

Sec. 78. Chapter 486, Code and Code Supplement 1997, is repealed effective January 1, 2001.

Sec. 79. **APPLICABILITY.**

1. Prior to January 1, 2001, this Act applies to a partnership formed as follows:

a. On or after January 1, 1999, except a partnership that is continuing the business of a dissolved partnership under section 486.41.

b. Prior to January 1, 2001, if such partnership elects, as provided in subsection 3, to be governed by this Act.

2. On or after January 1, 2001, this Act applies to all partnerships.

3. Prior to January 1, 2001, a partnership, in the manner provided in its partnership agreement or by law for amending the partnership agreement, may voluntarily elect to be governed by this Act. The provisions of this Act relating to the liability of the partnerships' partners to third parties apply to limit those partners' liability to a third party who had done business with the partnership within one year before the partnership's election to be governed by this Act only if the third party knows or has received a notification of the partnership's election to be governed by this Act.

Sec. 80. **CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVE.** In order to distinguish between chapter 486, Code and Code Supplement 1997, which is not repealed until January 1, 2001, and which will appear in Code 1999, and the new sections of chapter 486 which are created by this Act, which are effective January 1, 1999, and which will also appear in Code 1999, the Code editor shall codify the new sections of chapter 486, as enacted by this Act, as a new chapter 486A.

Sec. 81. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** Section 80 of this Act, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

Sec. 82. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act takes effect January 1, 1999.

Approved May 19, 1998

CHAPTER 1202

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT AND DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

H.F. 667

AN ACT relating to the Iowa administrative procedure Act and providing an effective and applicability date.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 10A.104, subsection 5, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

5. Adopt rules deemed necessary for the implementation and administration of this chapter in accordance with chapter 17A, ~~including rules governing hearing and appeal proceedings.~~

Sec. 2. Section 10A.106, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

10A.106 **DIVISIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT.**

The department is comprised of the following divisions:

1. ~~Appeals and fair~~ Administrative hearings division.
2. Audits division.
3. Investigations division.
4. Inspections division.

The allocation of departmental duties to the divisions of the department in sections ~~10A.202, 10A.302, 10A.402, and 10A.502~~ does not prohibit the director from reallocating departmental duties within the department. The director shall not reallocate any of the duties of the division of administrative hearings, created by section 10A.801, to any other unit of the department.

Sec. 3. **NEW SECTION.** 10A.801 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS — CREATION, POWERS, DUTIES.

1. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - a. “Administrator” means the chief administrative law judge who shall coordinate the administration of the division.
 - b. “Division” means the administrative hearings division of the department of inspections and appeals.
2. The administrator shall coordinate the division’s conduct of appeals and administrative hearings as otherwise provided by law.
3. a. The department shall employ a sufficient number of administrative law judges to conduct proceedings for which agencies are required, by section 17A.11 or any other provision of law, to use an administrative law judge employed by the division. An administrative law judge employed by the division shall not perform duties inconsistent with the judge’s duties and responsibilities as an administrative law judge and shall be located in an office that is separated from the offices of the agencies for which that person acts as a presiding officer. Administrative law judges shall be covered by the merit system provisions of chapter 19A.
 - b. The division shall facilitate, insofar as practicable, specialization by its administrative law judges so that particular judges may become expert in presiding over cases in particular agencies. An agency may, by rule, identify particular classes of its contested cases for which the administrative law judge who acts as presiding officer shall have specified technical expertness. After the adoption of such a rule, the division may assign administrative law judges to preside over those identified particular classes of contested cases only if the administrative law judge possesses the technical expertness specified by agency rule. The division may charge the applicable agency for the costs of any training required by the division’s administrative law judges to acquire or maintain the technical expertise specified by agency rule.
4. If the division cannot furnish one of its administrative law judges in response to an agency request, the administrator shall designate in writing a full-time employee of an agency other than the requesting agency to serve as administrative law judge for the proceeding, but only with the consent of the employing agency. The designee must possess the same qualifications required of administrative law judges employed by the division.
5. The division may furnish administrative law judges on a contract basis to any governmental entity to conduct any proceeding.
6. After the effective date of this Act, a person shall not be newly employed by the division as an administrative law judge to preside over contested case proceedings unless that person has a license to practice law in this state.
7. The division shall adopt rules pursuant to this chapter and chapter 17A to do all of the following:
 - a. To establish procedures for agencies to request and for the administrator to assign administrative law judges employed by the division.
 - b. To establish procedures and adopt forms, consistent with chapter 17A and other provisions of law, to govern administrative law judges employed by the division, but any rules adopted under this paragraph shall be applicable to a particular contested case proceeding

only to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the rules of the agency under whose authority that proceeding is conducted. Nothing in this paragraph precludes an agency from establishing procedural requirements otherwise within its authority to govern its contested case proceedings, including requirements with respect to the timeliness of decisions rendered for it by administrative law judges.

c. To establish standards and procedures for the evaluation, training, promotion, and discipline for the administrative law judges employed by the division. Those procedures shall include provisions for each agency for whom a particular administrative law judge presides to submit to the division on a periodic basis the agency's views with respect to the performance of that administrative law judge or the need for specified additional training for that administrative law judge. However, the evaluation, training, promotion, and discipline of all administrative law judges employed by the division shall remain solely within the authority of the division.

d. To establish, consistent with the provisions of this section and chapter 17A, a code of administrative judicial conduct that is similar in function and substantially equivalent to the Iowa code of judicial conduct, to govern the conduct, in relation to their quasi-judicial functions in contested cases, of all persons who act as presiding officers under the authority of section 17A.11, subsection 1. The code of administrative judicial conduct shall separately specify which provisions are applicable to agency heads or members of multimembered agency heads when they act as presiding officers, taking into account the objectives of the code and the fact that agency heads, unlike administrative law judges, have other duties imposed upon them by law. The code of administrative judicial conduct may also contain separate provisions, that are appropriate and consistent with the objectives of such a code, to govern the conduct of agency heads or the members of multimember agency heads when they act as presiding officers. However, a provision of the code of administrative judicial conduct shall not be made applicable to agency heads or members of multimember agency heads unless the application of that provision to agency heads and members of multimember agency heads has previously been approved by the administrative rules coordinator.

e. To facilitate the performance of the responsibilities conferred upon the division by this section, chapter 17A, and any other provision of law.

