

17A.1 Citation and statement of purpose.

1. **This chapter** may be cited as the “*Iowa Administrative Procedure Act*”.

2. **This chapter** is intended to provide a minimum procedural code for the operation of all state agencies when they take action affecting the rights and duties of the public. Nothing in **this chapter** is meant to discourage agencies from adopting procedures providing greater protections to the public or conferring additional rights upon the public; and save for express provisions of **this chapter** to the contrary, nothing in **this chapter** is meant to abrogate in whole or in part any statute prescribing procedural duties for an agency which are greater than or in addition to those provided here. **This chapter** is meant to apply to all rulemaking and contested case proceedings and all suits for the judicial review of agency action that are not specifically excluded from **this chapter** or some portion thereof by its express terms or by the express terms of another chapter.

3. The purposes of **this chapter** are: To provide legislative oversight of powers and duties delegated to administrative agencies; to increase public accountability of administrative agencies; to simplify government by assuring a uniform minimum procedure to which all agencies will be held in the conduct of their most important functions; to increase public access to governmental information; to increase public participation in the formulation of administrative rules; to increase the fairness of agencies in their conduct of contested case proceedings; and to simplify the process of judicial review of agency action as well as increase its ease and availability.

4. In accomplishing its objectives, the intention of **this chapter** is to strike a fair balance between these purposes and the need for efficient, economical and effective government administration. The chapter is not meant to alter the substantive rights of any person or agency. Its impact is limited to procedural rights with the expectation that better substantive results will be achieved in the everyday conduct of state government by improving the process by which those results are attained.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, §17A.1]

2005 Acts, ch 3, §15; 2008 Acts, ch 1032, §135