

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FINAL BILL ANALYSIS**

BILL #:	HB 5501 (SB 1976)	FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:	
SPONSOR(S):	Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee and Hooper (Budget Committee)	116 Y's	0 N's
COMPANION BILLS:	HB 5503; SB 1976	GOVERNOR'S ACTION:	Approved

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

House Bill 5501 passed the House on March 9, 2012 and subsequently by the Senate on March 9, 2012. The bill directs the Department of Revenue (DOR) to establish and implement, by January 1, 2013, a One-Stop Business Registration Portal, through an Internet website, that provides individuals and businesses with a single point-of-entry into state government for completing and submitting of documents required for transacting business in Florida.

Specifically, the One-Stop Business Registration Portal must provide businesses and individuals a single point-of-entry for:

- Completing and submitting applications for various licenses, registrations or permits that must be issued by state agencies or departments to do business in Florida.
- Filing of documents that must be submitted to state agencies or departments to transact business in Florida.
- Remitting of payments for the various fees that must be paid to state agencies or departments to obtain licensure, registration or a permit.

House Bill 5501 authorizes the DOR to competitively procure and contract for services to develop and maintain the One-Stop Business Registration Portal.

The Departments of Business and Professional Regulation, Economic Opportunity, Financial Services, Lottery, Management Services and State are directed to cooperate with DOR in the development and implementation of the One-Stop Business Registration Portal.

House Bill 5501 conforms to the FY 2012-2013 General Appropriations Act (GAA) as the GAA contains a \$3.0 million nonrecurring General Revenue appropriation from which DOR will contract, build and implement the One-Stop Business Registration Portal.

The bill was approved by the Governor on April 20, 2012, ch. 2012-139, Laws of Florida. The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2012.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Background

Currently, an individual desiring to start a business in the State of Florida must interact with several state agencies to register for taxes, request a license or receive certain permits. These tasks include visits to multiple state agency websites which collect duplicative information data from the potential applicant. The State of Florida does not have a single point-of-entry where businesses can accomplish these tasks.

Presently, obsolete language contained in section 288.109, F.S., directs the State Technology Office to establish and implement an Internet website for a One-Stop Permitting System, which would allow an applicant to complete and submit application forms for various permits to state agencies and counties by January 1, 2001. However, despite the current statutory language, the system was not built and the State Technology Office was later abolished.

Effect of the PCB

Section 288.109, F.S., is substantially reworded. The section is renamed as the One-Stop Business Registration Portal. The Department of Revenue, rather than the State Technology Office, is to establish and implement an Internet website for the One-Stop Business Registration Portal by January 1, 2013. The Internet website will provide individuals and businesses with a single point-of-entry for:

- (a) Completing and submitting applications for various licenses, registrations, or permits that must be issued by a state agency or department in order for the applicant to transact business in the state.
- (b) Filing various documents that must be filed with state agencies or departments in order for the filer to transact business in the state.
- (c) Remitting payment for various fees that must be paid to state agencies or departments.

The DOR is to establish the website and implement it in the timeliest manner practicable. The DOR is to design and construct the Internet website and may competitively procure and contract for services to develop the site.

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation, the Department of Economic Opportunity, the Department of Financial Services, the Department of the Lottery, the Department of Management Services, and the Department of State shall cooperate with the DOR in the development and implementation of the portal.

The DOR must submit an annual report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the implementation of the One-Stop Business Registration Portal, beginning January 1, 2013. The report must include a complete and detailed description of the DOR's activities and accomplishments related to implementation of the One-Stop Business Registration Portal during the previous calendar year and a plan for expansion of the portal. The report may also include recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the portal.

The Department of Revenue may adopt rules necessary to carry out Section 288.109, F.S.

Under the provisions of House Bill 5501, the DOR may provide information collected from applicants under section 288.109, F.S., to agencies or local governments participating in the One-Stop Business Registration Portal while conducting official duties. Information collected from an individual or business by a state department or agency or local government that is not otherwise confidential does not become confidential solely because the information is collected through the One-Stop Business Registration Portal.

House Bill 5501 also repeals obsolete statutes (sections 288.1092, 288.1093, and 288.1095, F.S.), that relate to the former State Technology Office and One-Stop Permitting.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

The FY 2012-2013 General Appropriation Act contains an appropriation of \$3.0 million to implement the One-Stop Business Registration Portal.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Individuals and new businesses starting in Florida should have a positive impact as a result of the passage of House Bill 5501 and the implementation of the One-Stop Business Registration Portal.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The DOR has developed a tentative implementation plan for the One Stop Business Registration Portal, which includes up to four potential phases over the next three fiscal years. The total estimated cost of the multi-year project is \$7.0 to \$9.0 million. The implementation of phase 1, which provides the One Stop Business Registration Portal for new businesses, includes an appropriation of \$3.0 million in the FY 2012-2013 GAA.