



**Testimony on S.85**  
**Simplifying State Government for Small Business**  
**Submitted by Erin Sigrist, VRGA President**  
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VRGA represents 700 members across the state. Our membership is inclusive of a variety of business types and models, collaborative and extremely diverse. Members include general retail, grocery stores, convenience stores, distributors, food producers, and business service members. VRGA creates a unified voice for its engaged membership to influence legislation through lawmaker and public education. Our benefits are fundamental to our members' economic success and to their positive community impact.

VRGA supports the essence of S.85 in that a single portal for businesses to pay taxes, registration fees and other charges, and find pertinent information will allow for a cleaner, more positive relationship between private businesses and the state, as well as streamline the state-mandated administrative responsibilities required of those businesses.

We would request:

- That businesses or representatives of the business community be part of the design proposal group to ensure that the system works in tandem with the functions of everyday business. This is a much heavier lift that I believe we understand. Stores can be required to have upwards of 13 licenses or required registrations across various agencies in State government. We need to ensure that if we're streamlining State government, we have all of our bases covered.
- Specific criteria or benchmarks should be included in this bill that will clearly identify when the system is up and fully functional, and a date certain which will guide the State in determining when to begin collecting the fee if necessary.
- Ultimately, this system should be established to reduce the paperwork and various administrative functions at the State level as well as at the business level and we would prefer that this become an appropriation.