



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 466**

February Session, 2018

Substitute Senate Bill No. 265

*Senate, April 12, 2018*

The Committee on Commerce reported through SEN. HARTLEY, J. of the 15th Dist. and SEN. FRANTZ, L. of the 36th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING EXPEDITED PERMITTING PROCEDURES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR BUSINESS INITIATION, EXPANSION OR NEW PRODUCTION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) (a) Each form, hard copy  
2 and electronic, associated with the application for a permit or permit  
3 renewal from the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
4 Protection shall include a check box, displayed prominently, for  
5 applicants to designate whether such application is required for the  
6 initiation of a new business, physical expansion of an existing business  
7 or production of a new product.

8 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, not later  
9 than thirty days after receiving an application for a permit or permit  
10 renewal designated by the applicant as being required for the initiation  
11 of a new business, physical expansion of an existing business or

12 production of a new product, the commissioner shall make all  
 13 reasonable efforts to schedule a meeting with the applicant, identify  
 14 any additional information required to process such application and  
 15 provide the applicant with an estimated date by which the  
 16 commissioner anticipates the issuing of a final decision on such  
 17 application.

18 (c) Not later than February 15, 2019, and annually thereafter, the  
 19 commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions  
 20 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee  
 21 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the  
 22 environment and commerce. Such report shall include (1) the number  
 23 of applications received in the previous year designated by applicants  
 24 as being required for the initiation of a new business, physical  
 25 expansion of an existing business or production of a new product; (2)  
 26 the average estimated time provided to applicants pursuant to  
 27 subsection (b) of this section; and (3) the average actual time for a final  
 28 decision on such applications.

29 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2018, the  
 30 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall modify  
 31 all forms, hard copy and electronic, associated with the application for  
 32 a permit or permit renewal from the commissioner, in accordance with  
 33 section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**CE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Cost	Up to 100,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to modify all electronic and hard-copy permit application and renewal forms, including a check box for applicants to indicate certain information.

This may result in a cost to DEEP of up to \$100,000 in FY 19 for: (1) reprogramming the agency's Site Information Management System (SIMS) electronic permitting and licensing computer program, and (2) reprinting all permit application and renewal forms.<sup>1</sup>

**The Out Years**

There is no annualized ongoing fiscal impact as the costs would only occur in FY 19.

<sup>1</sup> SIMS is DEEP's agency-wide, primary enterprise information system and permitting database.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 265*****AN ACT CONCERNING EXPEDITED PERMITTING PROCEDURES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR BUSINESS INITIATION, EXPANSION OR NEW PRODUCTION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) permit application and renewal forms to include a prominently-displayed check box for applicants to indicate whether the application is required for a specified business purpose (i.e., starting a new business, physically expanding a business location, or producing a new product). The bill requires the DEEP commissioner, by October 1, 2018, to modify all such forms, both hard copy and electronic, to implement these changes.

Within 30 days after receiving an application indicating that the permit or permit renewal is required for a specified business purpose, the DEEP commissioner must (1) make all reasonable efforts to schedule a meeting with the applicant, (2) identify any additional information he needs to process the application, and (3) provide the applicant with an estimated final application decision date. The commissioner must take such actions regardless of any other statutory provision.

Beginning by February 15, 2019, the DEEP commissioner must annually report the following information to the Commerce and Environment committees:

1. the number of applications DEEP received in the previous year that were designated by applicants as being for a specified business purpose,

2. the average estimated time to reach a final decision that was provided to applicants by the DEEP commissioner, and
3. the average actual time for final application decisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018, except the provision requiring DEEP to modify its forms is effective upon passage.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/22/2018)