Experience of Foreign Administrative Examination and Approval System

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Abstract

Up to now, Japan has carried out nine reform of examination and approval system, the United States has carried out five times, Singapore has started to develop e-government since 1981, and its e-government construction has gone through three stages, which has effectively promoted the transformation of government functions and the development of social productivity, and promoted the marketization and internationalization of the national economy. China should learn from the experience of the new administrative examination and approval system reform in the United States and Japan, select the administrative approval system according to the national conditions, take the road of legalization, actively cultivate non-governmental organizations, and pay attention to the construction and improvement of e-government platform. Through these specific measures, we can improve the administrative examination and approval system of our government.

Keywords

The United States; Japan; Singapore; Administrative examination and approval system reform; Experience reference.

1. Introduction

The reform of administrative examination and approval system has been a common road of western developed countries for decades. In the 1970s, western developed countries set off a massive movement to reduce government approval and deregulation. In the process of economic globalization, deregulation policy and reform of examination and approval system have become the core tasks of governments to transform government functions and promote economic and social development.

2. The reform of administrative examination and approval system in the United States

In the 1970s, the scope of American government regulation has extended to all fields of social life, reaching the peak. However, the power of administrative power intervention has exceeded the critical point, and began to appear bloated administrative organs, low efficiency, bureaucracy and other phenomena. The demand for deregulation and approval is growing. During Ford’s term of office, the US government began a large-scale deregulation reform. The number of administrative approval projects was greatly reduced, the administrative approval procedures were further simplified, and market mechanisms were introduced in many regulatory fields. This reform also has some negative effects, but on the whole, the effect is very significant.

In 1975, the U.S. government abolished the relevant provisions on the commission fee of stock market, which started the reform of administrative examination and approval system in the
United States. In 1997, the United States passed the "deregulation of the aviation industry act", which abolished most of the entry and price controls of the "domestic aviation regulatory commission", and allowed enterprises with business licenses to enter freely. At the same time, airlines were allowed to set their own fares and increase flights according to the profit principle. Since then, through a series of measures, the U.S. government has liberalized the government's examination in the fields of natural gas price, oil price, automobile transportation, railway transportation, electric power telephone equipment, banking and so on Approval. It is estimated that the benefits of deregulation reform range from $35.8 billion to $46.2 billion a year, while the expected unrealized gains are more than $30 billion. In the 1990s, the sustained high-speed growth of American economy is the result of deregulation and reform of administrative examination and approval system.

3. Reform of administrative examination and approval system in Japan

In the 1960s, the Japanese government’s control over the economic activities of enterprises, the control of individual citizens’ behavior and the control of internal affairs of the government have almost penetrated into every corner of economic and social life and reached a peak. Like the United States, too much regulation and approval procedures have produced a lot of side effects: low efficiency of the government, rigid system, serious bureaucratism and waste of resources, and frequent corruption, which have constrained the development of Japan’s economy. Faced with such a reality, the Japanese government chose the road of reform. The reform of administrative examination and approval system in Japan began in the late 1960s and entered a climax in the 1990s. In 1980, the Japanese government set up a corresponding organization in the Fair Trade Commission to study the principles and methods of regulatory reform, and officially published a report on deregulation in 1992. Up to 1999, Japan has decided to implement 1797 deregulation projects. Although the reform of administrative examination and approval system in Japan has made slow progress, it has achieved obvious results. After World War II, Japan's economy continued to develop at a high speed, the establishment of Japan's economic power status, the government officials' corruption was greatly reduced, and the enterprises developed rapidly. For example, in 1999, when calculating the benefits of deregulation measures in telecommunications, automobile inspection and domestic air travel, the economic planning estimated that from 1990 to 1997, the average annual growth in consumption and investment was 8.2 trillion yen, and the average annual price was about 6.6 trillion yen.

4. The reform of administrative examination and approval system in Singapore

During the deregulation movement of western countries in the 1970s, Singapore suffered from two oil crises, and its economic development became extremely slow. In order to reduce administrative costs and promote economic growth, the government began to adjust the means of government intervention. At the same time, the technological innovation centered on information technology has brought about some degree of variation in the natural monopoly and publicity of basic sectors, making it possible to relax regulations and introduce competition. During this period, Singapore carried out cost-saving reforms aimed at improving the competitiveness of national products, including relaxing restrictive examination and approval, simplifying approval procedures, and implementing "one-stop" service Reform measures of administrative examination and approval. The specific measures are as follows: for private investment projects, the government departments mainly examine their impact on the environment, and other aspects are not generally reviewed; for government
investment projects, in addition to environmental factors, they also need to examine and 
approve the source, composition, total amount and benefits of funds; for major projects, the 
procedures are relatively simple, with the focus on scientific research reports rather than 
project proposals.

