

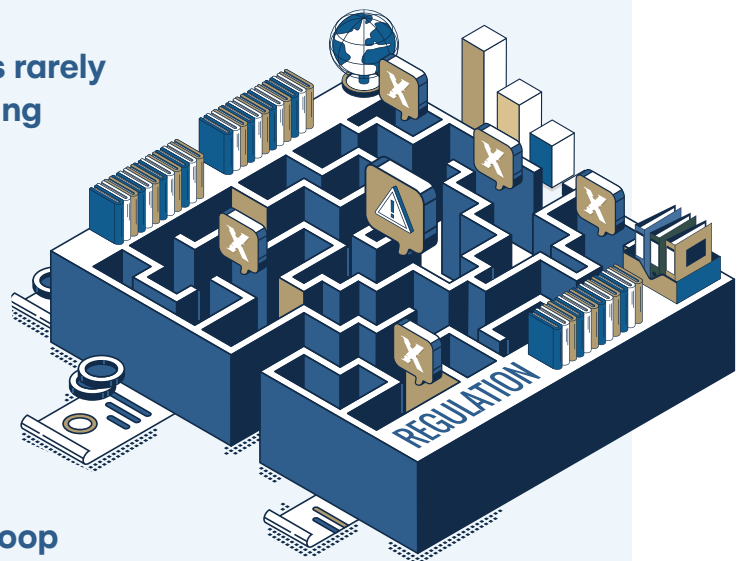
Accountable Rule Waivers

When businesses face rigid rules that do not make sense or apply to them, states still make them comply. Without a process to request waivers, businesses are stuck with rules that are either irrelevant or excessively burdensome.

Most waiver mechanisms only benefit large, powerful firms that have the resources and connections to navigate complex bureaucratic processes.

This results in an uneven playing field in which established corporations have an unfair advantage over smaller businesses, entrepreneurs, and innovators who lack the same level of access or influence. Consequently, the competitive landscape becomes skewed, and new market entrants are crushed under the weight of unnecessary regulatory burdens.

Agencies that grant waivers rarely assess whether the underlying regulation should be reevaluated or eliminated. Waivers thus become a band-aid, a solution that does not address the root causes. Without critical examination, ineffective or unnecessary regulations remain on the books, yielding a feedback loop of unfairness and inefficiency.



THE SOLUTION

Empower Innovators

Allow businesses and entrepreneurs to request regulatory waivers from an agency: 1) when the applicant can demonstrate a better solution that offers equal or better public protection or 2) in cases where existing regulations impose unreasonable burdens.

Agency Accountability

Require agencies either to grant the waiver or rigorously defend the necessity of the regulation for the specific business, ensuring that decisions are well-reasoned and transparent.

Automatic Waivers for Similar Businesses

When a waiver is granted, require agencies to apply the waiver to all similarly situated businesses automatically, preventing selective favoritism and ensuring fair treatment across the board.

Regulatory Reflection

Require agencies to consider deleting the waived regulation or offer universal waivers, prompting a reevaluation of the regulation's relevance and effectiveness.

WHY IT MATTERS

Creating a fair and reasonable regulatory environment is essential to innovation and economic growth. When businesses are burdened with unnecessary regulations, innovation and competition suffer.

By establishing a clear and accountable process for waiver requests and opening that waiver process to all similar entities, states can ensure that all businesses, regardless of size, can thrive. When agencies regularly reconsider the necessity of regulations, citizens face a more dynamic and responsive regulatory framework that adapts to changing economic and technological conditions.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Implementing fair waiver procedures levels the playing field, supports innovation, and ensures that regulations serve their intended purpose without stifling economic growth or creating undue burdens for small businesses.