8. The division may do all of the following:

a. Provide administrative law judges, upon request, to any agency that is required to or wishes to utilize the services of an administrative law judge employed by the division.

b. Maintain a staff of reporters and other personnel.

c. Administer the provisions of this section and rules adopted under its authority.

9. The division may charge agencies for services rendered and the payment received shall be considered repayment receipts as defined in section 8.2.

10. Except to the extent specified otherwise by statute, decisions of administrative law judges employed by the division are subject to review by the agencies for which they act as presiding officers as provided by section 17A.15 or any other provision of law.

Sec. 4. Section 17A.2, Code 1997, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 9A. "Provision of law" means the whole or part of the Constitution of the United States of America or the Constitution of the State of Iowa, or of any federal or state statute, court rule, executive order of the governor, or agency rule.

Sec. 5. Section 17A.2, subsection 10, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

"Rule" means each agency statement of general applicability that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy, or that describes the organization, procedure, or practice requirements of any agency. Notwithstanding any other ~~provision of law statute~~, the term includes an executive order or directive of the governor which creates an agency or establishes a program or which transfers a program between agencies established by statute or rule. The term includes the amendment or repeal of an existing rule, but does not include:

Sec. 6. Section 17A.2, subsection 10, paragraph b, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

b. A declaratory ~~ruling~~ order issued pursuant to section 17A.9, or an interpretation issued by an agency with respect to a specific set of facts and intended to apply only to that specific set of facts.

Sec. 7. Section 17A.3, subsection 1, Code 1997, is amended by adding the following new paragraph after paragraph b and relettering the subsequent paragraphs:

NEW PARAGRAPH. c. As soon as feasible and to the extent practicable, adopt rules, in addition to those otherwise required by this chapter, embodying appropriate standards, principles, and procedural safeguards that the agency will apply to the law it administers.

Sec. 8. Section 17A.4, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

b. Afford all interested persons not less than twenty days to submit data, views, or arguments in writing. If timely requested in writing by twenty-five interested persons, by a governmental subdivision, by the administrative rules review committee, by an agency, or by an association having not less than twenty-five members, the agency must give interested persons an opportunity to make oral presentation. The opportunity for oral presentation must be held at least twenty days after publication of the notice of its time and place in the Iowa administrative bulletin. The agency shall consider fully all written and oral submissions respecting the proposed rule. Within one hundred eighty days following either the notice published according to the provisions of paragraph "a" or within one hundred eighty days after the last date of the oral presentations on the proposed rule, whichever is later, the agency shall adopt a rule pursuant to the rulemaking proceeding or shall terminate the proceeding by publishing notice of termination in the Iowa administrative bulletin. If

An agency shall include in a preamble to each rule it adopts a brief explanation of the principal reasons for its action and, if applicable, a brief explanation of the principal reasons for its failure to provide in that rule for the waiver of the rule in specified situations if no such waiver provision is included in the rule. This explanatory requirement does not apply when the agency adopts a rule that only defines the meaning of a provision of law if the agency does not possess delegated authority to bind the courts to any extent with its definition. In addition, if requested to do so by an interested person, either prior to adoption or within thirty days thereafter, the agency shall issue a concise statement of the principal reasons for and against the rule it adopted, incorporating therein the reasons for overruling considerations urged against the rule. This concise statement shall be issued either at the time of the adoption of the rule or within thirty-five days after the agency receives the request.

Sec. 9. Section 17A.4, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code 1997, is amended by striking the paragraph.

Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. 17A.4A REGULATORY ANALYSIS.

1. An agency shall issue a regulatory analysis of a proposed rule that complies with subsection 2, paragraph "a", if, within thirty-two days after the published notice of proposed rule adoption, a written request for the analysis is submitted to the agency by the administrative rules review committee or the administrative rules coordinator. An agency shall issue a regulatory analysis of a proposed rule that complies with subsection 2, paragraph "b", if the rule would have a substantial impact on small business and if, within thirty-two days after the published notice of proposed rule adoption, a written request for analysis is submitted to the agency by the administrative rules review committee, the administrative rules coordinator, at least twenty-five persons signing that request who each qualify as a small business or by an organization representing at least twenty-five such persons. If a rule has been adopted without prior notice and an opportunity for public participation in reliance upon section 17A.4, subsection 2, the written request for an analysis that complies

with subsection 2, paragraph "a" or "b", may be made within seventy days of publication of the rule.

2. a. Except to the extent that a written request for a regulatory analysis expressly waives one or more of the following, the regulatory analysis must contain all of the following:

(1) A description of the classes of persons who probably will be affected by the proposed rule, including classes that will bear the costs of the proposed rule and classes that will benefit from the proposed rule.

(2) A description of the probable quantitative and qualitative impact of the proposed rule, economic or otherwise, upon affected classes of persons, including a description of the nature and amount of all of the different kinds of costs that would be incurred in complying with the proposed rule.

(3) The probable costs to the agency and to any other agency of the implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule and any anticipated effect on state revenues.

(4) A comparison of the probable costs and benefits of the proposed rule to the probable costs and benefits of inaction.

(5) A determination of whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule.

(6) A description of any alternative methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule that were seriously considered by the agency and the reasons why they were rejected in favor of the proposed rule.

b. In the case of a rule that would have a substantial impact on small business, the regulatory analysis must contain a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rule on small business:

(1) Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rule for small business.

(2) Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rule for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

(3) Consolidate or simplify the rule's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

(4) Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rule for small business.