5. Experience and reference of administrative examination and approval 
system reform in the United States, Japan and Singapore

So far, Japan has carried out nine reform of approval system, the United States has carried out 
five times. Singapore has started to develop e-government since 1981. Its e-government 
construction can be divided into three stages: initialization, deepening and ten-year planning. 
The reform has effectively promoted the transformation of government functions and the 
development of social productivity, and promoted the marketization and internationalization 
of the national economy. Although the differences in historical traditions, national conditions 
and social systems lead to different methods and degrees of reform of approval systems in the 
United States, Japan and Singapore, they have common or similar experiences.

5.1. Select the administrative examination and approval system according to 
the national conditions

The system also adapts to its national conditions. For example, China’s per capita land 
resources are very scarce, land belongs to the state, and the use of land and resources needs to 
implement a very strict administrative examination and approval system. However, the land in 
the United States is privately owned, and there is no very strict administrative approval system 
for the use of land resources. Therefore, the examination and approval system reform can not 
completely copy the standards and practices of western countries. While learning from foreign 
experience, we should compare our own actual situation and carry out reform according to 
specific problems. That is to say, the reform of administrative examination and approval system 
in China should be based on the existing practical problems, seek solutions, seriously study how 
to fully exercise rights, actively take countermeasures, pursue advantages and avoid 
disadvantages, and safeguard national interests in the context of fulfilling international 
obligations.

5.2. Take the road of legalization

Foreign administrative examination and approval system reform can be carried out smoothly 
and consolidate the achievements of the reform, to a large extent, is inseparable from their 
emphasis on legal construction. The legalization of government regulation in the United States 
provides a guarantee for the reform of government regulation. While strengthening regulation 
in the legislature, it also pays special attention to improving the judicial review of government 
regulation. Japan’s administrative examination and approval system has a strict legal basis. The 
reform process of the administrative examination and approval system is strongly guaranteed 
by law. There are clear provisions on the reform measures, reform plans and the organizational 
system to promote the reform. In addition, the reform of Japan’s examination and approval 
system also introduces the mechanism of judicial review and judicial relief to strictly supervise 
the administrative examination and approval. Although the reform of examination and 
approval system in China has been guaranteed by law to some extent after the implementation 
of the administrative license law, it is far from enough to have only this law. The reform of 
administrative examination and approval system should adhere to the road of legalization and 
strengthen the system construction. On the basis of the administrative license law, we should 
speed up the construction of supporting laws and regulations including the administrative 
procedure law, formulate clear administrative examination and approval procedures, and at
the same time, we should supervise the government's examination and approval through judicial procedures.

5.3. Actively cultivate non-governmental organizations

Social intermediary organization is a force that can not be ignored in the reform of administrative examination and approval system. It helps to improve the quality and efficiency of administrative examination and approval. In the process of reform, Japan attaches great importance to the development of intermediary agencies. By playing the role of market and society, Japan has transformed its economic structure from government led to social and individual led. Some of the functions of administrative examination and approval should be separated from the government's behavior to prevent the distortion of resources caused by moral hazard and information asymmetry. In the United States, intermediary organizations such as chambers of Commerce and industry associations are fully developed. These intermediary organizations also perform many functions of administrative approval, giving full play to the spirit of self governance of social groups. The vast majority of intermediary organizations in our country are separated from the government departments due to the reform of government institutions, but they are still inextricably linked with the government departments. They often play the role of "two governments" and deviate from the original purpose of the reform. Therefore, it is of great significance to actively cultivate and develop non-governmental intermediary organizations and reduce government intervention.

5.4. Pay attention to the construction and improvement of e-government platform

Singapore ranks the top in the world in terms of ICT use in various sectors. As a government led e-government development model, the Singapore government has set up the "information and communication development authority" to take charge of the overall and coordinated development of e-government. The most unique feature of the government website is the e-citizen center mode. All information is set according to the needs of citizens. Citizens only need to log in to the website and handle it according to the established process. Unlike other countries, Singapore's government service platform tends to be improved. All government services and matters are provided online, and there is no offline service hall. To a certain extent, this reduces the contact between the administrative counterpart and the examiner and cuts off the possibility of rent-seeking.

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