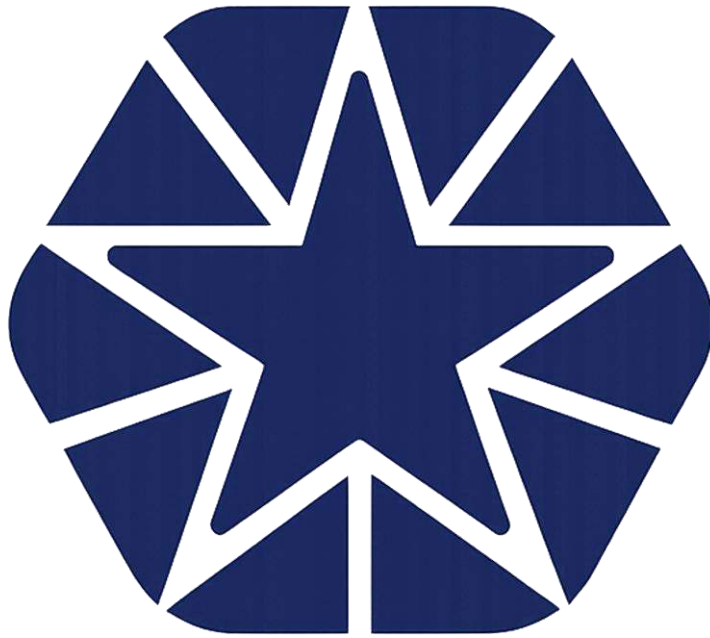




State of Texas
Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office
Artificial Intelligence
Meet SAM and Efficiency.Texas.Gov: The Intelligent Front Door to
Texas Regulations
March 1, 2025- May 15, 2026 (Ongoing)

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Executive Summary

The Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office (TREGO), housed within the Office of the Texas Governor, launched Efficiency.Texas.Gov, an AI-integrated interactive concierge designed to make it easier and faster for Texans to navigate state rules, regulations, licenses, and permits through a single AI-powered digital front door to Texas government regulation. The platform features the State Administration Manager (SAM), an AI-powered chatbot developed in partnership with Austin-based firm Vulcan Technologies that ingests the full body of Texas statutes and the Texas Administrative Code to deliver accurate, citation-backed answers in both English and Spanish.

Beyond regulatory search, the website serves as a centralized hub for Texas’ broader regulatory modernization efforts. The platform catalogs TREGO’s recommendations for streamlining state regulations, connects users directly with state agencies, and hosts the Regulation Evaluation Portal, where Texans can submit feedback on existing rules and requirements.

In its first round of agency reviews, TREGO identified more than 435 regulations for amendment or repeal across 11 state agencies, reducing the Texas Administrative Code by an estimated 69,000 words and generating an estimated \$123 million in taxpayer savings. Together, these efforts position Efficiency.Texas.Gov as a pioneering statewide model for AI-powered modernization and as a scalable digital front door for improving transparency, modernizing regulatory navigation, and reducing barriers between Texans and state government.



Idea

What problem or opportunity does the project address?

Regulatory Challenges		Efficiency.Texas.Gov Platform Solutions	
Information scattered across state	————>	Centralized statewide platform	
Complex legal language	————>	Plain-language AI guidance	
Difficult regulatory navigation	————>	Unified search experience	
Time-consuming manual search	————>	Citation-backed answers and agency links	
Years-long manual code review	————>	AI-assisted regulatory analysis	
Difficult large-scale modernization	————>	Data-driven recommendations	
Limited public visibility	————>	Improved transparency and access	

A Texan trying to understand state regulations could easily find themselves opening tab after tab across multiple agency websites, whether searching for plumbing licensing requirements, checking small business compliance obligations, or simply trying to understand which rules apply to them. What should be a straightforward search for guidance often becomes a time-consuming process of navigation disconnected systems, interpreting dense legal language, and piecing together information scattered across dozens of agencies.

That challenge exists at a large scale in Texas. Texas is the nation’s fifth-most regulated state, behind only California, New York, New Jersey, and Illinois, according to a [2024 report from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University](#). The Texas Administrative Code contains tens of thousands of regulations issued by more than 150 state agencies, governing professions from plumbing to healthcare, industries from energy to finance, and activities from building construction to environmental compliance.

At the same time, TREO needed a scalable way to conduct systematic reviews of the entire regulatory code to identify outdated, duplicative, or unnecessary rules — a task that would take teams of analysts years to complete manually. This burdensome environment is where Efficiency.Texas.Gov excels. The platform addresses both problems simultaneously: it serves as a public-facing regulatory navigation tool powered by AI while also providing the analytical backbone TREO uses to conduct agency reviews and generate data-driven modernization recommendations.