(5) Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rule.

c. The agency shall reduce the impact of a proposed rule that would have a substantial impact on small business by using a method discussed in paragraph "b" if the agency finds that the method is legal and feasible in meeting the statutory objectives which are the basis of the proposed rule.

3. Each regulatory analysis must include quantifications of the data to the extent practicable and must take account of both short-term and long-term consequences.

4. Upon receipt by an agency of a timely request for a regulatory analysis, the agency shall extend the period specified in this chapter for each of the following until at least twenty days after publication in the administrative bulletin of a concise summary of the regulatory analysis:

a. The end of the period during which persons may make written submissions on the proposed rule.

b. The end of the period during which an oral proceeding may be requested.

c. The date of any required oral proceeding on the proposed rule.

In the case of a rule adopted without prior notice and an opportunity for public participation in reliance upon section 17A.4, subsection 2, the summary must be published within seventy days of the request.

5. The published summary of the regulatory analysis must also indicate where persons may obtain copies of the full text of the regulatory analysis and where, when, and how persons may present their views on the proposed rule and demand an oral proceeding thereon if one is not already provided. Agencies shall make available to the public, to the

maximum extent feasible, the published summary and the full text of the regulatory analysis described in this subsection in an electronic format, including, but not limited to, access to the documents through the internet.

6. If the agency has made a good faith effort to comply with the requirements of subsections 1 through 3, the rule may not be invalidated on the ground that the contents of the regulatory analysis are insufficient or inaccurate.

7. For the purpose of this section, "small business" means any entity including but not limited to an individual, partnership, corporation, joint venture, association, or cooperative, to which all of the following apply:

a. It is not an affiliate or subsidiary of an entity dominant in its field of operation.

b. It has either twenty or fewer full-time equivalent positions or less than one million dollars in annual gross revenues in the preceding fiscal year.

For purposes of this definition, "dominant in its field of operation" means having more than twenty full-time equivalent positions and more than one million dollars in annual gross revenues, and "affiliate or subsidiary of an entity dominant in its field of operation" means an entity which is at least twenty percent owned by an entity dominant in its field of operation, or by partners, officers, directors, majority stockholders, or their equivalent, of an entity dominant in that field of operation.

Sec. 11. Section 17A.7, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

17A.7 PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF RULES AND REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF RULES.

1. An interested person may petition an agency requesting the promulgation adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule. Each agency shall prescribe by rule the form for petitions and the procedure for their submission, consideration, and disposition. Within sixty days after submission of a petition, the agency either shall deny the petition in writing on the merits, stating its reasons for the denial, or initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with section 17A.4, or issue a rule if it is not required to be issued according to the procedures of section 17A.4, subsection 1.

2. Any interested person, association, agency, or political subdivision may submit a written request to the administrative rules coordinator for an agency to conduct a formal review of a specified rule of that agency to determine whether the rule should be repealed or amended or a new rule adopted instead. The administrative rules coordinator shall determine whether the request is reasonable and does not place an unreasonable burden upon the agency.

If the agency has not conducted such a review of the specified rule within a period of five years prior to the filing of the written request, and upon a determination by the administrative rules coordinator that the request is reasonable and does not place an unreasonable burden upon the agency, the agency shall prepare within a reasonable time a written report with respect to the rule summarizing the agency's findings, its supporting reasons, and any proposed course of action. The report must include, for the specified rule, a concise statement of all of the following:

a. The rule's effectiveness in achieving its objectives, including a summary of any available data supporting the conclusions reached.

b. Written criticisms of the rule received during the previous five years, including a summary of any petitions for waiver of the rule tendered to the agency or granted by the agency.

c. Alternative solutions regarding the subject matter of the criticisms and the reasons they were rejected or the changes made in the rule in response to those criticisms and the reasons for the changes.

A copy of the report shall be sent to the administrative rules review committee and the administrative rules coordinator and shall be made available for public inspection.

Sec. 12. Section 17A.8, subsection 9, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

9. Upon a vote of two-thirds of its members, the administrative rules review committee may delay the effective date of a rule until the adjournment of the next regular session of the general assembly. The committee shall refer a rule whose effective date has been delayed to

the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate who shall refer the rule to the appropriate standing committees of the general assembly. A standing committee shall review a rule within twenty-one days after the rule is referred to the committee by the speaker of the house of representatives or the president of the senate and shall take formal committee action by sponsoring a joint resolution to disapprove the rule, by proposing legislation relating to the rule, or by refusing to propose a joint resolution or legislation concerning the rule. The standing committee shall inform the administrative rules review committee of the committee action taken concerning the rule. If the general assembly has not disapproved of the rule by a joint resolution, the rule shall become effective. The speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate shall notify the administrative code editor of the final disposition of each rule delayed pursuant to this subsection. If a rule is disapproved, it shall not become effective and the agency shall rescind the rule. This section shall not apply to rules made effective under section 17A.5, subsection 2, paragraph "b".

Sec. 13. Section 17A.9, Code 1997, is amended by striking the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

17A.9 DECLARATORY ORDERS.

1. Any person may petition an agency for a declaratory order as to the applicability to specified circumstances of a statute, rule, or order within the primary jurisdiction of the agency. An agency shall issue a declaratory order in response to a petition for that order unless the agency determines that issuance of the order under the circumstances would be contrary to a rule adopted in accordance with subsection 2.

However, an agency shall not issue a declaratory order that would substantially prejudice the rights of a person who would be a necessary party and who does not consent in writing to the determination of the matter by a declaratory order proceeding.

2. Each agency shall adopt rules that provide for the form, contents, and filing of petitions for declaratory orders, the procedural rights of persons in relation to the petitions, and the disposition of the petitions. The rules must describe the classes of circumstances in which the agency will not issue a declaratory order and must be consistent with the public interest and with the general policy of this chapter to facilitate and encourage agency issuance of reliable advice.

