Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 283—Chapter 19
"Court Reporter Equipment Grant Program"

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 256.178 and 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 647, division VI

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 647, division VI

Public Hearing

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

October 7, 2025 4 p.m.	Room B50 Grimes State Office Building Des Moines, Iowa

Public Comment

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

David Ford, Bureau Chief
Bureau of Iowa College Aid
400 East 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Email: david.ford@iowa.gov

Purpose and Summary

The Commission proposes a new Chapter 19 pursuant to 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 647, division VI. The proposed rulemaking defines key terms used in this chapter, outlines the eligibility requirements for applicants, and explains the process used to award grants under the program.

Analysis of Impact

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

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

In general, the proposed rulemaking does not impose requirements that would add an administrative burden beyond the provisions already established in law. The rulemaking establishes institutional eligibility requirements, establishes program eligibility requirements, and illustrates the awarding process, none of which impose a measurable cost.

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

Iowa residents, eligible institutions, and the Commission will benefit from the rulemaking since it clarifies the processes by which Iowans will apply for and qualify for the Court Reporter Equipment Grant Program and illustrates the application process for eligible institutions.

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:**

The rulemaking does not impose measurable costs beyond those imposed by law.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

The proposed rulemaking requires an applicant institution to apply on or before October 1 prior to the academic year in which the institution plans to participate in the program. This application deadline will provide the Commission adequate time to update systems and train institutional staff and will provide adequate time for students who may attend the applicant institution to apply for funding.

3. **Costs to the State:**

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

The rulemaking is not anticipated to have any implementation or enforcement costs beyond those of the legislation it is intended to implement.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

The rulemaking is not anticipated to have any effects on State revenues beyond those of the legislation it is intended to implement.

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

The benefit of the proposed rulemaking is to publicly illustrate the process that will be used to consistently administer and disburse the grants and articulate criteria and general provisions of eligibility.

The cost of inaction would be confusion about and inconsistency in the process and criteria to be used in the application for and awarding of funds under the grant.

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

Adopting Chapter 19 is the most efficient approach to outline the clarifications needed to administer the Court Reporter Equipment Grant Program under 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 647, division VI.

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

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

No other methods were seriously considered because the proposed approach is the most cost-efficient and minimizes potential confusion among Iowans.

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

The alternative methods were rejected because they would lead to informational burdens on students, eligible institutions, and the Commission.

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 is not expected to have an impact on small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Adopt the following **new** 283—Chapter 19:

CHAPTER 19
COURT REPORTER EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

283—19.1(261) Basis for aid. Assistance available under the court reporter equipment grant program is for Iowa residents who are enrolled in a court reporter program at an eligible college or university.

283—19.2(261) Definitions. As used in this chapter:

"Approved program" means a court reporter program that meets the definition of an eligible program of study in 283—Chapter 10.

"Eligible institution" means a community college established under Iowa Code chapter 260C, an institution of higher learning governed by the state board of regents, or an accredited private institution as defined in Iowa Code section 256.183.

"Iowa resident" means the same as defined in rule 283—10.2(256).

"Semester" means the fall, spring, or summer term of enrollment at an eligible institution, if the eligible institution is on a semester system, or the equivalent, if the institution is on a system other than a semester system.

283—19.3(261) Eligible applicant. An eligible applicant is enrolled in an approved program at an eligible institution and completes the applications the college student aid commission (commission) deems necessary on or before the date established by the commission.

283—19.4(261) Awarding of funds.

19.4(1) *Selection criteria.* All eligible applicants will be considered for an award.

19.4(2) *Extent of award and maximum award.* The maximum award will be established annually by the commission, but will not exceed $2,000 annually.

19.4(3) *Priority for awards.* In the event that funds available are insufficient to provide maximum awards to all eligible applicants, awards are prioritized in the following order:

a. Eligible applicants who are Iowa residents, are in their first year in the approved program, and are employed in a court-related job, by application date.

b. Eligible applicants who are not Iowa residents, are in their first year in the approved program, and are employed in a court-related job, by application date.

c. Eligible applicants who are Iowa residents, are not in their first year in the approved program, and are employed in a court-related job, by application date.

d. Eligible applicants who are not Iowa residents, are not in their first year in the approved program, and are employed in a court-related job, by application date.

19.4(4) *Awarding process.*

a. The commission will provide notice of the eligibility criteria and maximum award to participating eligible institutions annually to authorize awarding.

b. Eligible institutions will inform students applying for admission to the approved program of the availability of the court reporter equipment grant program.

c. The commission will designate eligible applicants for awards.

d. Eligible institutions will verify eligible applicants' enrollment in the approved program following institutional verification of enrollment.

e. Eligible applicants will submit documentation of their court reporter equipment or software purchase to the commission.

f. The commission will reimburse the eligible applicant for court reporter equipment or software purchases in the amount of the maximum award specified under subrule 19.4(2).

g. The commission will periodically investigate and review compliance of eligible institutions participating in this program with the criteria established in Iowa Code section 256.231 as enacted by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 647, division VI, and this rule.

283—19.5(261) Institutional application process. Following the first year of administration of the court reporter equipment grant program by the commission, an institution requesting to participate in the program will apply to the commission using the commission's designated application. An applicant institution will provide the commission with documentation establishing the applicant institution's eligibility as an eligible institution that offers an approved program. Applicant institutions will submit the application and documentation establishing the applicant institution's eligibility before October 1 of the year prior to the beginning of the academic year for which the applicant institution is applying for participation.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 256.231 as enacted by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 647, division VI.