

351—6.8(68B) Sales or leases by regulatory agency officials or employees.

6.8(1) Prohibition. An official or employee of a regulatory agency will not directly or indirectly sell or lease any goods, real estate, or services to individuals, associations, or corporations subject to the regulatory authority of the official's or employee's agency except as provided by Iowa Code section 68B.4 and this rule. This prohibition does not apply to sales or leases that are part of the official's or employee's state duties.

6.8(2) Definitions. For purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:

"Agency" means a regulatory agency.

"Employee" means an employee of an executive branch regulatory agency and does not include an independent contractor or an official.

"Official" means a statewide elected official of a regulatory agency, an executive or administrative head or heads of a regulatory agency, a deputy executive or administrative head or heads of a regulatory agency, a member of a board or commission as defined under Iowa Code section 7E.4, or a head of a major subunit of a regulatory agency whose position involves a substantial exercise of administrative discretion or the expenditure of public funds.

"Regulatory agency" means the department of agriculture and land stewardship; department of workforce development; department of insurance and financial services; department of public safety; department of education; state board of regents; department of health and human services; department of revenue; department of inspections, appeals, and licensing; department of administrative services; public employment relations board; department of transportation; civil rights commission; department of public defense; department of homeland security and emergency management; Iowa ethics and campaign disclosure board; utilities commission; and department of natural resources.

6.8(3) Request for consent. An official's or employee's request for an agency's consent to the sale or lease of goods, real estate, or services will comply with all of the following:

a. The request will be in writing and will be filed with the official's or employee's agency at least 20 calendar days in advance of the proposed sale or lease of any goods, real estate, or services.

b. The request will include all of the following:

(1) The name of the individual, association, or corporation to which the goods, real estate, or services are to be sold or leased;

(2) The relationship of the individual, association, or corporation to the agency;

(3) A description of the goods, real estate, or services;

(4) The date or dates that the goods, real estate, or services will be delivered; and

(5) A statement by the official or employee explaining how the proposed sale or lease of the goods, real estate, or services will not violate the provisions of Iowa Code section 68B.4 or create a conflict of interest under Iowa Code section 68B.2A.

6.8(4) Agency guidelines. Iowa Code section 68B.4 and the guidelines in this subrule will be the sole legal authorities to be used by an agency in considering the granting of consent. In determining whether to grant consent, the agency will take the following guidelines into consideration:

a. The official or employee seeking consent is not the person with the authority to determine whether consent should be granted.

b. The duties and functions performed by the official or employee seeking consent are not related to the regulatory authority of the agency over the individual, association, or corporation to which the goods, real estate, or services will be sold or leased.

c. The selling or leasing of the goods, real estate, or services does not affect the official's or employee's duties or functions at the agency.

d. The selling or leasing of the goods, real estate, or services will not cause the official or employee to advocate on behalf of the individual, association, or corporation to the agency.

e. The selling or leasing of the goods, real estate, or services does not cause the official or employee to sell or lease goods, real estate, or services to the agency on behalf of the individual, association, or corporation.

f. The selling or leasing of the goods, real estate, or services will not result in a conflict of interest as provided in Iowa Code section 68B.2A.

g. The request complies with the procedural requirements of subrule 6.8(3).

h. A regulatory agency may grant blanket consent for sales or leases to classes of individuals, associations, or persons when such blanket consent is consistent with subrule 6.8(4) and the granting of single consents is impractical or impossible to determine.

These guidelines will be publicized and made known to all personnel throughout the agency.

6.8(5) Agency decision. The official's or employee's agency will issue a written consent or denial within 14 calendar days following the date the request was filed. The deadline may be extended by agreement of both the official or employee and the agency. If the request is denied or granted conditionally, the agency will state the reasons for the denial or conditional consent.

6.8(6) Appeal of denial. An official or employee who receives a denial or conditional consent may file a request with the board for a contested case proceeding pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 17A for a determination of whether the situation described in the request complies with the requirements of Iowa Code section 68B.2A or 68B.4 and this rule. The final order of the board constitutes final agency action for purposes of seeking judicial review.

6.8(7) Copy of consent filed with board. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 68B.4, an agency granting consent will file a copy of the consent with the board within 20 days of the granting of consent. The board will treat the consent as a public record. The failure to provide a copy of the consent may result in the imposition of board sanctions against the individual who granted the consent.

6.8(8) Consent not a defense. Consent granted by an agency under this rule will not constitute a defense to a complaint alleging a violation of any law or rule. It is the responsibility of the official or employee to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and rules.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 68B.4.

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