

COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, IOWA[751]

Notice of Intended Action

Proposing rulemaking related to rates and rate disputes and providing an opportunity for public comment

The Iowa Communications Network hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 12, “Rates and Rate Disputes,” Iowa Administrative Code, and to adopt a new Chapter 12 with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code chapter 8D.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapter 8D and Executive Order 10.

Purpose and Summary

The proposed chapter describes the methodology for establishing self-sustaining rates for services on the statewide network, outlines notification procedures for rate adjustments, and provides a clear process for resolving billing disputes. This proposed chapter was reviewed pursuant to Executive Order 10. As a result, the Iowa Communications Network removed redundant and obsolete language and provides transparent guidance on rates and rate disputes.

Regulatory Analysis

A Regulatory Analysis for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on June 24, 2026. A public hearing was held on the following date(s):

- July 15, 2026

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Iowa Communications Network for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 751—Chapter 2504.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this proposed rulemaking, which must be received by the Iowa Communications Network no later than 4:30 p.m. on October 1, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Lori Larsen
Iowa Communications Network
Grimes State Office Building
400 East 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Phone: 515.725.4713
Email: lori.larsen@iowa.gov or lori.larsen@icn.state.ia.us

Public Hearing

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

September 30, 2026 10 to 11 a.m.	ICN Director's Conference Room Grimes State Office Building Des Moines, Iowa
October 1, 2026 9 to 10 a.m.	ICN Director's Conference Room Grimes State Office Building Des Moines, Iowa

Persons who wish to make oral comments at a public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend a public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Iowa Communications Network and advise of specific needs.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Rescind 751—Chapter 12 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 12 RATES AND RATE DISPUTES

751—12.1(8D) Rate methodology.

12.1(1) Cost recovery. The commission shall establish rates for all services based on the actual cost of operation, maintenance, administration, and capital investment required to provide the service. Rates shall be designed to be self-sustaining and consistent with the state's financial capacity.

12.1(2) Educational priority. In establishing rates for educational users, the commission shall ensure that rural communities have access to services comparable to those provided in urban areas, consistent with Iowa Code section 8D.3(1)“a.”

12.1(3) Federal and health users. Rates for federal agencies, hospitals, and physician clinics shall be established at a level that ensures, at a minimum, there is no state subsidy related to the cost of the connection or use of the network, consistent with Iowa Code section 8D.3(3)“i.”

751—12.2(8D) Rate increase notice. The commission shall provide notice to authorized users of any general rate increase at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the increase.

751—12.3(8D) Rate dispute resolution.

12.3(1) Review. An authorized user who believes the user has been billed an incorrect rate or charge may request a review by the executive director. The request must be in writing and include the specific invoice and the basis for the dispute.

12.3(2) Determination. The executive director or designee shall review the dispute and issue a written decision to the authorized user.

12.3(3) Appeal. If the authorized user is dissatisfied with the executive director's decision, the user may file a notice of appeal in accordance with the contested case procedures in 7—Chapter 2506.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 8D.3.