

Online Business Registration

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Issue

How many states allow new businesses to register online?

States with Online Business Registration

We found 17 states, including Connecticut, that allow new businesses to register online, and in most cases complete other transactions necessary for starting a business, such as establishing an unemployment insurance account, registering a trademark, applying for necessary licenses and permits, and remitting sales taxes. Attachment 1 identifies these states, the agencies sponsoring the online system, and the types of transactions new businesses can complete online. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of states with online business resources.

Additional Resources for Creating Online Registration Systems

For additional information on creating an online business registration system, see the following resources:

1. A 2010 Florida's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) report found that Florida made little progress in streamlining business startup requirements and, after assessing other states' one-stop systems, identified the key factors for establishing such successful systems: <http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/MonitorDocs/Reports/pdf/1022rpt.pdf>

2. The legislative bill analysis and fiscal impact statement for a 2011 Florida proposed bill establishing one stop online portal includes information about the need for the system and Florida's efforts to consolidate and streamline the business related functions of state agencies: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2011/0798/Analyses/2011s0798.pre.cm.PDF>
3. A 2016 GCN [article](#) describes how Maryland established its one-stop business registration system. (GCN is a trade organization providing technology assessments, recommendations, and case studies to public sector information technology managers.)
4. A 2014 National Association of Secretaries of State report describes the steps secretaries of the state are taking to cut red tape, streamline services, and operate in a more business friendly manner: <http://www.nass.org/sites/default/files/surveys/2017-08/FINAL-NASS-Business-Symposium-White-Paper-Feb14.pdf>

Attachment 1: States with One-stop Online Portals for Starting a Business

State	Portal Name	Sponsoring Agencies	Examples Online Services	Other Online Resources
Colorado	Colorado Business Express	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Economic Development and International Trade • Department of Revenue • Department of Labor and Employment • Department of Regulatory Agencies • Secretary of the State • Internal Revenue Service 	Filing for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sales tax license • wage withholding account and/or • unemployment insurance account 	Resource Toolbox for New Businesses
Connecticut	Business Startup Tool	Secretary of the State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business and trademark registration • Links to sites for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ federal employer identification number ○ tax registration number 	Links to sites for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ licenses and permits ○ Labor Department forms ○ technical and financial assistance
Delaware	One Stop Business Registration and Licensing System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Division of Revenue • Division of Unemployment Insurance • Division of Corporations • Office of Workers Compensation • Internal Revenue Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business registration • Federal employer identification number 	Existing businesses can apply for new or additional licenses
Hawaii	Online Services	Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs	Register: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new business or name • trademark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase a business registration document • View or purchase a certificate of good standing

Attachment 1 (continued)

State	Portal Name	Sponsoring Agencies	Examples Online Services	Other Online Resources
Indiana	INBIZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary of the State • Department of Revenue • Department of Workforce Development • Office of Technology • Professional Licensing Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business registration • Filing for sales and withholding taxes • New hiring reporting • Unemployment insurance • Wage reporting • Filing business entity report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional licensing • Minority and women-owned business certification
Kentucky	One Stop Business Portal	Multiagency and private sector sponsors and business advocates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business registrations • Acquiring or retaining licenses and permits • Filing business taxes • Communications with multiple state agencies 	Planning, establishing, operating, and expanding a business
Louisiana	GeauxBIZ	Secretary of the State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registering business with Secretary of the State, Department of Revenue, and Workforce Commission • Filing annual reports with Secretary of the State 	No additional resources
Maryland	Maryland Business Express	Department of Information Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business registration • Establishing tax accounts • Filing personal property returns • Registering trade name • Ordering copies of business documents 	Links to other businesses
Nebraska	Nebraska One-Stop Business	Unspecified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business registration 	Links for established businesses to transact business with the state
New Jersey	Business Portal for One-Stop Shop for Business	New Jersey Business Action Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business registration • Tax and employer registration • Charter document amendments • Annual report filing • Trade or service mark registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessing public records, reports, and certification services • Filing or changing Uniform Commercial Code financial statements

Attachment 1 (continued)

State	Portal Name	Sponsoring Agencies	Examples Online Services	Other Online Resources
Oregon	Business	Secretary of the State	Business registration	Links to various business resources
Rhode Island	Business Registration	Division of Taxation	Business registration	No
South Carolina	South Carolina Business One Stop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departments of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Employment and Workforce ○ Revenue ○ Health and Environmental Control ○ Consumer Affairs • Secretary of the State • IRS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business registration • Applying for licenses and permits • Paying or remitting taxes 	Links to other business licensing informational resources
Utah	Utah Online Business Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Tax Commission • Labor Commission • Department of Commerce • Department of Workforce Services • Department of Environmental Quality 	Registrations required by the sponsoring agencies	No
Virginia	Business One Stop	Department of Business Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business registration • State and federal tax numbers • Licenses 	Resources for running and expanding a business and relocating one to the state
West Virginia	Business for West Virginia	Secretary of the State	Business registration	Resources for determining business structure and relocating a business to the state
Wisconsin	Wisconsin One Stop Business Registration Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Financial Institutions • Department of Revenue • Department of Workforce Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business registration • Annual report filing 	Links to business resource guides

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