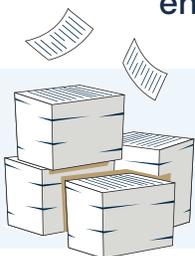


Making Kansas a Leader in Regulatory Reform

Kansas's strong economic trajectory is hindered by a legacy of outdated and overly complex regulations that slow innovation, deter entrepreneurship, and burden citizens and businesses.



THE KANSAS ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS (K.A.R.) CONTAIN MORE THAN **73,000 INSTANCES OF RESTRICTIVE TERMS** SUCH AS 'SHALL,' 'REQUIRED,' OR 'PROHIBITED.'¹

In the Cicero Institute's most recent annual ranking of state-level administrative procedure acts (APAs), Kansas tied for **16th place**, failing to achieve full marks in any category.²

These constraints accumulate quietly but compound over time, creating barriers that hold back growth and opportunity.

THE SOLUTION

Kansas should move beyond piecemeal reform and adopt a **comprehensive statutory framework** that enhances accountability, clarifies agency authority, demands meaningful cost-benefit analysis, and systematically eliminates obsolete rules.

Key reforms include:

Automatic Expiration of Rules (Every 5-8 Years)

Ensures the regulatory code is continuously updated and responsive by requiring all rules to sunset unless affirmatively renewed.

Rigorous Retrospective Cost-Benefit Analysis

Upon sunset, agencies must demonstrate that a rule's benefits outweigh its costs before re-adoption—setting a precedent for other states and even federal reform.

Transparent, Machine-Readable Data Requirements

Agencies must publish all rulemaking data and analysis in machine-readable formats. This change would empower citizens, businesses, and researchers to evaluate, challenge, and improve proposed regulations.

Proper Use of Guidance Documents

All guidance documents must be published publicly, in machine-readable form, and explicitly lack the force of law—ensuring clarity for businesses and protecting against regulatory overreach.

THE SOLUTION, *continued*

Restoring Legislative Authority

Eliminate cost-threshold loopholes so that all regulations receive review and require mandatory pre-adoption approval by the legislature (or JCARR) before rules take effect—establishing a Kansas REINS model.

Independent Oversight and Review

Establishes an independent body empowered to review new rules for statutory authority, enforce cost-benefit standards, and recommend the repeal of obsolete rules.

WHY IT MATTERS

Kansas is uniquely positioned to lead. The state could become a magnet for investment and innovation with its demographic growth, central location, and entrepreneurial potential. But to do so, it must remove the structural barriers that silently drain productivity and competitiveness.

THE CUMULATIVE BURDEN OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS ON KANSAS FROM 1997 TO 2015 CONTRIBUTED TO:



AN ADDITIONAL
51,390 PEOPLE
LIVING IN POVERTY



A **3.6 PERCENT**
INCREASE IN
INCOME INEQUALITY



THE LOSS OF
89 BUSINESSES
EACH YEAR



1,251
FEWER JOBS
ANNUALLY



A **7.35 PERCENT**
UPTICK IN PRICES
ACROSS THE STATE

Source: Mercatus Center

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Kansas does not lack talent, capital, or ambition—it is constrained by a regulatory framework designed for another era. By modernizing its rules, the state can align government with the pace of its people.

Enacting this reform package would:

- Position Kansas as the **benchmark for regulatory innovation** nationwide
- Unleash entrepreneurship and investment by creating a **simpler, more predictable environment**
- Show that thoughtful reform can both **protect citizens and expand opportunity**
- Provide a **national template** for how states and Congress can responsibly rein in bureaucracy

Kansas has the chance not just to keep up, but to lead—proving that smart, structural reform can turn government from a barrier into a competitive advantage.

SOURCES:

1. Chambers, Dustin, and Patrick McLaughlin. "Kansas' Regulatory Landscape: Federal and State Rules and Some of Their Unintended Consequences." Mercatus Center, August 6, 2024. <https://www.mercatus.org/regsnapshots24/kansas>
2. Wolfson, Jonathan and Tanner Jones. "2024 National Regulatory Reform Progress Rankings Report." Accessed October 23, 2025. <https://ciceroinstitute.org/research/2024-national-regulatory-reform-progress-rankings-report/>
3. Chambers, Dustin, and Colin O'Reilly. "The Regressive Effects of Regulations in Kansas." Policy Brief, Mercatus Center, March 16, 2021. <https://www.mercatus.org/research/policy-briefs/regressive-effects-regulations-kansas>