

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

History and Mission

A regulation is an official interpretation of a statute, detailing the steps to be taken in its administration and enforcement. State agencies use regulations to implement federal or state law.

Pennsylvania's General Assembly created the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) in 1982. The goal was to provide an effective and independent review of Pennsylvania rulemakings.

IRRC reviews new and revised agency rules to determine whether they are in the public interest. Their Commissioners review regulations to ensure that they comply with Pennsylvania law and weigh their cost and benefit to the public and regulated community.

The Regulatory Review Process

Most rules from Pennsylvania agencies must be reviewed by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) before they can take effect. On a wide range of issues like state education requirements, tax rules, and licensing requirements for doctors, barbershops, kennels, and other businesses, IRRC reviews regulations that touch the lives of every Pennsylvanian.

IRRC's Commissioners consider letters, emails, and other comments submitted on each regulation to determine whether the regulations are in the public interest. Input from businesses, associations, and individuals like you who could be affected by each new rule is critical to developing regulations that are in the public interest.

After an agency delivers a regulation to IRRC, they review it based on criteria set forth in Pennsylvania's Regulatory Review Act to determine whether it is in the public interest. These criteria include:

- Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent
- Economic or Fiscal Impact
- Protection of the Public Health, Safety, and Welfare
- Feasibility, Clarity, and Reasonableness
- Impact on Small Businesses

Based on this review, IRRC can issue comments to the agency with suggestions to improve the regulation and ensure compliance with the Regulatory Review Act. Agencies must consider these comments, and all public comments submitted during the comment period, when they prepare the final versions of their regulations.

How you can Participate:

In most cases when a regulation is proposed there is a public comment period. This provides an opportunity for you to express your support for or opposition to the regulation and offer ideas to improve it.

- During the public comment period, you can submit comments to agencies and the IRRC office on regulations that are important to you, your family, or your business. The agency developing the regulation will review your comments and may include your ideas in the final rules.
- You can attend an IRRC meeting or let them know your position on the rulemakings listed on their meeting calendar.
- You can also use IRRC's website to track the agencies that interest you to learn when they propose new rules.