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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 2161** Session of  
1984

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INTRODUCED BY DORR, CAPPABIANCA, L. E. SMITH, F. E. TAYLOR,  
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MACKOWSKI, PHILLIPS, NAHILL, PETERSON, HERMAN, FARGO, GEIST,  
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CESSAR, BOYES, KLINGAMAN, BOWSER, REBER, DAVIES, CIMINI,  
SHOWERS, D. W. SNYDER AND SEMMEL, MAY 14, 1984

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND COMMERCE, MAY 14, 1984

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AN ACT

1 Providing for the obtaining of permits by businesses; and  
2 imposing duties on the Department of Commerce.

3 It is the sense of the General Assembly that the burdens  
4 placed upon persons proposing to undertake certain types of  
5 businesses in this Commonwealth through requirements to obtain  
6 numerous permits and related documents from various State  
7 agencies are undesirable and should be alleviated. The General  
8 Assembly further finds that present methods for obtaining the  
9 permits from State agencies place hardships on persons  
10 attempting to go into business for themselves. The General  
11 Assembly further finds that multiple inspections related to  
12 these permits by the various State agencies is also a burden on  
13 many businesses which should be alleviated.

14 It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Commonwealth  
15 that a program be established to seek to alleviate these

1 problems for businesses.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the One-Stop  
6 Licensing Act.

7 Section 2. Definitions.

8 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
9 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
10 context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 "Department." The Department of Commerce.

12 "Permit." Any license, permit, certificate, certification,  
13 approval, compliance schedule or other similar document  
14 pertaining to regulation of businesses in general, plus all  
15 health, safety and consumer protection regulations as required  
16 by any State agency. For purposes of this act "permit" does not  
17 include licenses issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles of the  
18 Department of Transportation.

19 "Person." Any individual, partnership, cooperative or  
20 private corporation attempting to establish a business operation  
21 in a new location or seeking to continue an existing business  
22 operation.

23 Section 3. Master application; form; master permit; total fee;  
24 agencies covered; renewal.

25 (a) Master application.--Any person proposing a new business  
26 operation after June 1, 1985, shall submit a master application  
27 to the department requesting the issuance of all permits  
28 necessary prior to opening a new operation in this Commonwealth.  
29 The master application shall be on a form furnished by the  
30 department and shall contain in consolidated form all

1 information necessary for the various State agencies to issue a  
2 permit. These provisions shall apply to persons seeking to  
3 continue an existing operation after January 1, 1986.

4 (b) Department to send copy to State agencies.--Upon receipt  
5 of a properly completed master application, the department shall  
6 immediately send a copy to each State agency with potential  
7 jurisdiction over the proposed operation. Each notified agency  
8 shall respond in writing to the department within a reasonable  
9 time, as determined by the department, advising the department  
10 and the applicant:

11 (1) that it approves the application;

12 (2) that it approves with certain conditions as  
13 specified; or

14 (3) that it denies the application with reasons given  
15 for the denial.

16 The department shall then issue a master permit covering all the  
17 approvals and conditions, excluding any denials. It shall be the  
18 responsibility of the applicant to make appeals on conditions  
19 imposed or on permit denial through that normal appeal process  
20 established by the agency with jurisdiction for issuance of such  
21 permit.

22 (c) Fees.--A total fee based on the sum of fees for  
23 individual permits requested shall accompany each master  
24 application and shall be collected by the department and used to  
25 reimburse the various State agencies as per their schedules. The  
26 issuance of a master permit shall be in lieu of any permit,  
27 certificate or similar document required by any agency listed in  
28 subsection (d).

29 (d) Agencies enumerated.--All permits and inspections  
30 related to business operations by the following State agencies

1 shall be covered under this act:

2 (1) Department of Revenue.

3 (2) Department of Labor and Industry.

4 (3) Department of Commerce.

5 (4) Department of Agriculture.

6 (5) Department of State.

7 (6) Liquor Control Board.

8 (7) Public Utilities Commission.

9 (8) Department of Transportation.

10 (9) Any other State agency that may now or in the future  
11 issue permits or make inspections of business operations, but  
12 nothing in this section shall be construed to eliminate State  
13 or local government health or safety inspections.

14 (e) Expiration of permits.--All individual permits covered  
15 by this act shall expire according to a staggered schedule to be  
16 specified by the Department of Commerce. Costs for permits  
17 issued in the interim will be prorated according to the time  
18 each permit is in force.

19 (f) Renewal of permits.--Starting January 1, 1986, annual  
20 renewals for all individual permits shall be replaced by a  
21 master permit issued by the Department of Commerce. Renewals  
22 shall be automatically granted under conditions originally  
23 imposed unless one of the regulatory agencies informs the  
24 department of revised restrictions to be imposed prior to such  
25 issuance.

26 Section 4. Coordination and consolidation of inspections.

27 The secretary of the department is authorized to establish a  
28 program for coordinating all inspections by State agencies of  
29 business establishments. Where practicable under existing law,  
30 he is authorized to require that inspections with similar

1 objectives or involving common expertise be consolidated and  
2 performed by one inspector at one time. The secretary shall be  
3 authorized to provide special training to inspectors where it is  
4 determined that such training will assure the consolidation of  
5 certain inspections.

6 Section 5. Permit issuing centers.

7 The department shall establish permit-issuing centers in its  
8 offices at Harrisburg and in cooperation with the Department of  
9 Revenue, in all of the district offices of the Department of  
10 Revenue.

11 Section 6. Report to General Assembly.

12 The department, after consultation with other State agencies  
13 and affected businesses, shall submit to the General Assembly by  
14 January 1, 1988, a report setting forth the results of the  
15 experience under this act, together with any recommendations  
16 for:

17 (1) Consolidating inspections further by change in  
18 existing statutes.

19 (2) Expanding the program to include other types of  
20 permits.

21 (3) Further improving procedures.

22 Section 7. Effective date.

23 This act shall take effect immediately.