

# Administrative Burden Policymaking By Other Means: An Exploratory Study

Administrative burden is a significant problem for businesses and individuals alike. It is estimated that businesses in the United States spend over \$2 trillion per year on compliance with government regulations. This burden can be a major drag on economic growth and can make it difficult for businesses to compete in the global marketplace.

In recent years, there has been a growing movement to reduce administrative burden. This movement has been led by businesses, but it has also been supported by policymakers at the federal and state levels.

One of the most promising approaches to reducing administrative burden is to use "policymaking by other means." This approach involves using non-regulatory tools, such as education, outreach, and technical assistance, to achieve policy goals.



## Administrative Burden: Policymaking by Other Means

by Donald P. Moynihan

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 4375 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 360 pages

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This article explores the concept of administrative burden policymaking by other means, and its implications for public policy and administration.

Administrative burden is the cost of complying with government regulations. This cost can include the time and money spent on filling out forms, obtaining permits, and responding to audits. Administrative burden can be a significant burden for businesses, especially small businesses.

There are many different types of administrative burden. Some of the most common include:

- **Reporting requirements:** Businesses may be required to report information to the government on a regular basis. This information can include financial data, employee information, and environmental data.
- **Permitting requirements:** Businesses may be required to obtain permits before they can operate. These permits can be time-consuming and expensive to obtain.
- **Audits:** Businesses may be subject to audits by government agencies. These audits can be disruptive and can result in fines or penalties.

Administrative burden can have a significant impact on businesses. It can increase costs, reduce productivity, and make it difficult to compete in the global marketplace.

**Increased costs:** Administrative burden can increase costs for businesses in a number of ways. For example, businesses may have to hire additional staff to comply with regulations. They may also have to purchase new software or equipment.**Reduced productivity:** Administrative burden can also reduce productivity. Businesses may have to spend time and money

on compliance activities that could be better spent on other things, such as innovation and growth. **Difficulty competing in the global marketplace:** Administrative burden can make it difficult for businesses to compete in the global marketplace. Businesses in other countries may not have to comply with the same regulations as businesses in the United States. This can give them a competitive advantage.

Policymaking by other means is a non-regulatory approach to achieving policy goals. This approach involves using non-regulatory tools, such as education, outreach, and technical assistance, to encourage businesses and individuals to comply with regulations.

There are many different types of policymaking by other means. Some of the most common include:

- **Education:** The government can provide education to businesses and individuals on how to comply with regulations. This education can be provided through workshops, webinars, and online resources.
- **Outreach:** The government can reach out to businesses and individuals to help them understand regulations and to answer their questions. This outreach can be done through phone calls, emails, and face-to-face meetings.
- **Technical assistance:** The government can provide technical assistance to businesses and individuals to help them comply with regulations. This assistance can include help with filling out forms, obtaining permits, and responding to audits.

Policymaking by other means can have a number of benefits for businesses and individuals. These benefits include:

- **Reduced costs:** Policymaking by other means can help businesses reduce costs by providing them with the information and assistance they need to comply with regulations. This can help businesses avoid fines and penalties, and it can also reduce the amount of time and money spent on compliance activities.
- **Increased productivity:** Policymaking by other means can also help businesses increase productivity by reducing the amount of time and money spent on compliance activities. This can allow businesses to focus on other things, such as innovation and growth.
- **Improved compliance:** Policymaking by other means can help businesses and individuals improve their compliance with regulations. This is because education, outreach, and technical assistance can help businesses and individuals understand the regulations and how to comply with them.

Administrative burden is a significant problem for businesses and individuals alike. It can increase costs, reduce productivity, and make it difficult to compete in the global marketplace.

Policymaking by other means is a promising approach to reducing administrative burden. This approach involves using non-regulatory tools, such as education, outreach, and technical assistance, to achieve policy goals.

Policymaking by other means has a number of benefits for businesses and individuals, including reduced costs, increased productivity, and improved compliance.



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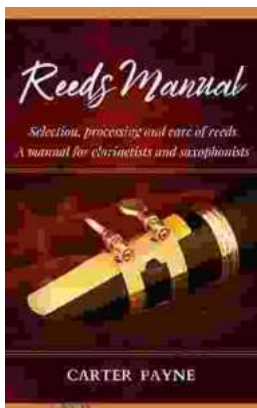
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