www.sos.ri.gov

Q. Who do I contact if I am having an issue with a permit or license being issued?

A. RIEDC's Office of Regulatory Reform was created to improve the state's business climate by making it easier for small and mid-sized businesses to deal with state and municipal permitting and regulatory affairs.

Q. Where can I find state regulations for my business?

A. State regulations can be viewed at www.sos.ri.gov/rules

Q. Where can I find proposed state regulations?

A. Proposed regulations can be viewed at www.sos.ri.gov/ProposedRules/

Q. How do I sign up for state regulatory notices?

A. You can sign up using the Secretary of State's Rules Tracker at www.rules.state.ri.us/rules/freshregs/. This will allow you to receive notification of rulemaking activity.

Q. If all else fails who do I contact for assistance regarding regulatory notices?

A. The Secretary of State's Administrative Records Program at 401-222-2353 or RIEDC's Research Specialist at 401-278-9141 or Small Business Ombudsman at 401-278-9174.

Q. What is the RIGL 42-35.1-1: Small Business Regulatory Fairness in Administrative Procedures?

A. RIGL 42-35.1-1 is the process that state agencies are required to use prior to adopting proposed regulations. Each agency is required to submit a copy of the proposed regulations and regulatory flexibility analysis to RIEDC and the Governor's office at least 45 days prior to the date of hearing for the rule or amendment.