

161—1.2(216) Commission procedure for rule making.**1.2(1) *Initiation of rule-making procedures.***

a. Any person or state agency may file a petition for rule making with the commission at its location as defined in 161—paragraph 1.1(1)“*b.*” A petition is deemed filed when it is received by that office. The commission shall provide the petitioner with a file-stamped copy of the petition if the petitioner provides the commission an extra copy for this purpose. The petition must be typewritten or legibly handwritten in ink and must substantially conform to the following form:

BEFORE THE IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION		
Petition by (Name of Petitioner) for the (adoption, amendment, or repeal) of rules relating to (state subject matter).	}	PETITION FOR RULE MAKING

The petition must provide the following information:

1. A statement of the specific rule-making action sought by the petitioner including the text or a summary of the contents of the proposed rule or amendment to a rule, a citation and the relevant language to the particular portion or portions of the rule proposed to be amended or repealed.
2. A citation to any law deemed relevant to the commission’s authority to take the action urged or to the desirability of that action.
3. A brief summary of petitioner’s arguments in support of the action urged in the petition.
4. A brief summary of any data supporting the action urged in the petition.
5. The names and addresses of other persons, or a description of any class of persons, known by petitioner to be affected by, or interested in, the proposed action which is the subject of the petition.
- b.* The commission shall act upon the request within 60 days after its submission in accordance with Iowa Code section 17A.7 as amended by 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202.
- c.* The commission may initiate rule-making procedures upon its own motion in accordance with Iowa Code section 17A.4.

1.2(2) *Advice on possible rules before notice of proposed rule adoption.* In addition to seeking information by other methods, the commission may, before publication of a Notice of Intended Action under Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“*a.*,” solicit comments from the public on a subject matter of possible rule making by the commission by causing notice to be published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin of the subject matter and indicating where, when, and how persons may comment.

1.2(3) *Notice of proposed rule making—contents.* At least 35 days before the adoption of a rule, the commission shall cause Notice of Intended Action to be published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin. The Notice of Intended Action shall include:

- a.* A brief explanation of the purpose of the proposed rule;
- b.* The specific legal authority for the proposed rule;
- c.* Except to the extent impracticable, the text of the proposed rule;
- d.* Where, when, and how persons may present their views on the proposed rule; and
- e.* Where, when, and how persons may demand an oral proceeding on the proposed rule if the notice does not already provide for one.

Where inclusion of the complete text of a proposed rule in the Notice of Intended Action is impracticable, the commission shall include in the notice a statement fully describing the specific subject matter of the omitted portion of the text of the proposed rule, the specific issues to be addressed by that omitted text of the proposed rule, and the range of possible choices being considered by the agency for the resolution of each of those issues.

1.2(4) *Public participation.*

a. Written comments. For at least 20 days after publication of the Notice of Intended Action, persons may submit argument, data, and views, in writing on the proposed rule. Such written submissions should identify the proposed rule to which they relate and should be submitted to the commission at its location as defined in 161—paragraph 1.1(1)“*b.*,” or the person designated in the Notice of Intended Action.

b. Oral proceedings. The commission may, at any time, schedule an oral proceeding on a proposed rule. The commission shall schedule an oral proceeding on a proposed rule if, within 20 days after a

published Notice of Intended Action, a written request for an opportunity to make oral presentations is submitted to the commission by the administrative rules review committee, a governmental subdivision, an agency, an association having not less than 25 members, or at least 25 persons. That request must also contain the following additional information:

(1) A request by one or more individual persons must be signed by each of them and include the address and telephone number of each of them.

(2) A request by an association must be signed by an officer or designee of the association and must contain a statement that the association has at least 25 members and the address and telephone number of the person signing the request.

(3) A request by an agency or governmental subdivision must be signed by an official having authority to act on behalf of the entity and must contain the address and telephone number of the person signing the request.

c. Conduct of oral proceedings.

(1) Applicability. This paragraph applies only to those oral rule-making proceedings in which an opportunity to make oral presentations is authorized or required by Iowa Code section 17A.4(1) “b” as amended by 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, or paragraph 1.2(5) “f.”

(2) Scheduling and notice. An oral proceeding on a proposed rule may be held in one or more locations and shall not be held earlier than 20 days after notice of its location and time is published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin. That notice shall also identify the proposed rule by ARC number and citation to the Iowa Administrative Bulletin.

