

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSING AND REGULATION BUREAU[193]**

**Notice of Intended Action**

**Proposing rulemaking related to vendor appeals  
and providing an opportunity for public comment**

The Professional Licensing and Regulation Bureau hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 3, “Vendor Appeals,” Iowa Administrative Code, and to adopt a new chapter with the same title.

*Legal Authority for Rulemaking*

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code chapter 546.

*State or Federal Law Implemented*

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapter 546.

*Purpose and Summary*

This proposed rulemaking specifies the process for vendors to appeal a bid decision when a formal bidding process is not handled by the Department of Administrative Services. This rulemaking provides a uniform process for all boards in the legacy professional licensing and regulation bureau.

*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 Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 481—Chapter 6.

*Public Comment*

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written or oral comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 14, 2024. Comments should be directed to:

Lori SchraderBachar  
Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing  
6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100  
Des Moines, Iowa 50321  
Phone: 515.725.9030  
Email: [lori.schraderbachar@dia.iowa.gov](mailto:lori.schraderbachar@dia.iowa.gov)

*Public Hearing*

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

February 13, 2024  
11:30 a.m.

6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Video call link: [meet.google.com/zuu-vunu-dcc](https://meet.google.com/zuu-vunu-dcc)

February 14, 2024  
11:30 a.m.

6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Video call link: [meet.google.com/zuu-vunu-dcc](https://meet.google.com/zuu-vunu-dcc)

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 Department 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 193—Chapter 3 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 3  
VENDOR APPEALS

**193—3.1(546) Purpose.** This chapter outlines a uniform process for vendor appeals for all professional licensing boards as defined in 191—Chapter 1. The process is applicable only when board services are acquired through a formal bidding procedure not handled by the department of administrative services or the office of the chief information officer.

**193—3.2(546) Vendor appeals.** Any vendor whose bid or proposal has been timely filed and who is aggrieved by the award of the board may appeal by filing a written notice of appeal with the board within five days of the date of the award, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal state holidays. A written notice may be filed by email. The notice of appeal needs to state the vendor's completed legal name, street address, telephone number, email address, and the specific grounds upon which the vendor challenges the board's award, including the legal authority, if any, and be received by the board within the time frame specified to be considered timely. The notice of appeal commences a contested case.

**193—3.3(546) Procedures for vendor appeals.** Each board's procedures for licensee disciplinary hearings are applicable, except as provided in these rules.

**3.3(1)** Upon receipt of a notice of vendor appeal, the board will issue a written notice of the date, time and location of the appeal hearing to both the aggrieved vendor or vendors and the successful vendor. Service of the written notice of hearing will be sent to the email address provided by the appellant unless the appellant specifically requests that notice be sent by certified mail. A hearing will be held within 60 days of the date the notice of appeal was received by the board.

**3.3(2)** All hearings are open to the public.

**3.3(3)** Discovery requests, if any, will be served by the parties within ten days of the filing of the notice of appeal. Discovery responses or objections are due at least seven business days prior to hearing.

**3.3(4)** At least three business days prior to the hearing, the parties will exchange witness and exhibit lists. The parties will be limited at hearing to the witnesses and exhibits timely disclosed unless the board finds good cause to allow additional witnesses or exhibits at hearing.

**3.3(5)** The hearing, at the option of the board or administrative law judge, may be conducted in person, by telephone, or virtually. When not conducted in person, all exhibits will be delivered to the board or administrative law judge no less than two business days prior to the hearing.

**3.3(6)** Oral proceedings will be recorded either by mechanized means or by certified shorthand reporters. Parties requesting that the hearing be recorded by certified shorthand will bear the costs. Copies of tapes of oral proceedings or transcripts of certified shorthand reporters will be paid for by the requester.

**3.3(7)** Any party appealing the issuance of a notice of award may petition for stay of the award pending its review. The petition will be filed with the notice of appeal and state the reasons justifying a stay. The filing of the petition for stay does not automatically stay the award. The board may grant a stay when it concludes that substantial legal or factual questions exist as to the propriety of the award, the party will suffer substantial and irreparable injury without the stay, and the interest of the public or licensees will not be significantly harmed. A stay may be vacated at any time upon application by any party or the board on its own motion with prior notice to all parties.

**3.3(8)** The record of the contested case includes all materials specified in Iowa Code section 17A.12(6) and any other relevant procedural documents regardless of their form.

**3.3(9)** The board or administrative law judge may request the parties to submit proposed findings and conclusions or briefs.

**3.3(10)** Any request for continuance needs to be in writing, specifying the grounds, and filed no later than seven business days prior to hearing.

**3.3(11)** Requests for rehearing need to be made to the board within 20 days of issuing a final decision. A rehearing may be granted when new legal issues are raised, new evidence is available, an obvious mistake is corrected, or when the decision is not necessary to exhaust administrative remedies.

**3.3(12)** Judicial review of the board's final decision may be sought in accordance with the contested case provisions of Iowa Code section 17A.19.

**193—3.4(546) Procedures for board referral to an administrative law judge.** The board, in its discretion, may refer a vendor appeal for hearing before a qualified administrative law judge. The hearing procedures will be substantially the same, but the ruling of an administrative law judge acting as the sole presiding officer will constitute a proposed decision. Board review of a proposed decision will be according to Iowa Code section 17A.15(2) and this chapter. Nothing in this rule will prevent the board from hearing a vendor appeal with the assistance of an administrative law judge. This rule merely authorizes an alternative procedure. The appealing vendor may also request that an administrative law judge act as presiding officer pursuant to 193—subrule 7.10(2).

**3.4(1)** The proposed decision will become the final decision of the board 14 days after mailing of the proposed decision, unless prior to that time a party submits an appeal of the proposed decision, or the board seeks review on its own motion.

**3.4(2)** Notice of an appeal for review of a proposed decision or notice of the board's own review will be mailed to all parties by the board's executive officer. Within 14 days after mailing of the notice of appeal or the board's review, any party may submit to the board exceptions to and a brief in support of or in opposition to the proposed decision, copies of which will be mailed by the submitting party to all other parties to the proceeding. The board's executive officer will notify the parties if oral argument will be heard and specify whether oral argument will be heard in person, by telephone or virtually. The executive officer will schedule the board's review of the proposed decision not less than 30 days after mailing of the notice of appeal or the board's own review.

**3.4(3)** Failure to appeal a proposed decision will preclude judicial review unless the board reviews on its own motion.

**3.4(4)** Review of a proposed decision will be based on the record and limited to the issues raised in the hearing. The issues will be specified in the notice of appeal of a proposed decision. The party requesting the review will be responsible for transcribing any tape of the oral proceedings or arranging for a transcript of oral proceedings reported by a certified shorthand reporter.

**3.4(5)** Each party will have the opportunity to file exceptions and present briefs. The executive officer may set deadlines for the submission of exceptions or briefs. If oral argument will be held, the executive officer shall notify all parties of the date, time and location at least ten days in advance.

**3.4(6)** The board will not receive any additional evidence, unless it grants an application to present additional evidence. Any such application will be filed by a party at least five business days in advance of oral argument. Additional evidence will be allowed only upon a showing that it is material to the outcome and that there were good reasons for failure to present it at hearing. If an application to present additional evidence is granted, the board will order the conditions under which it shall be presented.

**3.4(7)** The board's final decision will be written and may incorporate all or part of the proposed decision.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 546.10.