

of the department of natural resources shall notify the senate standing committee on natural resources and environment, the house of representatives standing committee on environmental protection, and the administrative rules review committee of the request or notice if the general assembly is in session. If the general assembly is not in session, the director shall notify the legislative council and the administrative rules review committee. The director shall also provide the committees or the legislative council and the administrative rules review committee with copies of any state implementation plan prepared by the department pursuant to such a request or notice not less than sixty days prior to the submission of the state implementation plan to the United States environmental protection agency.

2. Within a reasonable amount of time following receipt of the state implementation plan, if the general assembly is in session, the senate standing committee on natural resources and environment and the house of representatives standing committee on environmental protection shall convene public hearings to receive comments from agencies of government and other interested parties on the prospective impact of the state implementation plan on this state's economy and environment, including impacts on energy use, the environment, economic development, utility costs and rates, transportation fuel costs, and industrial competitiveness. If the general assembly is not in session, the legislative council may convene public hearings for the same purposes.

3. The department shall not implement the state implementation plan through the use of emergency rules adopted under section 17A.4, subsection 2, or made effective under section 17A.5, subsection 2.

4. In the absence of a recommendation or other act of the general assembly, or of the legislative council if the general assembly is not in session, endorsing the state implementation plan, the director shall not submit to the United States environmental protection agency any state implementation plan related to ozone transport which would impose emission controls in Iowa more stringent than necessary for Iowa to demonstrate attainment with any national ambient air quality standard for ozone, unless all of the following can be shown:

a. Emissions from other than natural sources located within the state of Iowa contribute significantly to nonattainment of an ozone standard in another state.

b. Technically feasible emission reductions in such other nonattaining state would not permit the nonattaining state to demonstrate attainment and maintenance of an ozone standard.

c. Technically and economically feasible emission reductions in the state of Iowa will significantly benefit or enable a nonattaining state to achieve the ozone standard.

Approved March 31, 1997

CHAPTER 13

REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS FOR POSTSECONDARY SCHOOLS

H.F. 320

AN ACT increasing the exceptions to the registration requirements for postsecondary schools, and eliminating an exemption for nondegree specialty vocational training programs from the accreditation requirement for postsecondary schools.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 261B.3A, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

261B.3A REQUIREMENT.

A school offering courses or programs of study leading to a degree in the state of Iowa shall be accredited by an agency or organization approved or recognized by the United States department of education or a successor agency and be approved for operation by the appropriate state agencies in all other states in which it operates or maintains a presence. ~~A school is exempt from this section if the programs offered by the school are limited to nondegree specialty vocational training programs.~~

Sec. 2. Section 261B.11, Code 1997, is amended by adding the following new subsection: NEW SUBSECTION. 11. Postsecondary educational institutions offering programs limited to nondegree specialty vocational training programs.

Approved March 31, 1997

CHAPTER 14**COMMUNITY COLLEGE RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

S.F. 233

AN ACT concerning eligible alternative retirement benefit systems for newly employed community college employees, and providing an applicability date.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 97B.42, unnumbered paragraph 7, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a person newly entering employment with a community college on or after July 1, 1990, may elect coverage under an alternative retirement benefits system, as defined in section 260C.14, subsection 18, which is issued by or through a nonprofit corporation issuing retirement annuities exclusively to educational institutions and their employees or, for persons newly entering employment on or after July 1, 1997, which is issued by or through an insurance company authorized to issue annuity contracts in this state, in lieu of coverage under the Iowa public employees' retirement system, but only if the person is already a member of the alternative retirement benefits system. An election to participate in the alternative retirement benefits system is irrevocable as to the person's employment with that community college and any other community college in this state.

Sec. 2. Section 260C.14, subsection 18, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

18. Provide for an alternative retirement benefits system, which is issued by or through a nonprofit corporation issuing retirement annuities exclusively to educational institutions and their employees, for persons newly employed after July 1, 1990, or, in addition, which is issued by or through an insurance company authorized to issue annuity contracts in this state, for persons newly employed on or after July 1, 1997, who are already members of the alternative retirement benefits system and who elect coverage under that system pursuant to section 97B.42, in lieu of coverage under the Iowa public employees' retirement system. ~~The system for employee and employer contributions under the alternative system shall be substantially the same as provided by the state board of regents under the teachers insurance annuity association college retirement equities fund, and the employer's contribution rate shall not exceed the employer's contribution rate established for employees of the state board of regents who are under that system.~~ However, the employer's annual contribution