3. Within fifteen days after receipt of a petition for a declaratory order, an agency shall give notice of the petition to all persons to whom notice is required by any provision of law and may give notice to any other persons.

4. Persons who qualify under any applicable provision of law as an intervenor and who file timely petitions for intervention according to agency rules may intervene in proceedings for declaratory orders. The provisions of sections 17A.10 through 17A.18 apply to agency proceedings for declaratory orders only to the extent an agency so provides by rule or order.

5. Within thirty days after receipt of a petition for a declaratory order, an agency, in writing, shall do one of the following:

a. Issue an order declaring the applicability of the statute, rule, or order in question to the specified circumstances.

b. Set the matter for specified proceedings.

c. Agree to issue a declaratory order by a specified time.

d. Decline to issue a declaratory order, stating the reasons for its action.

6. A copy of all orders issued in response to a petition for a declaratory order must be mailed promptly to the petitioner and any other parties.

7. A declaratory order has the same status and binding effect as any final order issued in a contested case proceeding. A declaratory order must contain the names of all parties to the proceeding on which it is based, the particular facts on which it is based, and the reasons for its conclusion.

8. If an agency has not issued a declaratory order within sixty days after receipt of a petition therefor, or such later time as agreed by the parties, the petition is deemed to have

been denied. Once a petition for a declaratory order is deemed denied or if the agency declines to issue a declaratory order pursuant to subsection 5, paragraph "d", a party to that proceeding may either seek judicial review or await further agency action with respect to its petition for a declaratory order.

Sec. 14. NEW SECTION. 17A.10A CONTESTED CASES — NO FACTUAL DISPUTE.

Upon petition by a party in a matter that would be a contested case if there was a dispute over the existence of material facts, all of the provisions of this chapter applicable to contested cases, except those relating to presentation of evidence, shall be applicable even though there is no factual dispute in the particular case.

Sec. 15. Section 17A.11, Code 1997, is amended by striking the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

17A.11 PRESIDING OFFICER, DISQUALIFICATION, SUBSTITUTION.

1. a. If the agency or an officer of the agency under whose authority the contested case is to take place is a named party to that proceeding or a real party in interest to that proceeding the presiding officer may be, in the discretion of the agency, either the agency, one or more members of a multimember agency, or one or more administrative law judges assigned by the division of administrative hearings in accordance with the provisions of section 10A.801. However, a party may, within a time period specified by rule, request that the presiding officer be an administrative law judge assigned by the division of administrative hearings. Except as otherwise provided by statute, the agency shall grant a request by a party for an administrative law judge unless the agency finds, and states reasons for the finding, that any of the following conditions exist:

(1) There is a compelling need to expedite issuance of a final decision in order to protect the public health, safety, or welfare.

(2) A qualified administrative law judge is unavailable to hear the case within a reasonable time.

(3) The case involves significant policy issues of first impression that are inextricably intertwined with the factual issues presented.

(4) The demeanor of the witnesses is likely to be dispositive in resolving the disputed factual issues.

(5) Funds are unavailable to pay the costs of an administrative law judge and an intra-agency appeal.

(6) The request was not timely filed.

(7) There is other identified good cause, as specified by rule, for denying the request.

b. If the agency or an officer of the agency under whose authority the contested case is to take place is not a named party to that proceeding or a real party in interest to that proceeding the presiding officer may be, in the discretion of the agency, either the agency, one or more members of a multimember agency, an administrative law judge assigned by the division of administrative hearings in accordance with the provisions of section 10A.801, or any other qualified person designated as a presiding officer by the agency. Any other person designated as a presiding officer by the agency may be employed by and officed in the agency for which that person acts as a presiding officer, but such a person shall not perform duties inconsistent with that person's duties and responsibilities as a presiding officer.

c. For purposes of paragraph "a", the division of administrative hearings established in section 10A.801 shall be treated as a wholly separate agency from the department of inspections and appeals.

2. Any person serving or designated to serve alone or with others as a presiding officer is subject to disqualification for bias, prejudice, interest, or any other cause provided in this chapter or for which a judge is or may be disqualified.

3. Any party may timely request the disqualification of a person as a presiding officer by filing a motion supported by an affidavit asserting an appropriate ground for disqualifica-

tion, after receipt of notice indicating that the person will preside or upon discovering facts establishing grounds for disqualification, whichever is later.

4. A person whose disqualification is requested shall determine whether to grant the request, stating facts and reasons for the determination.

5. If a substitute is required for a person who is disqualified or becomes unavailable for any other reason, the substitute shall be appointed by either of the following:

a. The governor, if the disqualified or unavailable person is an elected official.

b. The appointing authority, if the disqualified or unavailable person is an appointed official.

6. Any action taken by a duly-appointed substitute for a disqualified or unavailable person is as effective as if taken by the latter.

Sec. 16. Section 17A.12, subsection 3, Code 1997, is amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

3. If a party fails to appear or participate in a contested case proceeding after proper service of notice, the presiding officer may, if no adjournment is granted, enter a default decision or proceed with the hearing and make a decision in the absence of the party. The parties shall be duly notified of the decision, together with the presiding officer's reasons for the decision, which is the final decision of the agency, unless within fifteen days, or such period of time as otherwise specified by statute or rule, after the date of notification or mailing of the decision, further appeal is initiated. If a decision is rendered against a party who failed to appear for the hearing and the presiding officer is timely requested by that party to vacate the decision for good cause, the time for initiating a further appeal is stayed pending a determination by the presiding officer to grant or deny the request. If adequate reasons are provided showing good cause for the party's failure to appear, the presiding officer shall vacate the decision and, after proper service of notice, conduct another evidentiary hearing. If adequate reasons are not provided showing good cause for the party's failure to appear, the presiding officer shall deny the motion to vacate.

