Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 571—Chapter 98
"Wild Turkey Hunting"

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.48, 483A.1, 483A.7, and 483A.24

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.48, 483A.1, 483A.7, and 483A.24

Public Hearing

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

October 21, 2025	6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200
1 to 2 p.m.	Des Moines, Iowa

Free Language Assistance: If you need assistance in a language other than English, contact the Department of Natural Resources at chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov or by telephone at 515.250.6886 at least seven days before the event.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el Departamento de Recursos Naturales al chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov o por teléfono a 515.250.6886 al menos siete días antes del evento.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written 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:

Chris Ensminger
6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Email: chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov

Free Language Access: If you speak a non-English language, language assistance services are available free of charge. Contact the Department at chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el Departamento al chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 98 governs spring and fall wild turkey hunting by residents and nonresidents in the State of Iowa. Four amendments are proposed to enact 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 148, which removes the requirement that the owner or the tenant select a method of take and instead makes resident turkey hunting licenses valid until filled during the applicable time of year.

Analysis of Impact

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

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

Iowa turkey hunters will bear the costs.

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

Iowa turkey hunters 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:**

There is no economic impact or cost beyond what was anticipated by the Iowa Code change.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

There is no qualitative impact beyond what was anticipated by the Iowa Code change.

3. **Costs to the State:**

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

The Department currently provides management and oversight of turkey hunting in Iowa, and those services will not change due to the proposed rulemaking.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

The proposed rulemaking does not have any effect on State revenues beyond what was anticipated by the Iowa Code.

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

Inaction would be contrary to the Iowa Code and lack transparency to the public.

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

No less costly or less intrusive methods exist.

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

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

No alternative methods were seriously considered by the agency.

- **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 have any impact on small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Amend paragraph **98.1(1)"d"** as follows:

d. Number of fall licenses. No one may apply for or obtain more than two wild turkey fall hunting licenses. ~~A hunter may obtain no more than two combination shotgun-or-archery licenses, or~~

~~two archery-only licenses, or one of each. One license of either type may be free to eligible landowners or tenants.~~

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 98.2(4) as follows:

98.2(4) *Archery-only licenses.* The total number of available fall archery-only licenses shall not be limited by zones or quotas.

ITEM 3. Amend subrule 98.2(5) as follows:

98.2(5) *Landowner/tenant licenses.* The total number of available fall landowner/tenant licenses shall not be limited by zones or quotas.

ITEM 4. Amend subrule 98.3(2) as follows:

98.3(2) Landowner/tenant licenses. An eligible resident landowner or tenant may obtain ~~a combination shotgun-or-archery license or a~~ one free ~~archery-only~~ spring turkey license or one free fall turkey license that is valid until filled using an appropriate method of take as defined for the season and only on the farm unit of the landowner or tenant. One combination shotgun-or-archery license or one archery-only license may be obtained in addition to the free spring or fall license. Nonresident landowners are not eligible for resident or landowner turkey hunting licenses.

~~*a. Spring combination shotgun-or-archery licenses.* A spring combination shotgun-or-archery license will be issued by season and will be valid only on the farm unit of the landowner or tenant.~~

~~*b. Spring archery-only licenses.* A spring archery-only license will be valid for all seasons but only on the farm unit of the landowner or tenant.~~

~~*c. Number of spring licenses.* One combination shotgun-or-archery license or one archery-only license may be obtained in addition to the free shotgun-or-archery license or the free archery-only license. If an archery-only license and a combination shotgun-or-archery license are obtained, the shotgun-or-archery license must be for season 4. If a free shotgun-or-archery license and a paid shotgun-or-archery license are obtained, one of the licenses must be for season 4.~~