(3) Presiding officer. The commission, a member of the commission, or another person designated by the commission who will be familiar with the substance of the proposed rule, shall preside at the oral proceeding on a proposed rule. If the commission does not preside, the presiding officer shall prepare a memorandum for consideration by the commission summarizing the contents of the presentations made at the oral proceeding unless the commission determines that such a memorandum is unnecessary because the commission will personally listen to or read the entire transcript of the oral proceeding.

(4) Conduct of the proceeding. At an oral proceeding on a proposed rule persons may make oral statements and make documentary and physical submissions, which may include data, views, comments or arguments concerning the proposed rule. Persons wishing to make oral presentations at such a proceeding are encouraged to notify the commission at least one business day prior to the proceeding and indicate the general subject of their presentations. At the proceeding, those who participate shall indicate their names and addresses, identify any persons or organizations they may represent, and provide any other information relating to their participation deemed appropriate by the presiding officer. Oral proceedings shall be open to the public and shall be recorded by stenographic or electronic means.

1. At the beginning of the oral proceeding the presiding officer shall give a brief synopsis of the proposed rule, a statement of the statutory authority for the proposed rule, and the reasons for the commission decision to propose the rule. The presiding officer may place time limitations on individual oral presentations when necessary to ensure the orderly and expeditious conduct of the oral proceeding. To encourage joint oral presentations and to avoid repetition, additional time may be provided for persons whose presentations represent the views of other individuals as well as their own views.

2. Persons making oral presentations are encouraged to avoid restating matters which have already been submitted in writing.

3. To facilitate the exchange of information the presiding officer may, where time permits, open the floor to questions or general discussion.

4. The presiding officer shall have the authority to take any reasonable action necessary for the orderly conduct of the meeting.

5. Physical and documentary submissions presented by participants in the oral proceeding shall be submitted to the presiding officer. Such submissions become the property of the commission.

6. The oral proceeding may be continued by the presiding officer to a later time without notice other than by announcement at the hearing.

7. Participants in an oral proceeding shall not be required to take an oath or to submit to cross-examination. However, the presiding officer in an oral proceeding may question participants and permit the

questions of participants about any matter relating to that rule-making proceeding, including any prior written submissions made by those participants in that proceeding; but no participant shall be required to answer any question.

8. The presiding officer in an oral proceeding may permit rebuttal statements and request the filing of written statements subsequent to adjournment of the oral presentations.

d. Additional information. In addition to receiving written comments and oral presentations on a proposed rule according to the provisions of this rule, the commission may obtain information concerning a proposed rule through any other lawful means deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

e. Accessibility. The commission shall schedule oral proceedings in rooms accessible to and functional for persons with physical disabilities. Persons who have special requirements should contact the commission at its location as defined in 161—paragraph 1.1(1)“b” in advance to arrange access or other needed services.

1.2(5) Regulatory analysis.

a. Definition of small business. A “small business” is defined in 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 10.

b. Qualified requesters for regulatory analysis—economic impact. The commission shall issue a regulatory analysis of a proposed rule that conforms to the requirements of Iowa Code section 17A.4(2a) after a proper request from:

- (1) The administrative rules coordinator;
- (2) The administrative rules review committee.

c. Qualified requesters for regulatory analysis—business impact. The commission shall issue a regulatory analysis of a proposed rule that conforms to the requirements of 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 10(2b) after a proper request from:

- (1) The administrative rules review committee,
- (2) The administrative rules coordinator,
- (3) At least 25 or more persons who sign the request provided that each represents a different small business,
- (4) An organization representing at least 25 small businesses. That organization shall list the name, address and phone number of not less than 25 small businesses it represents.

d. Time period for analysis. Upon receipt of a timely request for a regulatory analysis the commission shall adhere to the time lines described in 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 10(4).

e. Contents for request. A request for a regulatory analysis is made when it is mailed or delivered to the commission. The request shall be in writing and satisfy the requirements of 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 10(1).

f. Contents of concise summary. The contents of the concise summary shall conform to the requirements of 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 10(4,5).

g. Publication of a concise summary. The commission shall make available to the maximum extent feasible, copies of the published summary in conformance with 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 10(5).

h. Regulatory analysis contents—rules review committee or rules coordinator. When a regulatory analysis is issued in response to written request from the administrative rules review committee or the administrative rules coordinator, the regulatory analysis shall conform to the requirements of 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 10(2a), unless a written request expressly waives one or more of the items listed in the section.

i. Regulatory analysis contents—substantial impact on small business. When a regulatory analysis is issued in response to a written request from the administrative rules review committee, the administrative rules coordinator, at least 25 persons signing that request who each qualify as a small business or by an organization representing at least 25 small businesses, the regulatory analysis shall conform to the requirements of 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 10(2b).

