

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Small Business Advisory Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Agency" means the same as in Section 1-20 of the
8 Illinois Administrative Procedure Act.

9 "Joint Committee" means the Joint Committee on
10 Administrative Rules.

11 "Small business" means any business concern with its
12 principal office in Illinois that has 50 or fewer employees.

13 Section 10. Small business advisory website.

14 (a) Within 6 months after the effective date of this
15 Act, the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs must
16 create and make available on the World Wide Web a small
17 business advisory website. The site must have segregated
18 areas dedicated to the use of and maintained by State
19 agencies.

20 (b) Each agency that (i) has adopted or is preparing to
21 adopt any rule affecting small businesses or (ii) is
22 responsible for administering legislation affecting small
23 businesses that has been filed during any regular or special
24 session of the General Assembly or that has become law must
25 prepare and post on the small business advisory website a
26 plain language explanation of the rule or legislation. The
27 explanation must indicate the effective date of the rule or
28 legislation.

29 If a rule has been proposed but not adopted, an
30 explanation of the rule must be posted as soon as possible in

1 order to allow input and comment from affected small
2 businesses. When the proposed rule must be presented to or
3 reviewed by the Joint Committee, the State agency must, in
4 addition to posting a plain language explanation of the rule,
5 post notice of the time, date, and place of hearings before
6 the Joint Committee, together with the names and Springfield
7 and district office addresses and telephone numbers of the
8 members of the Joint Committee and a statement of what must
9 be done by members of the public who wish to appear before or
10 provide testimony or information to the Joint Committee. The
11 notice must be posted on the small business advisory website
12 as soon as possible in order to provide adequate notice of
13 the hearing to those persons who wish to be heard before the
14 Joint Committee.

15 Section 15. Advisory opinions and interpretations. Each
16 agency must post plain language versions of all advisory
17 opinions and interpretations of rules and statutes affecting
18 small businesses issued by the agency on the small business
19 advisory website. No person who acts or fails to act in
20 reasonable reliance in the advisory opinions and
21 interpretations may be held liable in any civil, criminal, or
22 regulatory action because of that act or failure to act.