Why does it matter?

The Texas Administrative Code shapes how Texans start businesses, obtain licenses, build infrastructure, and interact with government every day. When regulatory systems become difficult to navigate, the burden is felt not only by agencies, but by citizens, workers, and businesses across the state. The \$22.8 million, five-year investment in TREO, authorized through Senate Bill 14, which passed with bipartisan supermajorities in both chambers of the 89th Legislature, reflects the Legislature's recognition that regulatory modernization is a state priority.

The first round of TREO reviews has already identified an estimated \$123 million in potential taxpayer savings and 69,000 words that can be removed from the Texas Administrative Code. For citizens, the practical impact is equally significant: answering a question like "How do I become an electrician in Texas?" previously required hours of research across multiple agency websites. SAM answers it in approximately 15 seconds, with citations, fee tables, and direct links to the relevant licensing board, turning what once required hours of manual searching into a single AI-assisted interaction.

What makes it different?

Efficiency.Texas.Gov is distinguished in several ways. First, SAM is not a general-purpose chatbot — it is grounded in the complete body of Texas statutes and the Texas Administrative Code, meaning every response is sourced from authoritative legal text rather than general internet content. The system was evaluated against representative regulatory questions prior to deployment for accuracy, citation fidelity, and refusal behavior.

Second, the platform operates in both English and Spanish, ensuring accessibility for the state's large Spanish-speaking population.

Third, SAM serves as an intelligent regulatory navigator, returning structured responses with fee tables, agency contact information, and licensing hierarchies tailored to each user's specific question.

Fourth, the platform is tightly integrated with TREO's internal regulatory review work: the same AI tools that power the public-facing chatbot also help analysts systematically review the state's regulatory code, identify modernization opportunities, and generate cost-benefit assessments.

Finally, the website brings regulatory modernization into public view through a live dashboard tracking recommended changes with full citations — transforming what has traditionally been an internal government process into a transparent, public-facing experience.

What makes it universal?

Every state faces the same fundamental challenge: an increasingly complex administrative code that is difficult for citizens and businesses to navigate and expensive for government to maintain. [NASCIO's State CIO Top Ten Priorities for 2026](#) ranks artificial intelligence as the number one priority for the first time, overtaking cybersecurity after its 12-year run at the top. Efficiency.Texas.Gov directly addresses this priority by

demonstrating a practical, deployed use case for AI in state government that improves citizen services, reduces administrative costs, and enhances transparency.

The platform also addresses other top NASCIO priorities including modernization and digital services. The underlying challenge — helping citizens understand which rules apply to them and making regulatory review systematic and data-driven — is universal across all 50 states. The TREO model, authorized by state statute and equipped with AI-driven analytical tools, provides a replicable framework that other states can adopt.

Implementation

What was the roadmap?

In just 13 months, Texas transformed a legislative directive into a fully operational AI-powered regulatory platform serving both government and the public. In April 2025, Governor Abbott signed Senate Bill 14, establishing TREO within the Office of the Governor with an effective date of September 1, 2025. Jerome Greener was named Director, and the office began standing up operations, including establishing the Regulatory Efficiency Advisory Panel composed of subject-matter experts from business, law, compliance, academia, and regulated industries.

On October 2, 2025, the initial TREO website and the Regulation Evaluation Portal launched, providing Texans their first opportunity to submit feedback on potentially unnecessary regulations. Over the following months, TREO partnered with Vulcan Technologies to develop the AI-integrated platform, including SAM, while simultaneously beginning the first round of systematic agency reviews.

On May 15, 2026, the full AI-integrated Efficiency.Texas.Gov website launched. Successful implementation is measured by concrete outcomes: regulations identified for modernization, estimated cost savings quantified, words removed from the Administrative Code, and citizen engagement through the portal and chatbot. TREO monitors unnecessary and ineffective rules on a continuous basis, and additional recommended changes are made on a rolling basis.



Who was involved?

The project involved collaboration across multiple stakeholders.

1. Governor Abbott and the Texas Legislature provided the statutory mandate and \$22.8 million in funding through SB 14, which passed with bipartisan majorities.
2. Jerome Greener, appointed as TREO's inaugural Director has led the TREO staff- in total numbering 8 individuals. TREO has also been greatly assisted by the Office of the Governor's legal and policy team.
3. The Texas Regulatory Efficiency Advisory Panel — composed of experts from business, law, compliance, and regulated industries — provided strategic input and stakeholder perspective.
4. Vulcan Technologies, an Austin-based AI legal technology company, served as the technology partner, building the SAM chatbot and the AI-powered regulatory analysis tools. The 11 state agencies included in the initial round of reviews participated in the review process.
5. The public serves as both end-user and contributor through the Regulation Evaluation Portal, where Texans can submit recommendations and feedback on regulations. Awareness and adoption have been driven through the Governor's communications channels, press coverage, and the portal's accessibility in English and Spanish.

