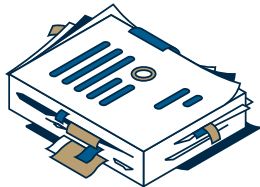


# Regular, Transparent, and Mandatory Regulatory Review is a Crucial First Step to Address Overregulation



The average state has some **135,000 regulatory restrictions** on the books.

And these regulations are stacked atop the **more than 1 million federal regulatory restrictions.**

The Mercatus Center concluded that **nearly seven million more people were thrust into poverty** in 2019 due to compounding federal regulations.



The National Association of Manufacturers estimated that complying with federal regulations **cost businesses more than \$3 trillion** in 2023.

## Why are regulations piling up?

They are **antiquated or cite expired laws.**

The problem they seek to address no **longer exists.**

Voters have **rejected a policy,** in conflict with an agency's preference.



As a result, bureaucratic agencies are claiming broad authority from unclear laws.

Yet, no efficient mechanism exists to remove them from the book—even when a regulation's economic costs exceed its benefits.

# THE SOLUTION

In the tech world, a “garbage collector” regularly reviews a computer’s memory to determine whether any of that memory’s space is being wasted on items no longer in use—and then cleans it up.

**Regulations at the state and federal levels could also use a garbage collector.**



**Good regulatory review policies are:**

## ✓ STREAMLINED

- Technology would streamline review processes to prevent bogging agencies down.
- Computer programs can automatically flag unnecessary and contradictory regulations for review.
- Employing automation would help regulatory garbage collectors quickly delete or prevent the enforcement of expired rules.
- Algorithms to predict a regulation’s economic impact would help business owners understand the true costs and consequences before it goes into effect so they know when to challenge an agency’s projections.



## ✓ TRANSPARENT

- The public should be able to easily access information about the criteria for renewal, any proposed changes, and the date of the review.
- Mandatory online reporting would increase transparency by giving citizens full access to data used to support an agency’s rules.
- State and federal bureaucrats should have to show their work and make every study they cite and all underlying data available to the public when reviewing, proposing, or changing regulations.
- Regulatory reviews, processes, and outcomes should be easily accessible to the public via the Internet.

## ✓ ACCOUNTABLE

- The public should have a voice in the process, and agencies must be required to respond to public comments before proceeding with creating or changing rules.
- The public should have a right to know which bureaucratic agency and under whose authority a regulation was approved.
- If an agency’s justification for a regulation turns out to be faulty, the regulation should be rescinded.

## ✓ MANDATORY

- Requiring periodic reviews would force bureaucratic agencies to prioritize regulatory determinations for those that are the most important and helpful—otherwise, the regulation should expire.

