Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 491—Chapter 7
"Greyhound Racing"

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 99D.7, 99D.9B(5), 99D.23(1) and 99D.25

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code chapter 99D

Public Hearing

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

November 18, 2025	6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100
9 a.m.	Des Moines, Iowa

Public Comment

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

Barb Blake
Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission
6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Email: barb.blake@iowa.gov

Purpose and Summary

In accordance with Executive Order 10, the Commission is reviewing all of its rules prior to the agency review date of December 31, 2026. The Commission administers and enforces Iowa Code chapter 99D, which authorizes horse and dog racing in Iowa. The Commission is reviewing rules related to racing before 2026 to make any repromulgated rules effective in time for the 2026 racing season, which starts in May.

Chapter 7 of the Commission's rules provides licensing and competition standards for greyhound racing. However, live greyhound racing in Iowa has not taken place since 2022. Thus, the proposed rulemaking rescinds Chapter 7 in its entirety to reflect that live greyhound racing is no longer taking place in Iowa.

Analysis of Impact

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

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

Rescinding rules related to greyhound racing will not impose additional costs because it will reduce the overall number of rules and eliminate provisions dealing only with an activity that is no longer occurring in Iowa.

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

Other licensees approved by the Commission (for example, facility licensees, qualified sponsoring organizations, or occupational licensees) may benefit from the rescission of Chapter 7. Rescinding the chapter will reduce uncertainty or confusion about whether a rule located in Chapter 7 is potentially applicable to licensees' other activities.

In addition, it is plausible that animal welfare organizations or other organizations advocating for the cessation of greyhound racing across the country or the world could view the proposed rescission of Chapter 7 as a benefit insofar as it reduces the likelihood of live greyhound racing resuming in Iowa.

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:**

Rescinding rules related to greyhound racing is unlikely to have any quantitative impact.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

Rescinding rules related to greyhound racing may have a net positive qualitative impact on licensees. Rescinding the entire chapter reduces licensees' regulatory and compliance obligations.

3. **Costs to the State:**

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

Because the entire chapter is proposed for rescission, there are no anticipated implementation or enforcement costs for the agency.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

Rescinding rules related to greyhound racing is not anticipated to impact State revenues.

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

This comparison weighs in favor of the proposed rulemaking. If the rulemaking is completed, the costs are minimal or nonexistent and the benefits are a reduction in possible confusion or uncertainty for regulated licensees. By contrast, inaction would leave a mostly vestigial chapter of rules in the Iowa Administrative Code with no ongoing enforcement of them.

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

The Commission has not identified less costly or less intrusive methods for rescinding rules related to greyhound racing. The Arkansas Racing Commission similarly began a rescission process for its greyhound rules in 2024 after live greyhound racing ceased in Arkansas in 2022.

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

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

The Commission considered retaining Chapter 7 to avoid implying (by rescinding the rules) that licensees under Iowa Code chapter 99D who formerly conducted live greyhound racing would no longer be authorized to operate at all.

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

Because the basis for facility licensing is statutory and does not stem from Chapter 7, elimination of outdated or unnecessary provisions outweighed retaining the rules. The Commission believes former greyhound racing facilities licensed under Iowa Code chapter 99D will remain able to operate if they have obtained a license to conduct gambling games at a racetrack under Iowa Code section 99F.4A.

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 rules do not have a substantial impact on small business. Rescinding a chapter is inherently less stringent than leaving the chapter in place.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind and reserve **491—Chapter 7**.