Moratorium on Rulemaking to Promote Job Creation and Customer-Service-Oriented Agencies; Protecting Consumers Against Fraudulent Activities

WHEREAS, government regulations should be as limited as possible; and

WHEREAS, burdensome regulations inhibit job growth and economic development; and

WHEREAS, protecting the public health, peace and safety of the residents of Arizona is a top priority of state government; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the State of Arizona implemented a moratorium on all new regulatory rulemaking by State agencies through executive order and renewed the moratorium in 2016, 2017 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona eliminated or repealed 422 needless regulations in 2018 and 676 in 2017 for a total of 1,098 needless regulations eliminated or repealed over two years; and

WHEREAS, estimates show these eliminations saved job creators more than $31 million in operating costs in 2018 and $48 million in 2017 for a total of over $79 million in savings over two years; and

WHEREAS, approximately 283,300 private sector jobs have been added to Arizona since January 2015; and

WHEREAS, all government agencies of the State of Arizona should continue to promote customer-service-oriented principles for the people that it serves; and

WHEREAS, each State agency shall continue to conduct a critical and comprehensive review of its administrative rules and take action to reduce the regulatory burden, administrative delay and legal uncertainty associated with government regulation while protecting the health, peace and safety of residents; and

WHEREAS, each State agency should continue to evaluate its administrative rules using any available and reliable data and performance metrics; and

WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 4 of the Arizona Constitution and Title 41, Chapter 1, Article 1 of the Arizona Revised Statutes vests the executive power of the State of Arizona in the Governor.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Arizona hereby declare the following:
1. A State agency subject to this Order shall not conduct any rulemaking, whether informal or formal, without the prior written approval of the Office of the Governor. In seeking approval, a State agency shall address one or more of the following as justifications for the rulemaking:

   a. To fulfill an objective related to job creation, economic development or economic expansion in this State.
   b. To reduce or ameliorate a regulatory burden while achieving the same regulatory objective.
   c. To prevent a significant threat to the public health, peace or safety.
   d. To avoid violating a court order or federal law that would result in sanctions by a federal court for failure to conduct the rulemaking action.
   e. To comply with a federal statutory or regulatory requirement if such compliance is related to a condition for the receipt of federal funds or participation in any federal program.
   f. To comply with a state statutory requirement.
   g. To fulfill an obligation related to fees or any other action necessary to implement the State budget that is certified by the Governor’s Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting.
   h. To promulgate a rule or other item that is exempt from Title 41, Chapter 6, Arizona Revised Statutes, pursuant to section 41-1005, Arizona Revised Statutes.
   i. To address matters pertaining to the control, mitigation or eradication of waste, fraud or abuse within an agency or wasteful, fraudulent or abusive activities perpetrated against an agency.
   j. To eliminate rules which are antiquated, redundant or otherwise no longer necessary for the operation of state government.

2. A State agency subject to this Order shall not publicize any directives, policy statements, documents or forms on its website unless such are explicitly authorized by the Arizona Revised Statutes or Arizona Administrative Code.

3. A State agency subject to this Order and which issues occupational or professional licenses shall review the agency’s rules and practices related to receiving and acting on substantive complaints about unlicensed individuals who are allegedly holding themselves out as licensed professionals for financial gain and are knowingly or recklessly providing or attempting to provide regulated services which the State agency director believes could cause immediate and/or significant harm to either the financial or physical health of unknowing consumers within the state. Agencies shall identify and execute on opportunities to improve its complaint intake process, documentation, tracking, enforcement actions and coordination with proper law enforcement channels to ensure those allegedly trying to defraud unsuspecting consumers and putting them at risk for immediate and/or significant harm to their financial or physical health are stopped and effectively diverted by the State agency to the proper law-enforcement agency for review. A written plan on the agency’s process shall be submitted to the Governor’s Office no later than May 31, 2019.

4. For the purposes of this Order, the term “State agencies” includes, without limitation, all executive departments, agencies, offices, and all state boards and commissions, except for: (a) any State agency that is headed by a single elected State official; (b) the Corporation Commission; and (c) any board or commission established by ballot measure during or after the November 1998 general election. Those state agencies, boards and commissions excluded from this Order are strongly encouraged to voluntarily comply with this Order in the context of their own rulemaking processes.

5. This Order does not confer any legal rights upon any persons and shall not be used as a basis for legal challenges to rules, approvals, permits, licenses or other actions or to any inaction of a State agency. For the purposes of this Order, “person,” “rule,” and “rulemaking” have the same meanings prescribed in section 41-1001, Arizona Revised Statutes.
IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

[Signature]
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this ninth day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Third.

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Secretary of State