

State Regulatory Compliance Processes

Lessons Learned from COVID-19

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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BACKGROUND

During the COVID-19 pandemic, state and local governments adapted their regulatory compliance mechanisms to protect public health while minimizing economic disruption. For example, some have moved from paper-based and in-person requirements to virtual processes, established one-stop shops, or improved internal routing and approval processes.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Academy will conduct a retrospective review of adaptations to state regulatory compliance mechanisms during the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of such changes to:

- Identify the challenges that the pandemic and economic recession posed to state regulatory compliance systems;
- Identify critical regulatory compliance process innovations at the state level during COVID-19;
- Determine which of these are long-term and temporary;
- Evaluate the impact of these innovations, including whether they are long-term improvements or short-term fixes; and
- Develop recommendations for how states can improve regulatory compliance processes in a post-COVID-19 world.

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The study will be conducted over a period of seven months under the guidance of a Panel of Academy Fellows and will be divided into three major phases, each with a distinct set of activities:

- 1) Conduct a baseline review of state challenges and activities and how states have adjusted regulatory compliance during the pandemic.
- 2) Identify 5 to 10 states for a detailed analysis.
- 3) Make future recommendations to states on how to address regulatory compliance.

The next page contains information about the Panel and Academy staff.

The Panel of Academy Fellows

Chair- Neil Kerwin

President Emeritus, American University. Former Provost, American University. Former positions with School of Public Affairs, American University: Dean; Acting Dean; Professor: Assistant Professor; Associate Professor.

Shelley Metzenbaum

The BETTER Project. Former President, Senior Fellow, The Volcker Alliance; Associate Director for Personnel & Performance, U.S. Office of Management & Budget; Associate Administrator for Regional Operations and State/Local Relations, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Undersecretary Massachusetts Environmental Affairs; Executive Director Performance Management Project, Harvard Kennedy School.

Stan Meiburg

Director, Graduate Studies in Sustainability, Wake Forest University; Acting Deputy Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency; Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 4, United States Environmental Protection Agency; Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 6, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Courtney Phillips

Chief Executive Officer, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Former Deputy Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health and Human Services; Chief of Staff, Louisiana Department of Health and Human Services; Executive Management Officer, Louisiana Department of Health and Human Services.

Aretha Ferrell-Benavides

City Manager, City of Duncanville; City Manager, City of Petersburg; City Manager, City of Glenn Heights; Deputy City Manager, City of Glenn Heights; Deputy Secretary of the District, Office of the Secretary, Government of the District of Columbia; Chief Operating Officer, Department of Parks & Recreation, Government of the District of Columbia.

PROJECT STAFF

Joseph Mitchell, *Director of Strategic Initiatives*

Nancy Augustine, *Project Director*

Miles Murphy, *Senior Research Analyst*

Folasade Olugbuyi, *Research Associate*

Zamira Rodriguez, *Research Associate*