



Missouri House of Representatives

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Missouri House Signs Off on Regulatory Sandbox Act in an Effort to Foster Innovation

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – To support innovation and entrepreneurship, the Missouri House has overwhelmingly approved HB 1960, the Regulatory Sandbox Act, with a decisive vote of 131-16. Championed by Representative Alex Riley, R-Springfield, the bill aims to alleviate regulatory burdens and pave the way for a more conducive environment for businesses to thrive.

The Regulatory Sandbox Act proposes the creation of a Regulatory Relief Office within the Department of Economic Development. This office will be tasked with providing businesses the opportunity to apply for a program that could grant temporary exemptions from certain regulations while remaining under the supervision of the office. The move is a strategic effort to empower innovators and entrepreneurs by removing entry barriers and fostering a climate of growth and opportunity.

Representative Riley, the bill's sponsor, emphasized the significance of offering an alternative mechanism for those grappling with regulatory obstacles. In a statement on the House floor, he noted, "Missouri has been burdened by over 113,000 regulations at the state level, in addition to federal and municipal regulations. The Regulatory Sandbox Act is our response to this substantial burden, offering a lifeline to innovators and entrepreneurs striving to introduce new services, products, and technologies to the market."

The passage of HB 1960 is anticipated to be a pivotal step toward creating a business-friendly environment in Missouri. The legislation is expected to benefit entrepreneurs and small businesses by providing a two-year respite from certain regulations, allowing them the breathing room needed to establish themselves and contribute to the economic landscape.

House Speaker Dean Plocher expressed his support for the Regulatory Sandbox Act, stating, "This legislation is a testament to our commitment to economic growth and innovation in Missouri. By removing unnecessary regulatory obstacles, we are ensuring that businesses can thrive and contribute to our state's prosperity."

With the passage of the Regulatory Sandbox Act, Missouri is poised to capitalize on its existing strengths, empower businesses, drive economic growth, and foster an environment where promising ideas and ventures can flourish without the stifling constraints of excessive regulations.

Representative Alex Riley, a Republican, represents Greene County (District 134) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2020. For more information, please contact Rep. Riley's office at 573-751-2210 or by email at Alex.Riley@House.Mo.Gov.

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