Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 481—Chapter 280
"Fire Control Administration"

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 10A.511
State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code section 10A.511

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 27, 2026 9:30 a.m.	Ledges Conference Room 6200 Park Avenue Des Moines, Iowa

Information on virtual participation will be available on the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing's website prior to the hearing.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

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Des Moines, Iowa 50321
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Purpose and Summary

This proposed rulemaking rescinds subrule 280.8(2) and adopts a new subrule 280.8(2). Iowa Code section 10A.511(3) directs the Director to promulgate fire safety rules applicable to enforcement or inspection requirements by the Department regarding fire hazards or fire safety or protection in any establishment, building or structure. Subrule 280.8(2) was mistakenly amended during the Red Tape Review of Chapter 280. This rulemaking proposes to return subrule 280.8(2) to its previous form and, by so doing, implement Iowa Code section 10A.511.

Analysis of Impact

1. **Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:**

- **Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:**

Members of the industry will bear the costs of this proposed rulemaking by operating in compliance with the proposed subrule.

- **Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:**

The public will benefit because this proposed rulemaking promotes safety, health, and protection of property.

2. **Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:**

- **Quantitative description of impact:**

Costs are incurred by individuals or businesses by complying with the standards set out in proposed subrule 280.8(2).

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

There is a positive impact to both the public and the regulated industry in maintaining industry standards that are safe and modern. In 2022, local fire departments responded to an estimated 1.5 million fires in the United States, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Approximately 35 percent of those fires occurred in or on structures. These fires resulted in 2,790 civilian deaths, 11,720 civilian fire injuries and $15 billion of direct property damage. The overall estimate for total fire incidents was 50 percent lower than in 1980. Property loss was 20 percent lower than in 1980. Safety standards save lives and protect property.

3. **Costs to the State:**

- **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**

Costs to the Department include staff ensuring compliance with the proposed subrule. Costs to the Department also include costs for staff that already exist in day-to-day operations of the agency.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

There is no anticipated effect on State revenues.

4. **Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:**

There are no specific financial costs to implement or enforce this proposed rulemaking outside of any costs associated with the Department's statutory duties identified and set forth above. The costs of this proposed rulemaking are directly associated with the Department's general functions. This proposed rulemaking does not add to the costs of the Department or public in excess of general functions. The benefits include clear and consistent implementation of applicable Iowa Code.

5. **Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:**

There are no less restrictive alternatives to this proposed rulemaking. The purpose of this proposed rulemaking is to return the subrule to its prior form and update the International Building Code to the 2024 edition. There is no less costly or intrusive method for achieving the purpose of this proposed rulemaking.

6. **Alternative methods considered by the agency:**

- **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

See response in Section 5 above.

- **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

See response in Section 5 above.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

- Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.
- Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.
- Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

This proposed rulemaking is meant to ensure public safety and provide for consistency and uniformity in the industry. To exempt small businesses from adhering to this proposed rulemaking would jeopardize any member of the public who sought services from that business, as well as the employees of the business. The risk to the public is greater than the potential harm or cost to the small business. Additionally, if a small business identified that the proposed rulemaking is overly burdensome and the goal of which could be achieved in a manner that would reduce the impact on the small business, the business could utilize the established variance process set forth by the Department.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind subrule 280.8(2) and adopt the following **new** subrule in lieu thereof:

280.8(2) The following chapters and sections of the International Building Code, 2024 edition, published by the International Code Council, as amended by rule 481—301.3(10A):

a. Chapter 2.
b. Chapter 3.
c. Chapter 4.
d. Chapter 5.
e. Chapter 6.
f. Chapter 7.
g. Sections 804 and 805.