

WORKERS' COMPENSATION DIVISION[876]

Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 876—Chapter 1
“Purpose and Function”

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 10A.310(1)“a,” 17A, and Executive Order 10

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code sections 17A.3(1)“a” and “b” and 84A.5

Public Hearing

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

November 3, 2026
1 p.m.

6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa
Via videoconference call:
dial-iowa-gov.zoom.us/j/81654334225?pwd=5JUj7K10vOhVPFGUp2QWlyI2imRXx9.1

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Workers' Compensation Division no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

William Grell
Interim Workers' Compensation Commissioner
Iowa Workers' Compensation Division
6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Phone: 515.829.5993
Email: william.grell@dia.iowa.gov

Purpose and Summary

The purpose of Chapter 1 is to provide the purpose and function of the Workers' Compensation Division. The chapter explains the functions of the Division, including compliance and adjudication and provides the public with contact information for the Division.

In conducting a comprehensive review of Chapter 1 in accordance with the mandates of Executive Order 10, language is proposed to be changed to replace outdated statutory references, language, and information. Additionally, the Division's address and website information is proposed to be updated.

Analysis of Impact

1. Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:

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

Costs are not generally incurred by the public as a result of this chapter.

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

The general public will benefit from having updated and accurate information regarding the purpose and function of the Division, as well as updated contact information.

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:**

Not applicable.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

Not applicable.

3. Costs to the State:

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

The costs to the Division to implement and enforce this proposed chapter involve two full-time compliance administrators, two docket clerks, one paralegal, one hearing scheduler, one administrative assistant, one records clerk, and 11 deputy workers' compensation commissioners. There are also costs for a commissioner and chief deputy commissioner, but these positions are currently open.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

There are no proposed changes to the agency's budget and no anticipated effect on State revenues.

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

The benefit of this proposed rulemaking is to have an accurate description of the function and purpose of the Division, along with current contact information. Inaction is not an option because rulemaking is the legally required method to comply with the Iowa Code and the mandates of Executive Order 10.

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

There are no other legally permissible options, and the proposed rulemaking is not costly or intrusive.

6. Alternative methods considered by the agency:

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

There are no other legally valid options, and the proposed rulemaking is not costly or intrusive.

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

No other legally valid methods exist, and the proposed rulemaking is not costly or intrusive.

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?

Chapter 1 does not substantially impact small businesses because it is solely informative in nature and does not contain any compliance or other requirements.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 876—Chapter 1 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 1
PURPOSE AND FUNCTION

876—1.1(86,17A) Purpose and function. The function of the workers’ compensation division of the department of inspections, appeals, and licensing is to adjudicate the rights and duties of persons provided for in Iowa Code chapters 10A, 85 through 85B, and 87 and these rules and to administer and enforce the provisions of Iowa Code chapters 10A, 85 through 85B, and 87 and these rules. The indicated chapters provide for the rights and duties of persons injured in employment and the responsible employers and insurance carriers. The chapters are commonly referred to as the workers’ compensation chapters of the Iowa Code. The Iowa workers’ compensation commissioner is the executive head of the workers’ compensation division who serves at the pleasure of the governor, subject to the confirmation of the senate. Two major sections within the division, compliance and adjudication, carry out the purpose of the division as set out by the laws of this state.

1.1(1) Compliance section. The compliance section prepares and distributes literature concerning workers’ compensation laws, rates, judicial decisions, and statistics; responds to written and oral inquiries regarding the law; conducts conferences and training sessions; provides appropriate forms for use in matters under the jurisdiction of the division; establishes and monitors files arising from claims of work-related injuries and illness; and informs parties to a claim of their rights and responsibilities.

1.1(2) Adjudication section. The adjudication section determines, by adjudicative means, the rights and liabilities of parties in a disputed claim by conducting hearings and rendering decisions, approving settlements in accordance with the statutes, and conducting appeals within the division.

876—1.2(86,17A) Location. Interested persons may contact the Iowa workers’ compensation commissioner in person or by mail at 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100, Des Moines, Iowa 50321-1371; by telephone at 515.725.4120 or 1.800.645.4583; by fax at 515.281.6501; or at the website address at dial.iowa.gov/hearings/workers-comp.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.3(1) “a” and “b” and 84A.5.