

Especially in trying economic times, elected officials focus attention on ways to create and maintain jobs. In the Secretary of State's office, we want to do everything we can to help businesses thrive and get to the business at hand. This office already interacts with every business in Kentucky but we're also working with a team of other state agencies to establish a one stop web portal where eventually all filings, registrations, payments and other requirements integral to running a business are available at one site. We want to streamline all state government services and resources in one place to make them more accessible and efficient for you. (link to Senate Bill 8 and photo of Secretary when Gov signed), state government more accessible and efficient.

I own a small business in Kentucky. I understand what's involved in establishing a business in Kentucky. The Kentucky One Stop group is making a comprehensive assessment of the processes, potential efficiencies, scope, and cost of a One Stop portal. It will greatly improve the product we create and will be a part of improving economic development throughout the state, particularly for small and medium sized companies.

While we plan and prepare for this One Stop portal, the Secretary of State's office is already moving forward to implement online processing for business filers. Earlier this year we announced the third phase of Fast Track Business Filings, this program's completion marks the first time that most businesses are able to complete the registrations online with the Secretary of State's office. I am proud to say that this entire process has been done with existing funds.

As a result of this new system, when a document needs correction, a business owner may receive notice within the same day of filing, correct the error within the original filing, and resubmit a business registration within minutes. In the same way, One Stop will allow filers to complete their applications, make corrections and file the documents in a matter of hours rather than weeks. Time is money, and Kentucky's One Stop will lower the cost of doing business in Kentucky.

Kentucky Business One Stop will also help the state government ensure that businesses are operating with required permits and that each corporate citizen meets its obligations to the state. So, in addition to making filing more efficient and cost effective for businesses, it does the same for our state government.

The development of a comprehensive online filing process has been in the making in the Secretary of State's office for some time and under previous administrations. It has been a vision for improving the business environment here in Kentucky for a number of years. Under the leadership of Governor Beshear, the bipartisan support of the State Legislature, and the legislative sponsor State Senator Givens, we are on the way to making this resource a reality.