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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IRRC Celebrates 40th Anniversary

HARRISBURG - The Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) today announced the 40th anniversary of Pennsylvania's Regulatory Review Act. The law was signed into law on June 25, 1982, and established the Commission to provide an independent, uniform oversight of the rulemaking process in Pennsylvania.

"Today, we celebrate our 40th year serving the people of Pennsylvania and ensuring that the Commonwealth's regulations are in the public interest," said George Bedwick, Chair of the Commission. "We thank and remember the members of General Assembly and the late Governor Thornburg who - four decades ago - had the foresight and will to create an independent agency designed to act as a consensus builder among Commonwealth agencies, legislative standing committees, and interested parties," Bedwick added.

The Regulatory Review Act was adopted to address concerns that regulations did not conform to the legislature's intent when implementing statutes delegating rulemaking authority to state agencies. The law established a method for an ongoing and effective review of regulations, providing for a primary review of regulations by the Commission and an ultimate review by the General Assembly.

Under the law, the Commission and its Commissioners review regulations to ensure that they comply with Pennsylvania law and weigh their cost and benefit to the public and regulated community. Regulations are evaluated based on criteria set forth in Pennsylvania's Regulatory Review Act, including: statutory authority and legislative intent; protection of the public health, safety, and welfare; and feasibility, clarity, and reasonableness.

John Mizner, Vice-Chair of the Commission, stated, "the Commission serves a critical role in ensuring that Pennsylvania's regulations are in the public interest. My fellow Commissioners and I are honored by the opportunity to serve the Commonwealth in such an important way and one that touches the everyday life of its citizens and businesses."

In 2021, the Commission reviewed a total of 89 regulations, including 45 proposed and 44 final regulations. Almost 24,000 public comments were submitted on pending regulations in 2021. Copies of each regulation, all comments, together

with information on all actions taken concerning the regulations, is available on the Commission's website: www.irrc.state.pa.us.

Looking ahead, the Commission will continue its role as an independent oversight body reviewing agency regulations and determining whether the criteria set forth in Pennsylvania's Regulatory Review Act have been satisfied.

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The Independent Regulatory Review Commission provides oversight and review of proposed and existing rules and regulations issued by all departments, boards, commissions, agencies, or other authorities of the Commonwealth, excluding the Legislature, Fish and Boat Commission, the Game Commission, and any court, political subdivision, or municipal or local authority. The Commission also acts as a clearinghouse for complaints, comments and other input regarding existing, proposed, and pending regulations.

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