

Maryland commission to recommend repeal of 'overly burdensome' business regulations

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A commission reviewing Maryland's regulatory environment for business is expected to hand in its second report in December recommending repeals of "overly burdensome" regulations, Chairman [Abba David Poliakoff](#) said Friday.

Gov. [Larry Hogan](#) created the Regulatory Reform Commission last year through an executive order with the goal of figuring out how to improve Maryland's business friendliness. The commission [delivered the first of three scheduled reports last December](#), recommending items such as consolidating professional licenses and reviewing the state's procurement process. The latest report comes ahead of the 2017 General Assembly.



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Last year, the commission hosted meetings across the state and received feedback from more than 250 businesses. This year, Poliakoff said, the commission created four workgroups to discuss regulatory reform in the areas of environmental/land use, financial services, occupations and business licensing and health care.

Though he did not get into specifics, Poliakoff told the audience at the Maryland Chamber of Commerce's annual Business Policy Conference this year's report will recommend modifying and repealing regulations that businesses see as unnecessary, overly burdensome, unfair, harsh and duplicative.

"Obviously decisions will be made by the governor and the department secretaries, but we are all working together to make the proposal while at the same time balancing the interests of residents so we don't jeopardize their safety and welfare," said Poliakoff, who is also a partner at Gordon Feinblatt LLC.

Since the commission formed last year, Poliakoff said he has seen state agencies become more cooperative and easy to work with. Agencies are becoming more responsive, Poliakoff said, and most are now allowing businesses to file paperwork online.

Poliakoff said he heard from one business that when it submitted a plan it sat on somebody's desk. When a supervisor in the department said the plan needed to be reviewed quickly, the employee responded by saying he had been doing his job for 26 years and would not change the way he does things. The next day, the employee's desk was cleared out.

"Attitudes are changing from the secretaries to the employees," Poliakoff said.

Holden reports on money, public companies, politics and more.