How did you do it?

TREO was funded through SB 14's \$22.8 million, five-year appropriation. The core technology was developed in partnership with Vulcan Technologies, which built the AI platform on an agentic, multi-model architecture. SAM ingests the complete body of Texas statutes and the Texas Administrative Code as its primary knowledge base. When responding to user queries, the system draws on this authoritative legal data first; for questions requiring broader context, it orchestrates across multiple AI models to assemble the most accurate and comprehensive response.

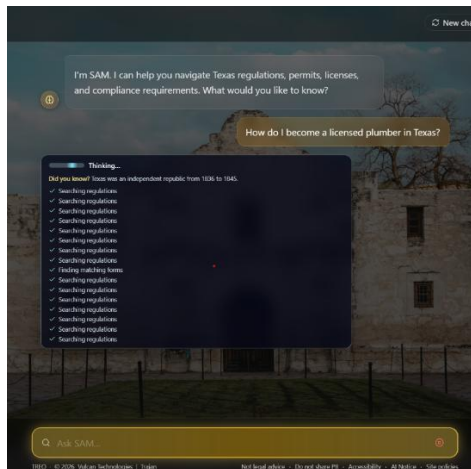
During stress testing, the system demonstrated the ability to run 25,000 concurrent AI agents for complex queries. For typical citizen questions — such as licensing requirements — the chatbot delivers answers in approximately 15 seconds. The platform includes built-in safeguards: an AI disclosure notice informs users they are interacting with AI, not a live person; responses include disclaimers directing users to verify with the relevant agency or a licensed attorney; and the system was evaluated for accuracy, citation fidelity, and refusal behavior before deployment. The system also respects privacy by warning users not to enter sensitive personal information, consistent with public records law requirements.



What did the project make better?

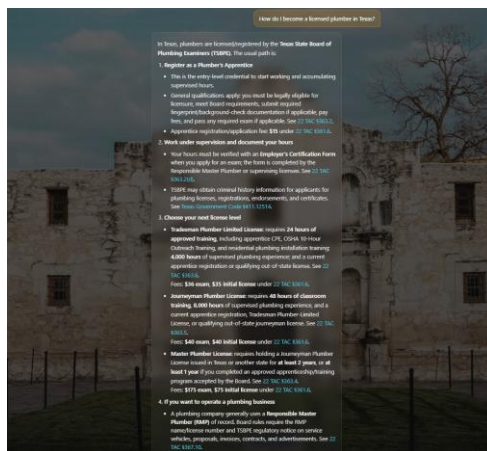
Before Efficiency.Texas.Gov, navigating Texas regulations required citizens to search across dozens of separate agency websites, parse dense legal text, and often contact agencies directly for guidance — a process that could take hours or days. The platform fundamentally changes this experience by providing a single point of access where any Texan can ask a plain-language question and receive a structured, citation-backed response in seconds.

For a plumber seeking licensing information, for example, SAM returns the relevant licensing board, four levels of licensing with associated exam and registration fees, and direct contact information — all in one response and taking under 15 seconds.



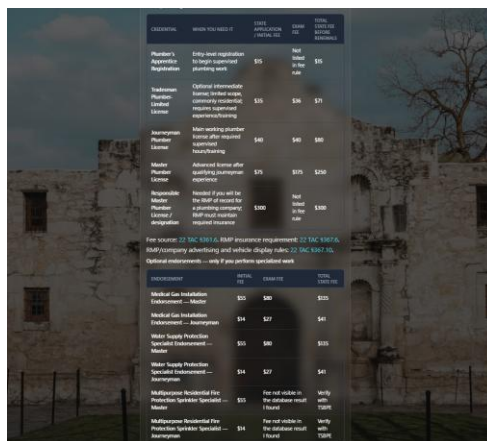
Step 1: User Submits a Regulatory Question

A user enters the question, “How do I become a licensed plumber in Texas?” into SAM’s chat interface. SAM searches relevant Texas statutes, regulations, and licensing requirements across the Texas Administrative Code to generate a citation-backed response tailored to the user’s question.



