

CSI Ohio Issues 2012 Annual Report

Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor's Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Office reviewed 1,519 regulations in 2012 as part of 171 rule packages, making recommendations in 27 cases and rejecting three rule packages, a new annual report released by the CSI Office later Friday said.

The report noted that rule filings in 2012 were down 44 percent over the historical average.

"There is still a lot of work to do, but 2012 was a watershed year for state government in Ohio," said Taylor in a statement. "Through CSI, we have sent the message that before proposing regulations that impact Ohio's job creators, agencies must reach out to those businesses and ensure that the purpose justifies the impact."

According to the report, CSI reviewed about 54 percent of all of the rules that were filed with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review. The average length of time for a CSI response was 42 days, and 779 business impacting rules were rescinded or amended. The report said more than one-third of the packages submitted through the CSI process required the agencies to revise their business impact analysis reports.

"At this point, no agency has refused to accept and implement a recommendation issued by the CSI Office, and JCARR has not moved to invalidate a rule that was vetted through the CSI process and found to be justified by the regulatory purpose," the report said.

The report also outlined some of the initiatives taken on the office to make Ohio more business friendly. Those initiatives include:

- Clinical research faculty certificates to allow medical academic institutions to bring in internationally-trained doctors to teach and conduct research. The law was changed in June 2012 to give greater authority to the State Medical Board to allow doctors to stay longer than the three-years under previous statutes.
- Helping a company that mistakenly paid \$65,000 in sales tax get an expedited refund after the Ohio Department of Taxation initially indicated a six-month turnaround time.
- A new residential building code that was created with input from stakeholders.
- Microdistillery regulations to expand the number of manufacturing permits in the state and allow for product tasting on site. The regulations were adopted in 129-HB243 (Kozlowski).

Overall, the CSI Office reported receiving 183 suggestions and request for assistance in 2012. Inspection and compliance issues made up the largest segment at 12 percent, followed by tax issues and workers' compensation, both coming in at 7 percent each.

The annual report can be found at www.governor.ohio.gov/CSI.

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