ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE BOARD, IOWA[351]

Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 351—Chapter 1
"Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board"

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 68A and 68B

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code chapters 68A and 68B and Executive Order 10

Public Hearing

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

October 21, 2025 9 to 9:30 a.m.	Via virtual meeting/videoconference meet.google.com/def-amxu-ztg Or dial: 443.892.2873 Passcode: 459 114 569#

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board (IECDB) no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

Kimberly Murphy, Deputy Director
Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board
Jessie M. Parker Building
510 East 12th Street, Suite 1A
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Phone: 515.423.4112
Email: kim.murphy2@iowa.gov

Purpose and Summary

This proposed rulemaking includes revised administrative rules based on the requirements of Executive Order 10. Chapter 1 provides organizational information regarding IECDB and the process used to issue advisory opinions. Chapter 1 is proposed to be rescinded and readopted with revisions to align with Executive Order 10.

Analysis of Impact

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

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

There is no expected additional cost to the State or stakeholders governed by Iowa Code chapters 68A and 68B.

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

The State and stakeholders governed by Iowa Code chapters 68A and 68B will benefit.

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:**

No quantitative impact is expected. The changes to these rules will not impact the operations of IECDB, and IECDB will still operate consistent with Iowa Code chapters 68A and 68B.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

No qualitative impact is expected.

3. **Costs to the State:**

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

No costs will be borne by any agency. IECDB will still operate consistent with Iowa Code chapters 68A and 68B.

- **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:**

Not applicable. IECDB will still operate consistent with Iowa Code chapters 68A and 68B.

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

Not applicable.

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?

Not applicable.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 351—Chapter 1 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 1
IOWA ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE BOARD

351—1.1(68A,68B) General agency description.

1.1(1) *Board established.* The Iowa ethics and campaign disclosure board is established as an independent agency of the executive branch of state government with the authority, powers, and duties set out in Iowa Code chapters 68A and 68B.

1.1(2) *Election of officers.* On an annual basis at the board's first meeting after April 30, the members shall elect a chair and vice chair, and members may be reelected or elected to a different office.

1.1(3) *Board meetings.* Meetings of the board are held at the call of the chair or at the request of at least four board members. Minutes of meetings are available for viewing via the board's website.

1.1(4) *Voting and procedure.* Four board members constitute a quorum for conducting the business of the board. An affirmative vote of four board members is required for a motion to pass. The meetings shall be generally conducted according to rules of parliamentary procedure.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 68B.32 and 68B.32A.

351—1.2(68B) Requirements for requesting board advisory opinions.

1.2(1) *Who may request opinion.* Any person subject to the board's jurisdiction may request a board advisory opinion. A governmental entity or local government official or employee not under the board's jurisdiction may request a board advisory opinion on an issue subject to the board's jurisdiction. A person requesting an opinion on the application of the ethics and lobbying laws in Iowa Code chapter 68B as applied to the legislative branch of state government shall be referred to the senate and house ethics committees. The board may on its own motion issue opinions without receiving a formal request.

1.2(2) *Form of request.* The request for an opinion shall be in writing and shall describe the specific transaction, conduct, or activity that the requesting person plans to undertake or is presently undertaking.

1.2(3) *Jurisdiction.* The board will issue opinions pertaining only to Iowa Code chapters 68A and 68B or rules adopted thereunder.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 68B.32A(12).

351—1.3(68B) Processing of advisory opinion requests; routine administrative advice.

1.3(1) Requests for board advisory opinions shall be sent to the board's legal counsel in writing.

1.3(2) After receiving a qualified opinion request, the board's legal counsel shall prepare a draft opinion for board review. Upon an affirmative vote, the board will issue an advisory opinion. Advice contained in an advisory opinion, if followed, constitutes a defense to a subsequent complaint that is based on the same facts and circumstances.

1.3(3) A person who receives an advisory opinion may, within 30 days after the issuance of the opinion, request modification or reconsideration of the opinion. A request for modification or reconsideration shall be deemed denied unless the board acts upon the request within 60 days of receipt of the request.

1.3(4) Advisory opinions are public records and shall be made available via the board's website.

1.3(5) Nothing in this rule precludes board staff from providing oral or written routine administrative advice when presented with oral or written inquiries from any person.

1.3(6) Nothing in this rule precludes a person who has received routine administrative advice from petitioning for a declaratory order. The board will refuse to issue a declaratory order to a person who has previously received a board opinion on the same question, unless the requester demonstrates a significant change in circumstances from those in the original opinion.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 68B.32A(12).

351—1.4(68B) Board member and staff code of ethics.

1.4(1) Making monetary and in-kind contributions to the committees of candidates for Iowa public office is prohibited. However, contributions to candidates for federal office are permitted.

1.4(2) Serving as an officer or member of a candidate's committee of a candidate for Iowa public office is prohibited, whether the service is volunteer or paid.

1.4(3) Making monetary or in-kind contributions to a political committee (PAC) is prohibited. However, contributions to a state party or a county central committee are permitted.

1.4(4) Running for or holding elected public office is prohibited. Running for or serving as an officer or member of any committee defined under Iowa Code chapter 68A is prohibited.

1.4(5) Public personal endorsement of a candidate or publicly taking a position in support of or opposition to a ballot issue is prohibited. This rule does not prohibit a member of the board or staff from making a public personal endorsement of a federal candidate or a federal ballot issue. Members and staff of the board may attend and participate in a presidential caucus.

1.4(6) Serving as a delegate to a county or state political party convention is prohibited.

1.4(7) Except due to service on the board, members of the board shall not be public officials or public employees.

1.4(8) Except due to service on the board, members of the board shall not be registered lobbyists in the state of Iowa.

1.4(9) The prohibitions in this rule shall not apply to the spouse or other family members of a board member or employee of the board. However, actions by a spouse or other family member may create a potential conflict of interest on the part of the board member or employee that may necessitate recusal from a matter pursuant to Iowa Code section 68B.2A.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 68B.2A and 68B.32.