

By the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability;  
and Senator Altman

585-04242-10

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to streamlining the issuance of  
3           licenses, certifications, and registrations issued by  
4           state agencies; providing a short title; providing  
5           legislative findings and intent; requiring the  
6           Governor to establish the One-Stop Business Workgroup;  
7           providing for the membership of the workgroup;  
8           authorizing the workgroup to consult with other  
9           agencies and use consultants; providing duties of the  
10          workgroup; requiring that the workgroup submit a plan  
11          for establishing a licensing portal to the Governor  
12          and Legislature by a specified date; providing  
13          requirements for the plan to implement a technology  
14          solution for businesses and individuals to access  
15          state business licenses, certifications, and  
16          registrations; providing an effective date.

17  
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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20           Section 1. (1) This act may be cited as "Florida's One-Stop  
21 Business Connect Act."

22           (2) The Legislature finds that:

23           (a) Individuals who start and operate businesses in this  
24 state must interact with multiple state agencies to obtain  
25 licenses, registrations, and tax certificates needed to legally  
26 operate in this state. This process can be time-consuming and  
27 frustrating for businesses and often requires business owners to  
28 provide similar information to multiple agencies.

29           (b) State-government requirements for starting and

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30 operating a business in this state are often cumbersome and  
31 place avoidable burdens on business owners. For several years,  
32 the Legislature has recognized that these requirements do not  
33 serve to promote this state as a business-friendly state that  
34 actively supports the growth of jobs, businesses, and economic  
35 opportunities.

36 (c) A phased, deliberative, and collaborative approach is  
37 necessary to streamline and automate the state's business  
38 processes; to simplify business requirements and eliminate  
39 unnecessary business requirements; and to provide a single point  
40 of entry for businesses to complete business transactions with  
41 the state.

42 (3) (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that by July 1,  
43 2012, the state establish an online connection that is easily  
44 accessible through the state's official portal, "MyFlorida.com"  
45 and that provides an efficient and effective online, self-  
46 service method for an individual to access state requirements  
47 for starting and operating a business.

48 (b) When the state's online business licensing connection  
49 is available, it is the intent of the Legislature that local  
50 governments have the opportunity to make local requirements for  
51 starting and operating a business accessible in a similar manner  
52 through the state's official portal, "MyFlorida.com."

53 (4) (a) The Governor shall establish a One-Stop Business  
54 Connect Workgroup composed of, at a minimum, the secretary or  
55 agency head, or his or her designee, of the following state  
56 agencies:

57 1. The Agency for Health Care Administration.

58 2. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

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59       3. The Department of Children and Family Services.

60       4. The Department of Health.

61       5. The Department of State.

62       6. The Department of Revenue.

63       (b) The Secretary of Business and Professional Regulation  
64 shall serve as the chair of the workgroup. The workgroup shall  
65 be supported by staff from the participating agencies.

66       (c) The workgroup may consult with other agencies  
67 throughout the state, including the Agency for Enterprise  
68 Information Technology, and those agencies must provide  
69 requested assistance to the workgroup.

70       (d) To the extent that funds are available within the  
71 participating agencies' budgets, the workgroup may use the  
72 services of consultants.

73       (5) (a) The workgroup shall:

74       1. Compile a complete, categorical inventory of all  
75 business licenses, certifications, and registrations required by  
76 each participating agency, including information regarding  
77 relevant laws and rules.

78       2. Analyze the business licensing, certification, and  
79 registration processes for each agency and identify processes  
80 that disrupt workflow and result in duplication, waste,  
81 unnecessary complexity, and errors, and the root causes of those  
82 errors.

83       3. Recommend the standardization and automation of business  
84 licensing, certification, and registration processes where  
85 appropriate.

86       (b) By December 15, 2010, the workgroup shall submit a plan  
87 for establishing the business licensing portal to the Governor,

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88 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
89 Representatives which identifies:

90 1. Business requirements and the costs associated with  
91 implementation of a technology solution for business and  
92 individuals which provides easy access to state business  
93 licensing, certification, and registration requirements through  
94 MyFlorida.com.

95 2. Clear systemwide objectives, a governance structure,  
96 accountability measures, and an opportunity for stakeholders to  
97 make suggestions regarding the use of the business licensing  
98 portal.

99 3. Issues that need to be addressed before a technology  
100 solution is implemented.

101 4. Issues that need to be addressed so that local  
102 governments may make local requirements for starting and  
103 operating a business accessible through the state's business  
104 licensing portal.

105 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.