Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 661—Chapter 150
"Division of Criminal Investigation Criminalistics Laboratory"

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 691.3
State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code chapter 691

Public Hearing

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

October 22, 2025 10:30 to 11 a.m.	Public Conference Room 125 Oran Pape 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 Department of Public Safety no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

Josie Wagler
215 East 7th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Email: wagler@dps.state.ia.us

Purpose and Summary

Pursuant to Executive Order 10, the Department proposes rescinding Chapter 150 and adopting a new chapter in lieu thereof. The purpose of proposed Chapter 150 is to define the capabilities of the State Criminalistics Laboratory. These rules also govern the submission of evidence to the laboratory, distribution of reports, and disposition of evidence.

Analysis of Impact

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

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

Law enforcement agencies who wish to submit evidence to the laboratory for testing and analysis will bear the costs.

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

Law enforcement agencies from around the State benefit from having trained laboratory staff performing forensic scientific analysis on evidence they submit, further aiding in investigation and prosecution of crimes.

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:**

Law enforcement agencies who wish to submit evidence to the laboratory for testing and analysis are responsible for transporting or mailing the evidence to the laboratory.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

Law enforcement agencies that wish to submit evidence to the laboratory for testing and analysis would be responsible for dedicating time out of the workday to personally deliver evidence if it is not mailed.

3. **Costs to the State:**

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

If the evidence is returned to the submitting agency via mail, the Department bears the cost of shipping.

- **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 is virtually no cost to submit evidence to the lab for analysis. Inaction could lead to lack of clarity surrounding the laboratory's capabilities and scope of work, evidence submission processes, report distribution, and disposition of evidence.

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

The Department has determined this to be the least costly and least 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:**

None were considered.

- **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?

This rulemaking is not anticipated to have a substantial impact on small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 661—Chapter 150 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 150
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION CRIMINALISTICS LABORATORY

661—150.1(691) Criminalistics laboratory. The state criminalistics laboratory created in Iowa Code section 691.1 is located, pursuant to that section, within the division of criminal investigation.

150.1(1) *Identification.* The state criminalistics laboratory will be known as the division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory. Unless the context clearly implies otherwise, the term "laboratory," when used in this chapter, means the division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory.

150.1(2) *Administration.* The laboratory will be headed by an administrator who reports to the director of the division of criminal investigation.

150.1(3) *Contact information.*

a. The address of the laboratory for receiving mail or shipped materials is Iowa DCI Criminalistics Laboratory, 2240 South Ankeny Boulevard, Ankeny, Iowa 50023.

b. The telephone number of the laboratory is 515.725.1500.

c. Information regarding the laboratory may be obtained from the department website.

NOTE: Currently, information about the laboratory may be found at www.dps.state.ia.us/DCI/Crime_Lab/index.shtml.

661—150.2(691) Purpose and scope of work. The laboratory provides forensic science services to law enforcement agencies within the state of Iowa. The laboratory will, within its capabilities, conduct analyses and comparative studies on physical evidence to aid in any criminal investigation, when requested by a prosecuting attorney, a medical examiner, or a law enforcement agency.

150.2(1) *Resource or capability limitations.*

a. The laboratory administrator may refuse any request to conduct an analysis when, in the judgment of the administrator, the laboratory is unable to adequately conduct the requested analysis, either because of resource limitations or because the analysis is not within the professional capabilities of laboratory personnel.

b. The laboratory administrator may establish a policy excluding evidence of specific types or evidence arising from certain types of cases from being accepted by the laboratory if the administrator finds that such a policy is necessary either due to resource constraints, safety concerns, or the professional capabilities of laboratory personnel. Any policy adopted pursuant to this paragraph will be made available to all county attorneys, medical examiners, and law enforcement agencies within Iowa.

c. If analysis by the laboratory of specific evidence arising from a criminal investigation in Iowa has been excluded pursuant to either paragraph 150.2(1)*"a"* or *"b,"* the administrator may, at the administrator's discretion, assist the agency requesting the analysis in locating the services of another laboratory able to perform the requested analysis.

150.2(2) *Exclusion by law.* The laboratory will only perform analyses that have arisen from, or will aid in, criminal investigations or that are otherwise provided for by law.

661—150.3(691) Laboratory capabilities. The laboratory is capable of performing any forensic scientific analysis for which a laboratory staff member has received appropriate training and for which the necessary equipment and materials are available to the staff member performing the analysis. Information regarding the current forensic science capabilities of the laboratory may be obtained in the Iowa Criminalistics Laboratory Quality Assurance Manual published by the laboratory.

661—150.4(691) Evidence submission to the laboratory.

150.4(1) Evidence may be submitted to the laboratory by:

a. Any law enforcement agency in Iowa;

b. The Iowa department of corrections;

c. Any other criminal or juvenile justice agency, with the approval of the laboratory administrator; or

d. Any other state agency, with the approval of the laboratory administrator.

150.4(2) Evidence may be submitted to the laboratory via regular, certified, or registered mail or personal service. Any evidence to be submitted to the laboratory will be entered electronically into the

laboratory information management system prior to submission. Each entry will include a description of each item to be submitted and an examination request for each item to be submitted.

NOTE: Access to the laboratory information management system is restricted to authorized users representing agencies authorized to submit evidence to the laboratory. Authorized users should contact the laboratory for instructions regarding access to the system.

150.4(3) Evidence submitted to the laboratory that is not personally delivered will be packaged in such a manner that laboratory personnel can determine that the package has not been opened while in transit. If the laboratory receives an unsealed or damaged package, the laboratory may refuse to process such evidence if the integrity of the evidence has been compromised.

661—150.5(17A,691) Distribution of reports.

150.5(1) A copy of each completed report of analyses performed by the laboratory will be provided to the submitting officer and to the prosecuting attorney. The prosecuting attorney is responsible for providing copies of any laboratory report to the defendant or defendants as required by law.

150.5(2) Results of laboratory analyses will not be made available to any unauthorized person or organization.

661—150.6(17A,691) Disposition of evidence.

150.6(1) Evidence will be returned to the submitting agency unless one of the following conditions applies:

a. Retention of the evidence would be beneficial for future laboratory analysis.

b. Returning the evidence presents a hazard to health or safety. Any required notice to the defendant of destruction of evidence pursuant to this paragraph is the responsibility of the prosecuting attorney.

150.6(2) Evidence will not be transferred or submitted to any person or agency other than the submitting agency without an applicable court order unless authorized by the submitting agency.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 691.