Sec. 17. Section 17A.15, subsection 3, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

3. When the presiding officer makes a proposed decision, that decision then becomes the final decision of the agency without further proceedings unless there is an appeal to, or review on motion of, the agency within the time provided by rule. On appeal from or review of the proposed decision, the agency has all the power which it would have in initially making the final decision except as it may limit the issues on notice to the parties or by rule. The agency may reverse or modify any finding of fact if a preponderance of the evidence will support a determination to reverse or modify such a finding, or may reverse or modify any conclusion of law that the agency finds to be in error. In cases where there is an appeal from a proposed decision or where a proposed decision is reviewed on motion of the agency, an opportunity shall be afforded to each party to file exceptions, present briefs and, with the consent of the agency, present oral arguments to the agency members who are to render the final decision.

Sec. 18. Section 17A.16, subsection 1, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

1. A proposed or final decision or order in a contested case shall be in writing or stated in the record. A proposed or final decision shall include findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated. Findings of fact, if set forth in statutory language, shall be accompanied by a concise and explicit statement of underlying facts supporting the findings. The decision shall include an explanation of why the relevant evidence in the record supports each material finding of fact. If, in accordance with agency rules, a party submitted proposed findings of fact, the decision shall include a ruling upon each proposed finding. Each conclusion of law shall be supported by cited authority or by a reasoned opinion. Parties shall be promptly notified of each proposed or final decision or order by the delivery to them of a copy of such decision or order in the manner provided by section 17A.12, subsection 1.

Sec. 19. Section 17A.17, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

17A.17 EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS AND SEPARATION OF FUNCTIONS.

1. Unless required for the disposition of ex parte matters specifically authorized by statute, ~~individuals assigned to render a proposed or final decision or to make findings of fact and conclusions of law~~ a presiding officer in a contested case, shall not communicate, directly or indirectly, in connection with any issue of fact or law in that contested case, with any person or party, except upon notice and opportunity for all parties to participate as shall be provided for by agency rules.

However, without such notice and opportunity for all parties to participate, ~~individuals assigned to render a proposed or final decision or to make findings of fact and conclusions of law~~ a presiding officer in a contested case may communicate with members of the agency, and may have the aid and advice of persons other than those with a personal interest in, or those engaged in personally investigating, prosecuting or advocating in, either the case under consideration or a pending factually related case involving the same parties so long as those persons do not directly or indirectly communicate to the presiding officer any ex parte communications they have received of a type that the presiding officer would be prohibited from receiving or that furnish, augment, diminish, or modify the evidence in the record.

2. Unless required for the disposition of ex parte matters specifically authorized by statute, parties or their representatives in a contested case ~~and persons with a direct or indirect interest in such a case~~ shall not communicate, directly or indirectly, in connection with any issue of fact or law in that contested case, with ~~individuals assigned to render a proposed or final decision or to make findings of fact and conclusions of law~~ a presiding officer in that contested case, except upon notice and opportunity for all parties to participate as shall be provided for by agency rules. ~~The agency's rules may require the recipient of a prohibited communication to submit the communication if written or a summary of the communication if oral for inclusion in the record of the proceeding. As sanctions for violations, the rules may provide for a decision against a party who violates the rules; for censuring, suspending or revoking a privilege to practice before the agency; and for censuring, suspending or dismissing agency personnel.~~

3. If, before serving as the presiding officer in a contested case, a person receives an ex parte communication relating directly to the merits of the proceeding over which that person subsequently presides, the person, promptly after starting to serve, shall disclose to all parties any material factual information so received and not otherwise disclosed to those parties pursuant to section 17A.13, subsection 2, or through discovery.

4. A presiding officer who receives an ex parte communication in violation of this section shall place on the record of the pending matter all such written communications received, all written responses to the communications, and a memorandum stating the substance of all such oral and other communications received, all responses made, and the identity of each person from whom the presiding officer received a prohibited ex parte communication, and shall advise all parties that these matters have been placed on the record. Any party desiring to rebut the prohibited ex parte communication must be allowed to do so, upon requesting the opportunity for rebuttal within ten days after notice of the communication.

5. If the effect of an ex parte communication received in violation of this section is so prejudicial that it cannot be cured by the procedure in subsection 4, a presiding officer who receives the communication shall be disqualified and the portions of the record pertaining to the communication shall be sealed by protective order.

6. The agency and any party may report any violation of this section to appropriate authorities for any disciplinary proceedings provided by law. In addition, each agency by rule shall provide for appropriate sanctions, including default, suspending or revoking a privilege to practice before the agency, and censuring, suspending, or dismissing agency personnel, for any violations of this section.

7. A party to a contested case proceeding may file a timely and sufficient affidavit alleging a violation of any provision of this section. The agency shall determine the matter as part of

the record in the case. When an agency in these circumstances makes such a determination with respect to an agency member, that determination shall be subject to de novo judicial review in any subsequent review proceeding of the case.

~~3. 8. No An individual who participates in the making of any proposed or final decision in a contested case shall not have personally investigated, prosecuted, or advocated in connection with that case, the specific controversy underlying that case, or another pending factually related contested case, or pending factually related controversy that may culminate in a contested case, involving the same parties. Nor shall any In addition, such an individual shall not be subject to the authority, direction, or discretion of any person who has personally investigated, prosecuted, or advocated in connection with that contested case, the specific controversy underlying that contested case, or a pending factually related contested case or controversy, involving the same parties. However, this section shall not be construed to preclude a person from serving as a presiding officer solely because that person determined there was probable cause to initiate the proceeding.~~

~~4. A party to a contested case proceeding may file a timely and sufficient affidavit asserting disqualification according to the provisions of subsection 3, or asserting personal bias of an individual participating in the making of any proposed or final decision in that case. The agency shall determine the matter as part of the record in the case. When an agency in these circumstances makes such a determination with respect to an agency member, that determination shall be subject to de novo judicial review in any subsequent review proceeding of the case.~~

Sec. 20. Section 17A.18, subsection 3, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

3. No revocation, suspension, annulment or withdrawal, in whole or in part, of any license is lawful unless, prior to the institution of agency proceedings, the agency gave written, timely notice by personal service as in civil actions or by restricted certified mail to the licensee of facts or conduct and the provisions provision of law which warrant warrants the intended action, and the licensee was given an opportunity to show, in an evidentiary hearing conducted according to the provisions of this chapter for contested cases, compliance with all lawful requirements for the retention of the license. If the agency finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action. These proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined.

