

HOUSE BILL 1079

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6lr1952

By: Delegates Hutchinson, Adams, Anderson, Arentz, Baker, Beauchamp, Buckel, Chisholm, Ciliberti, Ghrist, Griffith, Hartman, Hinebaugh, Hornberger, Jacobs, Kipke, R. Long, Mangione, McComas, Metzgar, Miller, T. Morgan, Pippy, Reilly, Rose, Schmidt, Stonko, Tomlinson, Valentine, and Wivell

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Office of Regulatory Management and State Government Authorizations**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Office of Regulatory Management; providing for the
4 Director, staffing, and duties of the Office; requiring certain units of State
5 government to submit certain reports to certain persons at certain times regarding
6 regulatory actions and permits, licenses, certifications, and registrations; requiring
7 certain units to develop a strategy to simplify certain application processes;
8 requiring certain units of State government, in consultation with the Department of
9 Information Technology, to implement online processes for the submission and
10 amendment of certain applications and fees; and generally relating to the Office of
11 Regulatory Management and the simplification of processes of the State government.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – State Government

14 Section 9–4201 through 9–4206 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 42. Office of
15 Regulatory Management”

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – State Government**

21 **SUBTITLE 42. OFFICE OF REGULATORY MANAGEMENT.**

22 **9–4201.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
2 INDICATED.

3 (B) "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY MANAGEMENT.

4 (C) "REGULATION" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-101 OF THIS
5 ARTICLE.

6 9-4202.

7 THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE ARE IN ADDITION TO THE
8 REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 1 OF THIS ARTICLE.

9 9-4203.

10 (A) THERE IS AN OFFICE OF REGULATORY MANAGEMENT.

11 (B) (1) THE HEAD OF THE OFFICE IS THE DIRECTOR.

12 (2) THE DIRECTOR:

13 (I) SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVICE
14 AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE; AND

15 (II) IS ENTITLED TO THE SALARY PROVIDED IN THE STATE
16 BUDGET.

17 (C) THE OFFICE SHALL HAVE THE STAFF PROVIDED FOR IN THE STATE
18 BUDGET.

19 9-4204.

20 ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2026, THE OFFICE SHALL DEVELOP POLICIES
21 AND PROCEDURES FOR:

22 (1) THE OVERSIGHT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A 25% REDUCTION IN
23 REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS;

24 (2) THE OVERSIGHT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STREAMLINING
25 OF THE REGULATORY AND PERMITTING APPROVAL PROCESS OF ALL UNITS OF
26 STATE GOVERNMENT TO ACHIEVE A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THE TIME

1 REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL OR REJECTION OF PERMITS, LICENSES,
2 CERTIFICATIONS, AND REGISTRATIONS; AND

3 (3) THE INCREASED TRANSPARENCY OF THE STATE REGULATORY
4 PROCESS.

5 9-4205.

6 ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, AND EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER, EACH UNIT OF
7 STATE GOVERNMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE OFFICE AND, IN
8 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON
9 ADMINISTRATIVE, EXECUTIVE, AND LEGISLATIVE REVIEW LISTING ALL
10 REGULATIONS THAT THE UNIT ANTICIPATES AMENDING, ADOPTING, OR REPEALING
11 DURING THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

12 9-4206.

13 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
14 INDICATED.

15 (2) "AUTHORIZATION" MEANS A PERMIT, LICENSE, CERTIFICATION,
16 REGISTRATION, OR ANY OTHER INSTRUMENT THAT A PERSON IS REQUIRED TO
17 OBTAIN FROM A UNIT BEFORE ENGAGING IN A PARTICULAR ACTIVITY.

18 (3) "AVERAGE PROCESSING DURATION" MEANS THE AMOUNT OF
19 TIME IN THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR THAT A UNIT TAKES TO FULLY PROCESS ANY
20 GIVEN APPLICATION FOR AN AUTHORIZATION.

21 (4) "LOW-VOLUME AUTHORIZATION" MEANS AN AUTHORIZATION
22 FOR WHICH A UNIT RECEIVES AN AVERAGE OF FEWER THAN FIVE APPLICATIONS PER
23 YEAR.

24 (B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO UNITS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF
25 STATE GOVERNMENT.

26 (C) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2026, EACH UNIT SHALL SUBMIT A
27 REPORT TO THE OFFICE CONTAINING:

28 (1) FOR EACH AUTHORIZATION, INFORMATION ON:

29 (I) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS PROCESSED
30 ANNUALLY;

1 (II) THE AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME;

2 (III) ANY FEES OR CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE
3 AUTHORIZATION;

4 (IV) ANY INVOLVEMENT OF ANOTHER FEDERAL, STATE, OR
5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY IN THE AUTHORIZATION PROCESS, INCLUDING THE
6 AVERAGE PROCESSING DURATION BY EACH ENTITY;

7 (V) THE PROVISION OF LAW THAT MANDATES OR AUTHORIZES
8 THE AUTHORIZATION;

9 (VI) INFORMATION ON WHETHER THE APPLICATION, FEE
10 PAYMENT, AND OTHER RELEVANT DETAILS MAY BE COMPLETED ONLINE;

11 (VII) WHETHER THE AUTHORIZATION HAS A TARGET
12 PROCESSING TIME OF 15 DAYS OR LESS;

13 (VIII) WHETHER THE AUTHORIZATION INVOLVES MORE THAN ONE
14 PROCEDURAL STEP; AND

15 (IX) IF THE AUTHORIZATION IS A LOW-VOLUME
16 AUTHORIZATION, A RECOMMENDATION ON WHETHER THE AUTHORIZATION SHOULD
17 BE ELIMINATED;

18 (2) A CERTIFICATION THAT THE UNIT HAS, FOR EACH
19 AUTHORIZATION:

20 (I) ASSIGNED STAFF TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
21 AUTHORIZATION;

22 (II) DEVELOPED A PROCESS FOR EACH AUTHORIZATION;

23 (III) IMPLEMENTED A SYSTEM TO TRACK THE DURATION TIME
24 FOR THE PROCESSING OF AN APPLICATION; AND

25 (IV) ESTABLISHED A STANDARDIZED INTERNAL PROCESS FOR
26 APPLICATION REVIEW; AND

27 (3) A STRATEGY TO SIMPLIFY EXISTING AUTHORIZATIONS,
28 INCLUDING:

1 **(I) REDUCING THE NUMBER OF PROCEDURAL STAGES IN THE**
2 **AUTHORIZATION PROCESS;**

3 **(II) CONVERTING INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZATIONS TO GENERAL**
4 **AUTHORIZATIONS WHERE PERMISSIBLE BY REGULATORY, STATUTORY, OR**
5 **ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY; AND**

6 **(III) REDUCING THE OVERALL NUMBER OF AUTHORIZATIONS.**

7 **(D) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2027, AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER, EACH**
8 **UNIT SHALL SUBMIT AN UPDATE TO THE REPORT DESCRIBING ANY PROGRESS THE**
9 **UNIT HAS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY OUTLINED IN THE REPORT.**

10 **(E) EACH UNIT, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF**
11 **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROCESSES FOR:**

12 **(1) SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR AUTHORIZATIONS ONLINE;**

13 **(2) PROCESSING PAYMENTS ELECTRONICALLY; AND**

14 **(3) AMENDING PENDING APPLICATIONS.**

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
16 1, 2026.