



AB 2605 GO- BIZ CLEAN UP ASSEMBLYMEMBER ADRIN NAZARIAN

This bill:

AB 2605 seeks to resolve several out of date references to the Office of Permit Assistance which previously existed within the Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency.

Specifically, this bill deletes completely and updates several sections in law, in reference to the Office of Permit Assistance, to reflect the duties of the Permit Assistance Unit within the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) and the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

Background:

The Office of Permit Assistance was created, within the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) as part of the Permit Streamlining Act of 1977, in order to assist and provide information to developers relating to the permit approval process. Further, additional responsibilities were added in 1986 and 1990 to this Office while under OPR. These responsibilities required the office to offer permit identification services and play a convening role in the permitting of hazardous waste facilities.

In 1993, the Office of Permit Assistance was placed under the State Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency. Further, in 2003, the Legislature abolished the State Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency, including with it the Office of Permit Assistance.

In October 2011, GO-Biz was created by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. to serve as California's single point contact for economic development and job creation efforts. GO-Biz offers a range of services to business owners including: attraction, retention and expansion services, site selection, permit streamlining, clearing of regulatory hurdles, small business assistance, international trade development and assistance with state government.

The Permit Assistance unit, within GO-Biz, provides permit streamlining for business owners struggling with local, state and federal permitting.

GO-Biz offers an internet resource, known as Cal-GOLD that provides assistance to businesses on identifying permits, permitting fees, due dates, applications, and much more.

Purpose:

The Office of Permit Assistance was dissolved with the Trade and Commerce Agency via budget trailer bill in 2003. As a result, several references to the office in various sections of code were not updated and continue to reference the office despite the fact it is no longer in existence.

The GO-Biz Permit Assistance Unit is now responsible for many of the duties previously given to Office of Permit Assistance, including providing direct permit assistance to businesses, administering Cal-GOLD, and assisting with permitting projects of statewide importance. Additionally, since the abolishment of the Office of Permit Assistance, the Department of Toxic of Substances Control has taken over the functions related to the permitting of hazardous waste facilities. However, current law still prescribes many of the aforementioned duties to the old Office of Permit Assistance.

Making these minor changes clears up any possible ambiguity between the old office and new unit and further clarifies the responsibilities of the GO-Biz Permit Assistance Unit and the Department of Toxic of Substances Control.

Support:

None on File

Opposition:

None on File

Staff Contact:

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