

# Virginia Institute

for Public Policy

## Executive Summary

The Virginia Model of Regulatory Reform: A Roadmap for Success  
By James Broughel

Virginia's regulatory reform began in 2018 under Democratic Governor Ralph Northam with a pilot program targeting two agencies. It expanded under Republican Governor Glenn Youngkin, who created the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) and aimed to cut regulatory requirements by 25% across all executive agencies.

### Key Results:

- 21% reduction in regulatory requirements
- 41% cut in guidance document text
- 70% faster permit processing at the Department of Environmental Quality
- 85% quicker licensing approvals at DPOR (from 33 days to 5 days)

This leads to an overall saving of around **\$1.2 billion annually** for citizens and businesses in Virginia.

These outcomes highlight the practical, bipartisan value of regulatory reform—boosting efficiency and economic growth without sacrificing protections. However, relying on executive orders leaves these gains at risk.

Legislative action is critical to create a permanent Office of Regulatory Reform with statutory power, ensuring lasting impact. Other states can adopt this proven model by sharing strategies and building coalitions, amplifying economic benefits nationwide.

The full paper can be found by scanning the QR code below.



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The Virginia Department of Transportation eliminated 9,000 requirements in a single action: 2.8% of the entire state regulatory code.

Modifications to the state's Building Code are expected to cut the cost of building a new home by around \$24,000, saving a total of \$723 million per year.

The Department of Environmental Quality reduced the Stormwater Management Handbook from 11,600 pages to 1,800 pages saving \$124 million annually.