

CHAPTER 4
AGENCY PROCEDURE FOR RULE MAKING

The Iowa commission of veterans affairs hereby adopts, with the following exceptions and amendments, the Uniform Administrative Rules pertaining to procedures for agency rule making which are printed in the first Volume of the Iowa Administrative Code.

801—4.3(17A) Public rule-making docket.

4.3(2) In lieu of the words “(commission, board, council, director)”, insert “Iowa commission of veterans affairs”.

801—4.4(17A) Notice of proposed rule making.

4.4(3) In lieu of the words “(specify time period)”, insert “one year”.

801—4.5(17A) Public participation.

4.5(1) In lieu of the words “(identify office and address)”, insert “the office of the executive director. This office is located in Building A6A at Camp Dodge, 7700 NW Beaver Drive, Johnston, Iowa 50131-1902”.

801—4.6(17A) Regulatory flexibility analysis.

4.6(3) In lieu of the words “(designate office)”, insert “the office of the executive director. This office is located in Building A6A at Camp Dodge, 7700 NW Beaver Drive, Johnston, Iowa 50131-1902”.

801—4.11(17A) Concise statement of reasons.

4.11(1) General.

In lieu of the words “(specify office and address)”, insert “the office of the executive director. This office is located in Building A6A at Camp Dodge, 7700 NW Beaver Drive, Johnston, Iowa 50131-1902”.

801—4.13(17A) Agency rule-making record.

4.13(2) Contents.

In lieu of the words “(agency head)”, insert “chairperson of the commission of veterans affairs”.

801—4.14(17A,35D) Uniform waiver rule.

4.14(1) To the extent a waiver or variance is consistent with applicable statute, constitutional provision, or other provision of law, the commission of veterans affairs may issue an order, in response to the timely filing of a completed petition or on its own motion, granting a waiver or variance, in whole or in part, from the requirements of a rule under the jurisdiction of said commission, as applied to the circumstances of a specified person, if the commission finds clear and convincing evidence of all of the following:

- a.* The application of the rule to the person at issue would result in undue hardship to that person; and
- b.* The provisions of a rule subject to a petition for a waiver or variance are not specifically mandated by statute or another provision of law; and
- c.* The waiver of the rule in the specific case would not prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person; and
- d.* Substantially equal protection of public health, safety and welfare will be afforded by a means other than that prescribed in the rule for which the waiver or variance is requested.

The decision on whether the circumstances justify the granting of a waiver or variance shall be made at the discretion of the chairperson of the commission of veterans affairs based on the unique, individual circumstances set out in the petition and upon consideration of all relevant factors.

4.14(2) A waiver or variance, if granted, shall be drafted by the commission so as to provide the narrowest exception possible to the provisions of the rule. The commission may place any condition on a waiver or variance that the commission finds desirable to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

A waiver or variance shall not be permanent, unless the petitioner can show that a temporary waiver or variance would be impracticable. If a temporary waiver or variance is granted, there is no automatic right to renewal. At the sole discretion of the agency, a waiver or variance may be renewed if the agency finds that all of the factors set out in subrule 14.4(1) remain valid.

4.14(3) The burden of persuasion rests with the person who petitions the commission for the waiver or variance of a rule.

4.14(4) This uniform waiver rule shall not preclude the commission from granting waivers or variances in other contexts or on the basis of other standards if the statute or other rules authorize it to do so and the commission deems it appropriate to do so.

801—4.15(17A,35D) Procedures for granting waivers.

4.15(1) Any person may file a petition with the commission of veterans affairs requesting a waiver or variance, in whole or in part, of a commission rule on the grounds that the application of the rule to the particular circumstances of that person justifies a waiver under this uniform waiver rule. The commission chairperson shall receive written petitions.

