



# Government Regulations

2009-2010 Key Issue Overview (page 1 of 2)

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Compliance with state regulations is a necessary part of doing business. Businesses can compete and thrive when those regulations are simple and are administered efficiently. The state must find a way to help employers easily comply with state regulations and eliminate duplicative or outdated regulations that only waste time and money and that ultimately hurt our business climate. Ohio must make changes to its regulatory structure to enable our small businesses to compete in the global market place.

## Chamber Agenda: *Where We Stand*

- ▶ Advocate for more accountability for state agencies in making regulatory determinations.
- ▶ Eliminate redundant and unnecessary regulations that are harmful to Ohio businesses or make them less competitive.
- ▶ Continue momentum for streamlined regulations that provide appropriate protection while encouraging business development and innovation.



**CHAMBER ACTION ALLIANCE**

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## What to Expect: *Looking Ahead through 2009-2010*

Improving Ohio's regulatory environment is a top priority. In the last general assembly, Governor Strickland established the "Advantage Ohio" initiative to make it simpler for businesses to understand and comply with Ohio regulations. Additionally, the last general assembly created a Regulatory Reform Task Force to evaluate and recommend different options for improving Ohio's regulatory system. The current general assembly is now considering those recommendations.

There is continued momentum for regulatory reform. However, any reform will need bipartisan support and should take into consideration the state of our national and local economy. Considering these facts, businesses must be prepared to weigh in when necessary on any proposals that affect Ohio's regulatory system.

### Ohio Small Business Council is Working to Improve Ohio's Business Climate

The Ohio Chamber's Small Business Council (OSBC) was very active in 2007-08 when it came to initiatives that help cut government red tape. In fact, one of the most important pieces of regulatory legislation passed last year received significant input from OSBC. House Bill 285, which eliminates penalties and fines for first time paperwork violations, was a priority for OSBC.

OSBC hopes to continue that success in the 128th General Assembly and will continue to be a strong voice for improving the business climate in Ohio. The continued goal of OSBC will be support for any regulatory reform that benefits Ohio businesses. The Chamber Action Alliance will also keep you posted on new developments undertaken by OSBC.

### Governor

In issuing the Advantage Ohio Executive Order last year, Gov. Strickland was seeking to provide state agencies with better guidelines for implementing and enforcing common sense regulations. The Executive Order reflects the philosophy that regulations should be realistic and balanced for all affected parties and provides agencies with the flexibility to determine how to achieve that balance.

However, in terms of his recent budget proposal, the governor has included more than 120 increases in fees, fines and penalties that would bring in more than \$1 billion in revenue. These added regulatory costs would have a significant impact on employers across the state.

### The General Assembly

The 128th General Assembly will not be controlled by one party for the first time in more than a decade. Therefore, bipartisan cooperation will be necessary to pass any regulatory reform proposals. Both the House and Senate have reached out to the Ohio Chamber to discuss regulatory reform and how it impacts economic development in Ohio.

Recently, the Ohio Senate passed SB 3, legislation that would mandate specific actions be taken before implementing new regulations on Ohio small business. Specifically, the bill calls for a cost/benefit analysis to be conducted anytime a new regulation that would impact small businesses is proposed. If the cost analysis deems the regulation to be too burdensome, it could be invalidated.



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