

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 19, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 12

Introduced by Assembly Member Cooley
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chang, Daly, and Wilk)
(Coauthor: Senator Huff)

December 1, 2014

An act to add and repeal Chapter 3.6 (commencing with Section 11366) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to state agency regulations.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 12, as amended, Cooley. State government: administrative regulations: review.

Existing law authorizes various state entities to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations for various specified purposes. The Administrative Procedure Act requires the Office of Administrative Law and a state agency proposing to adopt, amend, or repeal a regulation to review the proposed changes for, among other things, consistency with existing state regulations.

This bill would, until January 1, 2019, require each state agency to, on or before January 1, 2018, review that agency's regulations, identify any regulations that are duplicative, overlapping, inconsistent, or out of date, to revise those identified regulations, as provided, and report to the Legislature and Governor, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 3.6 (commencing with Section 11366)
2 is added to Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code,
3 to read:

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CHAPTER 3.6. REGULATORY REFORM

Article 1. Findings and Declarations

9 11366. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

10 (a) The Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing
11 with Section 11340), Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 11370),
12 Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 11400), and Chapter 5
13 (commencing with Section 11500)) requires agencies and the
14 Office of Administrative Law to review regulations to ensure their
15 consistency with law and to consider impacts on the state's
16 economy and businesses, including small businesses.

17 (b) However, the act does not require agencies to individually
18 review their regulations to identify overlapping, inconsistent,
19 duplicative, or out-of-date regulations that may exist.

20 (c) At a time when the state's economy is slowly recovering,
21 unemployment and underemployment continue to affect all
22 Californians, especially older workers and younger workers who
23 received college degrees in the last seven years but are still awaiting
24 their first great job, and with state government improving but in
25 need of continued fiscal discipline, it is important that state
26 agencies systematically undertake to identify, publicly review, and
27 eliminate overlapping, inconsistent, duplicative, or out-of-date
28 regulations, both to ensure they more efficiently implement and
29 enforce laws and to reduce unnecessary and outdated rules and
30 regulations.

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Article 2. Definitions

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34 11366.1. For the purposes of this chapter, the following
35 definitions shall apply:

36 (a) "State agency" means a state agency, as defined in Section
37 11000, except those state agencies or activities described in Section
38 11340.9.

1 (b) “Regulation” has the same meaning as provided in Section
2 11342.600.

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4 Article 3. State Agency Duties
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6 11366.2. On or before January 1, 2018, each state agency shall
7 do all of the following:

8 (a) Review all provisions of the California Code of Regulations
9 ~~applicable to, or adopted by,~~ *adopted by* that state agency.

10 (b) Identify any regulations that are duplicative, overlapping,
11 inconsistent, or out of date.

12 (c) Adopt, amend, or repeal regulations to reconcile or eliminate
13 any duplication, overlap, inconsistencies, or out-of-date provisions,
14 and shall comply with the process specified in Article 5
15 (commencing with Section 11346) of Chapter 3.5, unless the
16 addition, revision, or deletion is without regulatory effect and may
17 be done pursuant to Section 100 of Title 1 of the California Code
18 of Regulations.

19 (d) Hold at least one noticed public hearing, ~~that~~ *which* shall be
20 noticed on the Internet Web site of the state agency, for the
21 purposes of accepting public comment on proposed revisions to
22 its regulations.

23 (e) Notify the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of each
24 house of the Legislature of the revisions to regulations that the
25 state agency proposes to make at least 30 days prior to initiating
26 the process under Article 5 (commencing with Section 11346) of
27 Chapter 3.5 or Section 100 of Title 1 of the California Code of
28 Regulations.

29 (g) (1) Report to the Governor and the Legislature on the state
30 agency’s compliance with this chapter, including the number and
31 content of regulations the state agency identifies as duplicative,
32 overlapping, inconsistent, or out of date, and the state agency’s
33 actions to address those regulations.

34 (2) The report shall be submitted in compliance with Section
35 9795 of the Government Code.

36 11366.3. (a) On or before January 1, 2018, each agency listed
37 in Section 12800 shall notify a department, board, or other unit
38 within that agency of any existing regulations adopted by that
39 department, board, or other unit that the agency has determined
40 may be duplicative, overlapping, or inconsistent with a regulation

1 adopted by another department, board, or other unit within that
2 agency.

3 (b) A department, board, or other unit within an agency shall
4 notify that agency of revisions to regulations that it proposes to
5 make at least 90 days prior to a noticed public hearing pursuant to
6 subdivision (d) of Section 11366.2 and at least 90 days prior to
7 adoption, amendment, or repeal of the regulations pursuant to
8 subdivision (c) of Section 11366.2. The agency shall review the
9 proposed regulations and make recommendations to the
10 department, board, or other unit within 30 days of receiving the
11 notification regarding any duplicative, overlapping, or inconsistent
12 regulation of another department, board, or other unit within the
13 agency.

14 11366.4. An agency listed in Section 12800 shall notify a state
15 agency of any existing regulations adopted by that agency that
16 may duplicate, overlap, or be inconsistent with the state agency's
17 regulations.

18 11366.45. This chapter shall not be construed to weaken or
19 undermine in any manner any human health, public or worker
20 rights, public welfare, environmental, or other protection
21 established under statute. This chapter shall not be construed to
22 affect the authority or requirement for an agency to adopt
23 regulations as provided by statute. Rather, it is the intent of the
24 Legislature to ensure that state agencies focus more efficiently and
25 directly on their duties as prescribed by law so as to use scarce
26 public dollars more efficiently to implement the law, while
27 achieving equal or improved economic and public benefits.

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Article 4. Chapter Repeal

31 11366.5. This chapter shall remain in effect only until January
32 1, 2019, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted
33 statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2019, deletes or extends
34 that date.