

THE FLORIDA SENATE SENATOR BEN ALBRITTON

President

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Senate Passes Key Legislation to Enhance Transparency & Government Oversight

SB 108 by Senator Grall modernizes Florida's administrative rulemaking process and improves transparency of state licensing

Tallahassee—The Florida Senate today passed Senate Bill (SB) 108, Administrative Procedures, by Senator Erin Grall (R-Vero Beach). The bill improves government oversight and accountability over agency rulemaking, creating a clear, consistent annual review and repeal process for administrative rules. SB 108 also increases transparency for state licensing by creating requirements for tracking agency compliance with statutory timeframes to ensure Floridians applying for a license receive a timely response.

"This bill modernizes Florida's rulemaking process, creating a routine and comprehensive evaluation process for administrative rules and increased transparency and reporting for state licensing," said Senate President Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula). "One of the reasons DOGE efforts at the federal level have become so popular is that people have a problem with unelected federal bureaucrats having so much unchecked authority. Florida is not immune from that kind of scrutiny. Outdated and unnecessary rules can cause burdensome bureaucracy, hindering transparency for Floridians, and creating barriers for citizens and businesses struggling to comply. This bill reduces the administrative state and helps keep our state government accountable to Floridians."

"The new process outlined in this bill improves oversight and accountability for everyone involved, including the Legislature. It is our responsibility to make sure bills we pass are implemented properly, so we can make changes if needed," said Senator Grall. "This bill creates a thorough, systematic review to determine if existing agency rules are functioning to appropriately implement the law, or if certain rules need to be updated, amended or repealed. All materials related to rule reviews, including any changes, will also be made available online in a timely manner and easy-to-read format, enhancing transparency and public engagement in the rulemaking process."

SB 108 amends the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), which provides a uniform set of procedures that Florida state agencies must follow when exercising rulemaking authority delegated by the Florida Legislature. This bill amends the APA rulemaking process and requires an agency review of existing rules.

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In coordination with the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, state agencies would undergo a five-year full rule review process of administrative rules for consistency with the powers and duties granted by the agency's enabling statutes. Each agency must create a list of existing rules to incorporate into its annual agency regulatory plan and review approximately 20% of all existing rules annually to identify if any changes, amendments, or repeals are necessary.

Florida state agencies must submit the reviewed rules in an annual report by January 1 of each year of the review to the Senate President and House Speaker on intended actions, subject to legislative review, and complete or commence those actions by April 1.

The bill establishes a 90-day timeframe for an agency to publish a notice of intended agency action from the effective date of legislation. All rules under review and adoption must be published electronically, including any changes coded in a strike-through and underlined format so Floridians can easily identify proposed changes.

SB 108 also requires each agency issuing licenses to track compliance with the licensing timeframes established in law. Reports must include the number of license applications submitted to the agency in the following circumstances:

- Required requests for additional information;
- The applicant was non-responsive to requests for additional information;
- Not completed by the applicant;
- The agency requested an extension;
- The applicant requested an extension;
- Not approved or denied within the statutory timeframe;
- Final agency action was appealed and the number of hearings requested;
- The average and median number of days for approval or denial of a completed application.

For more information, please visit www.FLSenate.gov.