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City takes a step to lessen business regulations

City Council unanimously endorses legislation to ease regulatory red tape and make small business rules less burdensome.

By [Jeremy Smerd](#)

Published: September 16, 2010 - 3:51 pm

The City Council Thursday unanimously passed legislation that would require any new business regulations to go through a stricter review process to make sure they were not burdensome or unfair.

City legislators hailed the bipartisan bill as proof that the city was serious about making it easier to do business in New York.

The new law means agencies must now reach out to the business community they plan to regulate before issuing new rules. New regulations would have to consider giving businesses time to correct violations before they had to pay a fine. And a review process would be created to make sure any new rule wasn't contradicted by existing regulations.

"From now on, government will be required to make sure new rules are not too burdensome," said Christine Quinn, the Speaker of the City Council.

The council's minority leader, James Oddo, said the bill was a small but important step toward making it easier for businesses to thrive in the city.

"We have to unleash small business...and government can't be a burden," he said.

However promising the new rule appeared to be it was nonetheless limited to new legislation; it would not require existing rules to be amended. That task has been taken up by the city's special Regulatory Review Panel, which convened this spring to review current rules and regulations to assess which ones can be streamlined.

The new law would be applied to any amendments made to existing regulations.

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