



THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

WHEREAS: Free enterprise creates economic opportunity for small business owners in Georgia; and

WHEREAS: Agencies are required to develop rules and regulations to implement State laws that protect the health, safety and welfare of the general public and that demonstrate transparency in administrative procedures internal to the agency; and

WHEREAS: Small business owners may be disproportionately affected by the rules and regulations of State Agencies due to the administrative burden of remaining abreast of regulatory changes and complying with record-keeping requirements, and due to the economic burden of interpreting and applying general legal requirements to specific situations of relevance; and

WHEREAS: An interagency Small Business Regulatory Working Group, comprised of state agencies and representatives of units of the University System of Georgia, was assembled by the Office of the Governor with assistance from the National Federation of Independent Business to examine the aggregate impact of state regulations on small businesses and to identify new ways for state agencies and departments to reduce the regulatory and paperwork burden on small businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: All state agencies shall immediately address the impact of their rules and regulations on small businesses as directed in O.C.G.A. 50-13-4 et seq. to prevent unintended anticompetitive impacts and to ensure that less burdensome alternatives are explored.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: All state agencies, in coordination with the Office of Planning and Budget, by April 30, 2006, shall develop a plan or process to address those proposed and existing rules and regulations that create an undue burden on small businesses and that have an opportunity to be streamlined.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: Each state agency within 30 days shall identify at least one staff person to serve as their Small Business Liaison who shall, in addition to current duties, provide small business owners with assistance in regulatory compliance and complaint resolution, provide information on proposed regulatory changes, consider the interests of small businesses in new rule development, review current rules and regulations for impacts to small businesses and recommend revisions to those deemed to create an unnecessary burden.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: The Georgia Department of Economic Development through the Entrepreneur and Small Business Office shall coordinate the ongoing Small Business Regulatory Reform activities.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: The Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Agency Liaisons shall meet semi-annually, or more often as needed, to monitor regulatory reform activities and to develop an annual progress report on small business regulatory reform for submission to the Governor.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: The Georgia Technology Authority by Spring 2006, shall develop a Georgia Rules and Regulations website that lists contact information for each State Agency Small Business Liaison; and by June 1, 2006, that lists helpful information and resources for small businesses; indexes all State Agency rules and regulations including proposed regulatory changes and is kept current by the relevant agency.

THIS 07th DAY OF MARCH, 2006.



GOVERNOR