Sec. 21. NEW SECTION. 17A.18A EMERGENCY ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter and to the extent consistent with the Constitution, an agency may use emergency adjudicative proceedings in a situation involving an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare requiring immediate agency action.

2. The agency may take only such action as is necessary to prevent or avoid the immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare that justifies use of emergency adjudication.

3. The agency shall issue an order, including a brief statement of findings of fact, conclusions of law, and policy reasons for the decision if it is an exercise of the agency's discretion, to justify the determination of an immediate danger and the agency's decision to take the specific action.

4. The agency shall give such notice as is practicable to persons who are required to comply with the order. The order is effective when issued.

5. After issuing an order pursuant to this section, the agency shall proceed as quickly as feasible to complete any proceedings that would be required if the matter did not involve an immediate danger.

6. The agency record consists of any documents regarding the matter that were considered or prepared by the agency. The agency shall maintain these documents as its official record.

7. Unless otherwise required by a provision of law, the agency record need not constitute the exclusive basis for agency action in emergency adjudicative proceedings or for judicial review thereof.

Sec. 22. Section 17A.19, subsection 1, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

1. A person or party who has exhausted all adequate administrative remedies and who is aggrieved or adversely affected by any final agency action is entitled to judicial review thereof under this chapter. When agency action is pursuant to rate regulatory powers over public utilities or common carriers and the aggrievement or adverse effect is to the rates or charges of a public utility or common carrier, the agency action shall not be final until all agency remedies have been exhausted and a decision prescribing rates which satisfy the requirements of those provisions of the Code has been rendered. A preliminary, procedural or intermediate agency action is immediately reviewable if all adequate administrative remedies have been exhausted and review of the final agency action would not provide an adequate remedy. If a declaratory ~~ruling order~~ has not been rendered within ~~thirty~~ sixty days after the filing of a petition therefor under section 17A.9, or by such later time as agreed by the parties, or if the agency declines to issue such a declaratory ~~ruling order~~ after receipt of a petition therefor, any administrative remedy available under section 17A.9 shall be deemed inadequate or exhausted.

Sec. 23. Section 17A.19, subsection 5, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

5. a. The filing of the petition for review does not itself stay execution or enforcement of any agency action. ~~Upon application the agency or the reviewing court may, in appropriate cases, order such a stay pending the outcome of the judicial review proceedings~~ Unless precluded by law, the agency may grant a stay on appropriate terms or other temporary remedies during the pendency of judicial review.

b. A party may file an interlocutory motion in the reviewing court, during the pendency of judicial review, seeking review of the agency's action on an application for stay or other temporary remedies.

c. If the agency refuses to grant an application for stay or other temporary remedies, or application to the agency for a stay or other temporary remedies is an inadequate remedy, the court may grant relief but only after a consideration and balancing of all of the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the applicant is likely to prevail when the court finally disposes of the matter.

(2) The extent to which the applicant will suffer irreparable injury if relief if* not granted.

(3) The extent to which the grant of relief to the applicant will substantially harm other parties to the proceedings.

(4) The extent to which the public interest relied on by the agency is sufficient to justify the agency's action in the circumstances.

d. If the court determines that relief should be granted from the agency's action on an application for stay or other temporary remedies, the court may remand the matter to the agency with directions to deny a stay, to grant a stay on appropriate terms, or to grant other temporary remedies, or the court may issue an order denying a stay, granting a stay on appropriate terms, or granting other temporary remedies.

Sec. 24. Section 17A.19, subsection 8, Code 1997, is amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

8. Except to the extent that this chapter provides otherwise, in suits for judicial review of agency action all of the following apply:

a. The burden of demonstrating the required prejudice and the invalidity of agency action is on the party asserting invalidity.

b. The validity of agency action must be determined in accordance with the standards of review provided in this section, as applied to the agency action at the time that action was taken.

* The word "is" probably intended

9. The court shall make a separate and distinct ruling on each material issue on which the court's decision is based.

10. The court may affirm the agency action or remand to the agency for further proceedings. The court shall reverse, modify, or grant other appropriate relief from agency action, equitable or legal and including declaratory relief, if it determines that substantial rights of the person seeking judicial relief have been prejudiced because the agency action is any of the following:

a. Unconstitutional on its face or as applied or is based upon a provision of law that is unconstitutional on its face or as applied.

b. Beyond the authority delegated to the agency by any provision of law or in violation of any provision of law.

c. Based upon an erroneous interpretation of a provision of law whose interpretation has not clearly been vested by a provision of law in the discretion of the agency.

d. Based upon a procedure or decision-making process prohibited by law or was taken without following the prescribed procedure or decision-making process.

e. The product of decision making undertaken by persons who were improperly constituted as a decision-making body, were motivated by an improper purpose, or were subject to disqualification.

f. Based upon a determination of fact clearly vested by a provision of law in the discretion of the agency that is not supported by substantial evidence in the record before the court when that record is viewed as a whole. For purposes of this paragraph, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Substantial evidence" means the quantity and quality of evidence that would be deemed sufficient by a neutral, detached, and reasonable person, to establish the fact at issue when the consequences resulting from the establishment of that fact are understood to be serious and of great importance.

(2) "Record before the court" means the agency record for judicial review, as defined by this chapter, supplemented by any additional evidence received by the court under the provisions of this chapter.