Step 2: SAM Generates Citation-Backed Regulatory Guidance

SAM returns a response outlining the Texas plumbing licensing pathway, including licensing tiers, training and experience requirements, exam information, fees, and relevant provisions of the Texas Administrative Code. Each section includes direct citations to authoritative legal and regulatory sources.



Step 3: SAM Provides Actionable Licensing and Fee Information

SAM organizes the information into structured tables showing licensing levels, application and exam fees, renewal costs, endorsement options, and associated regulatory citations, enabling users to quickly compare requirements and identify next steps without manually navigating multiple regulatory sources.

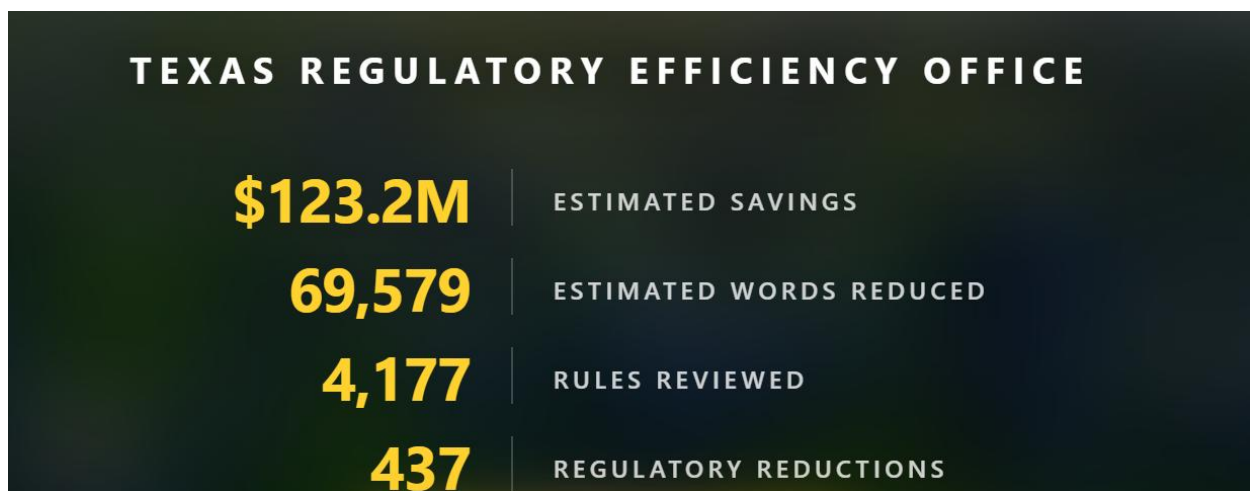
On the regulatory reform side, TREO’s AI-powered review capability has enabled systematic analysis of the state’s regulatory code at a pace and scale that would have been impossible through manual review. The first round of reviews across 11 state agencies identified more than 437 regulations for amendment or repeal, reducing the Texas Administrative Code by an estimated 69,000 words and yielding an estimated \$123 million in taxpayer savings.

How do you know?

Quantitative results from the initial launch demonstrate measurable impact:

- 435+ regulations identified for amendment or repeal across 11 state agencies
- 69,000 words estimated reduction to the Texas Administrative Code
- \$123 million in estimated taxpayer savings from initial recommendations
- ~15 seconds average response time for regulatory questions via SAM
- Bilingual access in English and Spanish

These results, along with full citations, are published on a live public dashboard at efficiency.texas.gov/public/dashboard. Qualitative feedback has been reflected in coverage from outlets including StateScoop, GovTech, CBS Texas, and the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), with stakeholders praising the platform's accessibility and practical utility. NFIB specifically [welcomed](#) the launch as a tool to help small business owners navigate regulatory requirements more easily.



What now?

TREO's work is not designed as a one-time modernization effort, but as the foundation for a continuously evolving statewide regulatory experience. The initial round covered 11 state agencies; additional agency reviews will be conducted on a rolling basis. SB 14 requires TREO to submit a biennial public report by December 1 of each even-numbered year to state leadership, detailing its activities and proposing legislative recommendations.

The Efficiency.Texas.Gov website will continue to grow as additional agencies, regulations, and data are incorporated. The AI platform will be refined to improve response times, expand coverage, and deepen analytical capabilities. The Regulation Evaluation Portal will continue accepting public input, ensuring Texans have a permanent channel to flag regulatory concerns.

The \$22.8 million, five-year funding commitment provides sustained resources for the office's operations and technology. TREO is prohibited by statute from recommending the repeal of rules that ensure public participation in the rulemaking process, ensuring the reform effort preserves democratic safeguards while pursuing administrative efficiency.