

CHAPTER 775

S.B. No. 750

AN ACT

relating to a review and analysis of the process by which agencies issue permits for business enterprises.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 481.123, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 481.123. DUTIES. The office shall:

(1) provide comprehensive information on permits required for business enterprises in the state and make that information available to applicants and other persons;

(2) assist applicants in obtaining timely and efficient permit review and in resolving issues arising from the review;

(3) facilitate contacts between applicants and state agencies responsible for processing and reviewing permit applications;

(4) assist applicants in the resolution of outstanding issues identified by state agencies, including delays experienced in permit review;

(5) develop comprehensive application procedures to expedite the permit process;

(6) compile a comprehensive list of all permits required of a person desiring to establish, operate, or expand a business enterprise in the state;

(7) encourage and facilitate the participation of federal and local government agencies in permit coordination;

(8) make recommendations for eliminating, consolidating, simplifying, expediting, or otherwise improving permit procedures affecting business enterprises *by requesting that the state auditor, with the advice and support of the office, initiate a business permit reengineering review process involving all state agencies;*

(9) develop and implement an outreach program to publicize and make small business entrepreneurs and others aware of services provided by the office; ~~and~~

(10) adopt rules, procedures, instructions, and forms required to carry out the functions, powers, and duties of the office under this subchapter; *and*

(11) *except as provided in Section 481.129, complete the implementation of the business permit review process on or before September 1, 1994, and provide all recommended statutory changes as needed to the legislature on or before January 1, 1995.*

SECTION 2. Subchapter G, Chapter 481, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 481.129 to read as follows:

*Sec. 481.129. ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS. The office shall consult and cooperate with the Natural Resource Conservation Commission in conducting any studies on permits issued by the Natural Resource Conservation Commission. The Natural Resource Conservation Commission shall cooperate fully in the study and analysis of the procedures involving the issuance of permits by that commission and shall, in any report issued, evaluate all alternatives for improving the process pursuant to the office's responsibilities under Section 481.123. The office and the Natural Resource Conservation Commission shall jointly submit any report required under Section 481.123.*

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 1993.

SECTION 4. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed the Senate on April 29, 1993, by a viva-voce vote; the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 29, 1993, by a viva-voce vote; passed the House, with amendment, on May 26, 1993, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 17, 1993.

Effective Sept. 1, 1993.