

Abstract

Robert W. Hahn

How Changes in the Federal Register Can Help Improve Regulatory Accountability

52 Admin. L. Rev. 927 (2000)

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This article discusses the growing costs of regulations and argues for regulatory reform. The author focuses on regulatory accountability and the economic impact of regulations. In order to accomplish the goal of greater accountability, Hahn proposes changing the *Federal Register* to make it more “user-friendly.”

Specifically, Hahn proposes including economic assessment data in the *Federal Register* to show that the benefits of the law in question outweigh the costs. Hahn suggests that a “Regulatory Impact Summary” accompany all *Federal Register* notices. These summaries would foster uniformity and assist in disseminating the information in *Federal Register* notices more efficiently and clearly. Additionally, the author advocates changes in the *Federal Register* that would aim to make the regulatory process more transparent. For example, the author argues that lawmakers should consider all alternatives to the proposed regulation before passing the regulations.

In sum, Hahn argues that these changes would make the *Federal Register* more transparent to the public and other interested parties, therefore increasing regulatory accountability. The author believes that *Federal Register* standardization will enable a multitude of constituencies, such as interest groups, academics, interested parties and government agencies, to evaluate the costs and benefits of forthcoming regulations.