

CHAPTER 116
HELP US STOP HUNGER PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 6/17/31

571—116.1(483A) Purpose. This chapter establishes the procedures for the administration of HUSH.

[ARC 0286D, IAB 5/13/26, effective 6/17/26]

571—116.2(483A) Definitions.

“Deer” means any wild deer legally taken in Iowa and deer confiscated as legal evidence if the confiscated carcass is considered by a conservation officer to be in good condition for donation.

“Department” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 483A.1A.

“Distributor” means the Food Bank of Iowa or other venison distribution service provider as shall be designated by future contract with the department.

“Field-dressed” means that the deer has been properly bled and cleaned of its internal organs.

“Food Bank of Iowa” means the private, nonprofit charitable organization incorporated under that name, whose mission is to alleviate hunger and reduce food waste in Iowa.

“HUSH” means the help us stop hunger program.

“Meat processor” means any business that is licensed by the department of agriculture and land stewardship’s bureau of meat and poultry inspection, the USDA, or a neighboring state’s department that is similar to Iowa’s, to process meat for retail customers.

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571—116.3(483A) Restrictions. Deer is the only species of wildlife that shall be covered by the HUSH program. The entire deer carcass must be donated, but the hunter may keep the antlers, head and cape.

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571—116.4(483A) HUSH council. There is hereby created a HUSH council. Members shall serve without compensation.

116.4(1) Membership. The HUSH council shall include the following voting members:

- a. The HUSH coordinator, who shall serve as the chairperson;
- b. An additional department representative designated by the department’s wildlife bureau chief;
- c. A representative of the Food Bank of Iowa appointed by its executive director.

116.4(2) Duties.

a. To set a fair market price, the council shall consider prices for similar services paid by retail customers in Iowa and nearby states and shall recommend to the department an annual per-deer processing payment to be made to meat processors.

b. The council shall recommend to the department an annual per-deer administrative payment to be made to the Food Bank of Iowa. The Food Bank of Iowa shall provide information to assist in this determination but shall not participate in any vote of the council regarding the recommendation of the annual per-deer administrative payment to the Food Bank of Iowa.

c. The council shall make recommendations to the department to resolve conflicts or disputes in the operation of the HUSH program as brought to it by any person or entity.

d. The council shall adopt standards for participating lockers to meet in terms of their record of violations of rules of the bureau of meat and poultry inspection and the department of natural resources.

e. The council shall advise the department in the administration of HUSH.

116.4(3) Administration. The HUSH coordinator shall convene the council as needed to conduct business. A majority vote shall be required for action or decision by the council. The chief of the department’s wildlife bureau shall have the right to overrule the council for cause and shall provide the council with justification for the reasons. A quorum to conduct business shall consist of three council members, one of whom shall be the HUSH coordinator.

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571—116.5(483A) Duties of the department. During periods of excessive deer populations, the department shall promote the harvest of deer by hunters and the donation of deer at meat processors participating in HUSH. During periods of nonexcessive deer populations, HUSH may continue with less emphasis on promotion to hunters. The department shall enlist as many meat processors as available to participate in HUSH and shall enter into uniform agreements with them. The department shall contract with the Food Bank of Iowa and pay a per-deer rate for administrative services provided.

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571—116.6(483A) Partnerships with other organizations. The department, at its own discretion, may enter into agreements with other organizations for the purpose of expanding the deer donation program. The department may include the offer of matching grants to pay for deer processing to organizations that acquire funding from sources other than the state of Iowa.

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These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 483A.

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