(3) "When that record is viewed as a whole" means that the adequacy of the evidence in the record before the court to support a particular finding of fact must be judged in light of all the relevant evidence in the record cited by any party that detracts from that finding as well as all of the relevant evidence in the record cited by any party that supports it, including any determinations of veracity by the presiding officer who personally observed the demeanor of the witnesses and the agency's explanation of why the relevant evidence in the record supports its material findings of fact.

g. Action other than a rule that is inconsistent with a rule of the agency.

h. Action other than a rule that is inconsistent with the agency's prior practice or precedents, unless the agency has justified that inconsistency by stating credible reasons sufficient to indicate a fair and rational basis for the inconsistency.

i. The product of reasoning that is so illogical as to render it wholly irrational.

j. The product of a decision-making process in which the agency did not consider a relevant and important matter relating to the propriety or desirability of the action in question that a rational decision maker in similar circumstances would have considered prior to taking that action.

k. Not required by law and its negative impact on the private rights affected is so grossly disproportionate to the benefits accruing to the public interest from that action that it must necessarily be deemed to lack any foundation in rational agency policy.

l. Based upon an irrational, illogical, or wholly unjustifiable interpretation of a provision of law whose interpretation has clearly been vested by a provision of law in the discretion of the agency.

m. Based upon an irrational, illogical, or wholly unjustifiable application of law to fact that has clearly been vested by a provision of law in the discretion of the agency.

n. Otherwise unreasonable, arbitrary, capricious, or an abuse of discretion.

11. In making the determinations required by subsection 10, paragraphs "a" through "n", the court shall do all of the following:

a. Shall not give any deference to the view of the agency with respect to whether particular matters have been vested by a provision of law in the discretion of the agency.

b. Should not give any deference to the view of the agency with respect to particular matters that have not been vested by a provision of law in the discretion of the agency.

c. Shall give appropriate deference to the view of the agency with respect to particular matters that have been vested by a provision of law in the discretion of the agency.

12. A defendant in a suit for civil enforcement of agency action may defend on any of the grounds specified in subsection 10, paragraphs "a" through "n", if that defendant, at the time the enforcement suit was filed, would have been entitled to rely upon any of those grounds as a basis for invalidating the agency action in a suit for judicial review of that action brought at the time the enforcement suit was filed. If a suit for civil enforcement of agency action in a contested case is filed within the time period in which the defendant could have filed a petition for judicial review of that agency action, and the agency subsequently dismisses its suit for civil enforcement of that agency action against the defendant, the defendant may, within thirty days of that dismissal, file a petition for judicial review of the original agency action at issue if the defendant relied upon any of the grounds for judicial review in subsection 10, paragraphs "a" through "n", in a responsive pleading to the enforcement action, or if the time to file a responsive pleading had not yet expired at the time the enforcement action was dismissed.

Sec. 25. Section 17A.23, Code 1997, is amended by adding the following new unnumbered paragraph:

NEW UNNUMBERED PARAGRAPH. An agency shall have only that authority or discretion delegated to or conferred upon the agency by law and shall not expand or enlarge its authority or discretion beyond the powers delegated to or conferred upon the agency.

Sec. 26. Section 17A.33, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

17A.33 REVIEW BY ADMINISTRATIVE RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE.

The administrative rules review committee shall review existing rules, as time permits, to determine if there are adverse or beneficial effects from these rules. The committee shall give a high priority to rules that are referred to it by small business as defined in section ~~17A.31~~ 17A.4A. The review of these rules shall be forwarded to the appropriate standing committees of the house and senate.

Sec. 27. Section 19A.1A, Code 1997, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 4. Reduction in force appeals shall be subject to review by the director.

Sec. 28. Section 20.6, subsection 4, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

4. Hold hearings and administer oaths, examine witnesses and documents, take testimony and receive evidence, issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of records, and delegate such power to a member of the board, ~~or~~ persons appointed or employed by the board, including administrative law judges, or administrative law judges employed by the division of administrative hearings created by section 10A.801, for the performance of its functions. The board may petition the district court at the seat of government or of the county where a hearing is held to enforce a board order compelling the attendance of witnesses and production of records.

Sec. 29. Section 86.17, subsection 1, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

1. A Notwithstanding the provisions of section 17A.11, the industrial commissioner or a deputy industrial commissioner ~~may shall~~ preside over any contested case proceeding brought under this chapter, chapter 85, ~~or 85A, or 85B~~ in the manner provided by chapter 17A. The

deputy commissioner or the commissioner may make such inquiries ~~and investigation~~ in contested case proceedings as shall be deemed necessary, ~~consistent with~~ so long as such inquiries do not violate any of the provisions of section 17A.17.

Sec. 30. Section 137E.12, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

137E.12 REVOCATION OR ORDER FOR DISCONTINUANCE.

A license issued under this chapter may be revoked by the regulatory authority for violation by the licensee of a provision of this chapter or an applicable rule of the department. In lieu of license revocation, the regulatory authority may require the immediate discontinuance of operation of a vending machine or commissary if it finds unsanitary conditions or other conditions which constitute a substantial hazard to the public health. The order shall apply only to the vending machines, commissary, or product involved. A person whose license is revoked, or who is ordered to discontinue the operation of a vending machine or commissary, may appeal that decision to the director. The director or ~~the chief an~~ administrative law judge of the department appointed according to the requirements of section 17A.11, subsection 1, shall schedule and hold a hearing upon the appeal not later than thirty days from the time of revocation or the order of discontinuance. The director or the chief administrative law judge shall issue a decision immediately following the hearing. Judicial review may be sought in accordance with ~~the Iowa administrative procedure Act chapter 17A.~~

Sec. 31. Section 148.7, subsection 3, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

3. The hearing shall be before a member or members designated by the board or before an administrative law judge appointed by the board according to the requirements of section 17A.11, subsection 1. The presiding board member or administrative law judge may issue subpoenas, administer oaths, and take or cause depositions to be taken in connection with the hearing. The presiding board member or administrative law judge shall issue subpoenas at the request and on behalf of the licensee. The hearing shall be open to the public.

