RA 26-196

IOWA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM[495]

Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 495—Chapter 1
"Organization"

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 97B.4 and 97B.15

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Executive Order 10 and Iowa Code sections 17A.3, 97B.4, and 97B.15

Public Hearing

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

August 26, 2026 3 to 3:30 p.m.	IPERS Boardroom 7401 Register Drive Des Moines, Iowa Via videoconference call: Join online meeting Meeting ID: 275 109 054 101 443 Passcode: Uf6u9vH3

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System (IPERS) no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

Cheryl Vander Hart
Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System
7401 Register Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Phone: 515.281.7623
Email: cheryl.vanderhart@ipers.org

Purpose and Summary

This proposed chapter was reviewed as part of the Red Tape Review process laid out in Executive Order 10. As a result of this review, IPERS removed restricted terms, combined or eliminated duplicative language, and made editorial updates to ensure the chapter reflects current policies and procedures. IPERS is a State retirement system that provides for the payment of annuities, enables employees to care for themselves in retirement, improves public employment within the State, reduces excessive personnel turnover, and offers suitable attraction to public service. IPERS is required to administer the retirement system.

Analysis of Impact

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

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

This proposed rulemaking does not have a cost to the public.

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

This proposed rulemaking will benefit all IPERS members and beneficiaries and IPERS-covered public employers.

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:**

This proposed chapter will benefit over 2,000 IPERS-covered employers and over 400,000 IPERS members by removing restrictive terms and reducing duplicative terms found in rule and in the Iowa Code.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

This proposed rulemaking will benefit all IPERS members and beneficiaries and IPERS-covered public employers.

3. **Costs to the State:**

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

IPERS has always incurred personnel and other administrative costs associated with implementing the agency's administrative rules while carrying out agency functions. Implementation of this proposed rulemaking adds no additional expense.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

This proposed rulemaking will not impact State revenues. IPERS is a trust fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund of the State.

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

IPERS is required to adopt rules to regulate and provide for the nature and extent of the proofs and evidence, and their method of taking, in order to establish the right to benefits authorized under Iowa Code chapter 97B.

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

IPERS has not identified any less costly methods or less intrusive methods.

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

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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?

The proposed rulemaking does not create a substantial impact on small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 495—Chapter 1 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 1
ORGANIZATION

495—1.1(97B) Organization.

1.1(1) IPERS administers the retirement system created by Iowa Code chapter 97B. Specific powers and duties of IPERS, the chief executive officer, the board, the committee, and agency staff are set forth in Iowa Code chapter 97B and these rules.

1.1(2) Operational units within IPERS shall develop and administer policies and procedures governing retirement system programs, including accounting functions for the collection of funds from employers and employee members; disbursement of retirement benefits, death benefits, lump sum payments, and disability retirement benefits; training to employers and subsequent review of employer records for compliance with Iowa Code chapter 97B, rules and policies; preparation and release of informational newsletters and the annual report; and investment of funds contributed to the retirement system by employers and employee members. IPERS is also the state administrator to the federal Social Security Administration pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 97C.

495—1.2(97B) Definitions. Unless otherwise prescribed by federal or state regulations, the terms used in this chapter have the following meanings:

"Board" means the IPERS' investment board as created in Iowa Code section 97B.8A.

"Chief benefits officer" means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 97B.4(3)*"b."*

"Chief executive officer" means the same as described in Iowa Code section 97B.3.

"Chief investment officer" means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 97B.4(3)*"a."*

"Committee" means the benefits advisory committee created pursuant to Iowa Code section 97B.8B.

"Internal Revenue Code" means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 422.3.

"IPERS" or *"system"* means the Iowa public employees' retirement system created pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 97B and as an independent agency within the executive branch of state government to administer Iowa Code chapter 97B.

495—1.3(97B) Administration. The chief executive officer, through the chief investment officer and the chief benefits officer, may take any action the officers deem necessary for the administration of the retirement system under Iowa Code chapters 97, 97B, and 97C.

1.3(1) *Location.* IPERS' headquarters is located at 7401 Register Drive, Des Moines, Iowa. General correspondence, inquiries, requests for information or assistance, complaints, or petitions shall be addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System, P.O. Box 9117, Des Moines, Iowa 50306-9117.

1.3(2) *Business hours.* Business hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding officially designated holidays.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 97B.