4.15(2) A petition for a waiver or variance shall include the following information where applicable and known to the person requesting the waiver or variance:

a. The name, address, and case number or state identification number of the entity or person for whom a waiver or variance is requested.

b. A description and citation of the specific rule from which a waiver or variance is requested.

c. The specific waiver or variance requested, including the precise scope and operative period that the waiver or variance will extend.

d. The relevant facts that the petitioner believes would justify a waiver or variance. This statement shall include a signed statement from the petitioner attesting to the accuracy of the facts provided in the petition and a statement of reasons that the petitioner believes will justify a waiver or variance.

e. A history of the commission's action relative to the petitioner.

f. Any information regarding the commission's treatment of similar cases, if known.

g. The name, address, and telephone number of any person inside or outside state government who would be adversely affected by the granting of the petition or who otherwise possesses knowledge of the matter with respect to the waiver or variance request.

h. Signed releases of information authorizing persons with knowledge regarding the request to furnish the commission with information pertaining to the waiver or variance.

4.15(3) The procedural guidelines stated under the Iowa Administrative Procedure Act, Iowa Code chapter 17A, shall govern the form, filing, timing and contents of petitions for the waivers of rules and the procedural rights of persons in relation to such petitions.

4.15(4) The commission shall acknowledge a petition upon receipt. The petitioner shall serve notice on all persons to whom notice is required by any provision of law and provide a written statement to the commission attesting that notice has been served.

4.15(5) Prior to issuing an order granting or denying a waiver or variance request, the commission may request additional information from the petitioner relative to the application and surrounding circumstances.

4.15(6) An order granting or denying a request for waiver or variance shall be in writing and contain a reference to the particular person and rule or portion thereof to which the order pertains, a statement of the relevant facts and reasons upon which that action is based, and a description of the precise scope and operative period of the waiver or variance if one is issued. The commission shall grant or deny a petition for the waiver or variance of all or a portion of a rule as soon as practicable but, in any event, shall do so within 120 days of its receipt, unless the petitioner agrees to a later date. However, if a waiver petition has been filed in a contested case proceeding, the agency shall grant or deny the petition no later than the time at which the final decision in that contested case is issued. Failure of the commission to grant or deny such a petition within the required time period shall be deemed a denial of that petition by the commission.

4.15(7) Within seven days of its issuance, any order issued under the uniform waiver rule shall be transmitted to the petitioner or the person to whom the order pertains and to any other person entitled to such notice by any provision of law.

4.15(8) Subject to the provisions of Iowa Code section 17A.3(1) “e,” the commission shall maintain a record of all orders granting and denying requests for waivers or variances under this uniform waiver rule. The records shall be indexed by rule and available for public inspection.

4.15(9) Semiannually, the commission shall prepare a report identifying the rules for which a waiver or variance has been granted or denied, the number of times a waiver or variance was granted or denied for each rule, a citation to the statutory provisions implemented by these rules, a general summary of the reasons justifying the commission’s actions on the waiver or variance requests and, to the extent practicable, detailing the extent to which the granting of a waiver or variance has affected the general applicability of the rule itself and established a precedent for additional waivers or variances. Copies of this report shall be provided semiannually to the administrative rules coordinator and the administrative rules review committee.

4.15(10) The provisions of rules 4.14(35D) and 4.15(35D) shall not apply to rules that define the meaning of a statute or other provisions of law or precedent if the commission does not possess delegated authority to bind the courts to any extent with its definition and do not authorize the commission to waive any requirement created or duty imposed by statute.

4.15(11) After the commission issues an order granting a waiver, the order is a defense within its terms and the specific facts indicated therein for the person to whom the order pertains in any proceeding in which the rule in question is invoked.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.4 and 17A.9A, Iowa Code chapter 35D, and Executive Order Number 11.

[Filed emergency 12/18/92—published 1/6/93, effective 1/1/93]

[Filed 12/19/96, Notice 10/23/96—published 1/15/97, effective 2/19/97]

[Filed 4/13/01, Notice 3/7/01—published 5/2/01, effective 6/6/01]