~~The compensation of the administrative law judge shall be fixed by the medical examiners.~~ The administrative law judge shall be an attorney vested with full authority of the board to schedule and conduct hearings. The administrative law judge shall prepare and file with the medical examiners the administrative law judge's findings of fact and conclusions of law, together with a complete written transcript of all testimony and evidence introduced at the hearing and all exhibits, pleas, motions, objections, and rulings of the administrative law judge.

Sec. 32. Section 169.5, subsection 9, paragraph e, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

e. Hold hearings on all matters properly brought before the board and administer oaths, receive evidence, make the necessary determinations, and enter orders consistent with the findings. The board may require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of papers, records, or other documentary evidence and commission depositions. An administrative law judge may be appointed pursuant to section 17A.11; ~~subsection 3~~ to perform those functions which properly repose in an administrative law judge.

Sec. 33. Section 169.14, subsection 3, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

3. The hearing shall be before a member or members designated by the board or before an administrative law judge appointed by the board according to the requirements of section 17A.11, subsection 1. The presiding board member or administrative law judge may issue subpoenas, administer oaths, and take or cause depositions to be taken in connection with the hearing. The member or officer shall issue subpoenas at the request and on behalf of the licensee.

Sec. 34. Section 203C.10, unnumbered paragraph 2, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

If upon the filing of the information or complaint the department finds that the licensee has failed to meet the warehouse operator's obligation or otherwise has violated or failed to comply with the provisions of this chapter or any rule promulgated under this chapter, and if the department finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, then the department without hearing may order a summary suspension of the license in the manner provided in section ~~17A.18~~ 17A.18A. When so ordered, a copy of the order of suspension shall be served upon the licensee at the time the information or complaint is served as provided in this section.

Sec. 35. Section 207.14, subsection 2, unnumbered paragraph 2, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

If upon expiration of the time as fixed the administrator finds in writing that the violation has not been abated, the administrator, notwithstanding ~~section~~ sections 17A.18 and 17A.18A, shall immediately order a cessation of coal mining and reclamation operations relating to the violation until the order is modified, vacated, or terminated by the administrator pursuant to procedures outlined in this section. In the order of cessation issued by the administrator under this subsection, the administrator shall include the steps necessary to abate the violation in the most expeditious manner possible.

Sec. 36. Section 216.15, subsection 3, paragraph a, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

a. After the filing of a verified complaint, a true copy shall be served within twenty days by certified mail on the person against whom the complaint is filed. An authorized member of the commission staff shall make a prompt investigation and shall issue a recommendation to an administrative law judge ~~under the jurisdiction of~~ employed either by the commission or by the division of administrative hearings created by section 10A.801, who shall then issue a determination of probable cause or no probable cause.

Sec. 37. Section 216.17, subsection 6, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

6. In the enforcement proceeding the court shall determine its order on the same basis as it would in a proceeding reviewing commission action under section 17A.19, ~~subsection 8~~.

Sec. 38. Section 252.27, unnumbered paragraph 2, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

The board shall record its proceedings relating to the provision of assistance to specific persons under this chapter. A person who is aggrieved by a decision of the board may appeal the decision as if it were a contested case before an agency and as if the person had exhausted administrative remedies in accordance with the procedures and standards in section 17A.19, subsections 2 to 8 12 except subsection 10, paragraphs "b" and "e" ~~of subsection 8 "g"~~, and section 17A.20.

Sec. 39. Section 256.7, subsection 6, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

6. Hear appeals of persons aggrieved by decisions of boards of directors of school corporations under chapter 290 and other appeals prescribed by law. The state board may review the record and shall review the decision of the director of the department of education or the administrative law judge ~~designated by the director in~~ for any appeals heard and decided by the director under chapter 290, and may affirm, modify, or vacate the decision, or may direct a rehearing before the director.

Sec. 40. Section 368.22, Code 1997, is amended by adding the following new subsections:

NEW SUBSECTION. 4. Subsection 9.

NEW SUBSECTION. 5. Subsection 10.

NEW SUBSECTION. 6. Subsection 11.

Sec. 41. Section 421.17, subsection 20, unnumbered paragraph 2, Code Supplement 1997, is amended to read as follows:

The provisions of sections 17A.10 to ~~17A.18~~ 17A.18A relating to contested cases shall not apply to any matters involving the equalization of valuations of classes of property as authorized by this chapter and chapter 441. This exemption shall not apply to a hearing before the state board of tax review.

Sec. 42. Section 535B.7, subsection 2, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

The administrator may order an emergency suspension of a licensee's license pursuant to section ~~17A.18, subsection 3~~ 17A.18A. A written order containing the facts or conduct which warrants the emergency action shall be timely sent to the licensee by restricted certified mail. Upon issuance of the suspension order, the licensee must also be notified of the right to an evidentiary hearing. A suspension proceeding shall be promptly instituted and determined.

Sec. 43. Section 602.9206, unnumbered paragraph 2, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

A senior judge also shall be available to serve in the capacity of administrative law judge under chapter 17A ~~upon the request of an agency~~, and the supreme court may assign a senior judge for temporary duties as an administrative law judge. A senior judge shall not be required to serve a period of time as an administrative law judge which, when added to the period of time being served by the person as a judge, if any, would exceed the maximum period of time the person agreed to serve pursuant to section 602.9203, subsection 2.

Sec. 44. Section 903A.1, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

903A.1 CONDUCT REVIEW.

The director of the Iowa department of corrections shall appoint independent administrative law judges whose duties shall include but are not limited to review, as provided in section 903A.3, of the conduct of inmates in institutions under the department. Sections 10A.801 and 17A.11 do not apply to administrative law judges appointed pursuant to this section.

Sec. 45. Sections 10A.201, 10A.202, 17A.31, and 17A.32, Code 1997, are repealed.

Sec. 46. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect July 1, 1999, and applies to agency proceedings commenced on or after that date, except that this Act shall apply to any agency proceedings conducted on a remand from a court or another agency on or after that date.

Approved May 19, 1998