



Office of Regulatory Management: Regulatory Reduction

Governor Youngkin's [Executive Order 19](#) directs Virginia agencies to achieve a **25% reduction in regulatory requirements** by the end of 2025.

What is a regulatory requirement? Any provision of law that tells the public to *do* or *not do* something counts as a regulatory requirement. Requirements often, but do not always, use words like *must* or *shall*. A single regulation can have dozens or even hundreds of requirements.

What counts as a reduction in requirements? Agencies often impose requirements beyond what the General Assembly mandates in statute. Any time an agency eliminates one of these requirements, that counts as a regulatory reduction.

But there are plenty of ways to reduce regulatory burdens other than just deleting “musts” and “shalls.” Agencies can, for instance, make a regulation less burdensome without eliminating it (see some examples below). Virginia agencies get credit towards the 25% reduction goal for any change that *saves the public money*, as the [Regulatory Reduction Guide](#) explains.

Why is regulatory reduction important? Regulatory reduction benefits all Virginia citizens. It helps small businesses thrive. It makes it easier for high school graduates to find high-paying jobs. It lets Virginia state employees spend their time helping citizens of the Commonwealth rather than processing useless paperwork. And it saves the public millions of dollars. Here are just a few examples of recent successes:

Agency	Proposed Reduction	Projected Savings
Department of Environmental Quality	Rewrote the VA Stormwater Management Handbook, expediting permitting	\$124,200,000/year
Virginia Marine Resources Commission	Created a general permit for subaqueous beds, simplifying and expediting the process	\$47,000,000/year
Department of Elections	Eliminated witness signature requirements on absentee ballots	\$7,100,000/year

Virginia's goal is definitely *not* to eliminate regulations that protect public health and safety. Regulations often contain unnecessary, complicated details. And some regulations are overly burdensome, even if they do serve a valuable purpose. The goal is to right-size regulations so they accomplish their important objectives at the lowest possible cost.

Can I get involved? Yes! All Virginia citizens have insight into regulations that affect their lives. Reach out to Ariana He (Ariana.He1@governor.virginia.gov) in the Office of Regulatory Management if you know of a regulation that you think agencies should consider eliminating or streamlining.