
LIBERATE Act

As we look to our post-COVID-19 economic recovery, federal, state, and local governments are going to have to get creative in how they empower businesses to rehire their workers and roar back to life. Reducing regulatory red tape could help lower business operating expenses and create more certainty for investors and projects.

The Competitive Enterprise Institute has estimated that federal regulations and intervention cost American consumers and businesses \$1.9 trillion. Just within federal infrastructure projects alone it is estimated that federal regulations increase a project's cost by as much as 20%. Due to the high costs associated with regulations and the overall effects on our economy, Congress should review regulations and agency guidance documents and consider repealing those that are outdated or inefficient.

In response, Senator Lee has introduced the “Locating the Inefficiencies of Bureaucratic Edicts to Reform and Transform the Economy (LIBERATE) Act.”

Bill Specifics:

- Establishes the “Regulatory Oversight and Review Task Force”, which is composed of the (1) the Director of the OMB, (2) a Representative from the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, and (3) 16 individuals from the private sector, who have expertise in Federal regulatory policy, Federal regulatory compliance, economics, law, or business management. The Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate as well as the Speaker of the House and Minority Leader of the House will each have the power to appoint four members to the task force.
- The duties of the Task Force are to evaluate Federal regulations and agency guidance documents that:
 - Exclude or otherwise inhibit U.S industries from competing with global competitors.
 - Create barriers to entry for U.S. businesses, including entrepreneurs and startups,
 - Increase the operating costs for domestic manufacturing,
 - Impose substantial compliance costs and other burdens on U.S. industries,
 - Impose burdensome and lengthy permitting processes and requirements,
 - Impact energy production by U.S. businesses, including those that make the United States dependent on foreign countries for energy supply,
 - Restrict domestic mining, including the mining of critical minerals, or
 - Inhibit capital formation in the U.S. economy.
- The Task Force is required to (1) solicit public input to inform their reports and recommendations and (2) submit quarterly and annual reports to Congress, including an annual “Special Message.”
- The “Special Message” must include a list of regulations and agency guidance documents that the Task Force recommends for repeal and is provided privileged parliamentary procedures in both the House and Senate for the expedited consideration of a joint resolution to adopt all or a portion of the “Special Message’s” regulatory recommendations.

For more information concerning this bill or to be added as a cosponsor, please contact Joel Wellum (joel_wellum@lee.senate.gov) or Sophia Bagley (sophia_bagley@lee.senate.gov) in Senator Lee’s office.