1.2(6) Fiscal impact statement.

a. A proposed rule that mandates additional combined expenditures exceeding \$100,000 by all affected political subdivisions or agencies or entities which contract with the political subdivisions to

provide service must be accompanied by a fiscal impact statement outlining the costs associated with the rule. A fiscal impact statement must satisfy the requirements of Iowa Code section 25B.6.

b. If the commission determines at the time it adopts a rule that a fiscal impact statement upon which the rule is based contains errors, the commission shall, at the same time, issue a corrected fiscal impact statement and publish the corrected fiscal impact statement in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin.

1.2(7) *Time and manner of rule adoption.*

a. Time of adoption. The commission shall not adopt a rule until the period for making written submissions and oral presentations has expired. Within 180 days after the later of the publication of the Notice of Intended Action, or the end of oral proceedings thereon, the commission shall adopt a rule pursuant to the rule-making proceeding or terminate the proceeding by publication of a notice to that effect in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin.

b. Consideration of public comment. Before the adoption of a rule, the commission shall consider fully all of the written submissions and oral submissions received in that rule-making proceeding or any memorandum summarizing such oral submissions, and any regulatory analysis or fiscal impact statement issued in that rule-making proceeding.

c. Reliance on commission expertise. Except as otherwise provided by law, the commission may use its own experience, technical competence, specialized knowledge, and judgment in the adoption of a rule.

1.2(8) *Variance between adopted rule and published notice of proposed rule adoption.*

a. The commission shall not adopt a rule that differs from the rule proposed in the Notice of Intended Action on which the rule is based unless:

(1) The differences are within the scope of the subject matter announced in the Notice of Intended Action and are in character with the issues raised in that notice; and

(2) The differences are a logical outgrowth of the contents of that Notice of Intended Action and the comments submitted in response thereto; and

(3) The Notice of Intended Action provided fair warning that the outcome of that rule-making proceeding could be the rule in question.

b. In determining whether the Notice of Intended Action provided fair warning that the outcome of that rule-making proceeding could be the rule in question the commission shall consider the following factors:

(1) The extent to which persons who will be affected by the rule should have understood that the rule-making proceeding on which it is based could affect their interests;

(2) The extent to which the subject matter of the rule or the issues determined by the rule are different from the subject matter or issues contained in the Notice of Intended Action; and

(3) The extent to which the effects of the rule differ from the effects of the proposed rule contained in the Notice of Intended Action.

c. The commission shall commence a rule-making proceeding within 60 days of receipt of a petition for rule making seeking the amendment or repeal of a rule that differs from the proposed rule contained in the Notice of Intended Action upon which the rule is based, unless the commission finds that the differences between the adopted rule and the proposed rule are so insubstantial as to make such a rule-making proceeding wholly unnecessary. A copy of any such finding and the petition to which it responds shall be sent to petitioner, the administrative rules coordinator, and the administrative rules review committee, within 3 days of its issuance.

d. Concurrent rule-making proceedings. Nothing in this rule disturbs the discretion of the commission to initiate, concurrently, several different rule-making proceedings on the same subject with several different published Notices of Intended Action.

1.2(9) *Concise statement of reasons.*

a. General. When requested by a person, either prior to the adoption of a rule or within 30 days after its publication in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin as an adopted rule, the commission shall issue a concise statement of reasons for the rule. Requests for such a statement must be in writing and be delivered to the commission's office as defined in 161—paragraph 1.1(1)“b.” The request should indicate whether the statement is sought for all or only a specified part of the rule. Requests will be considered made on the date received.

- b. Contents.* The concise statement of reasons shall contain:
- (1) The reasons for adopting the rule;
 - (2) An indication of any change between the text of the proposed rule contained in the published Notice of Intended Action and the text of the rule as finally adopted, with the reasons for any such change;
 - (3) The principal reasons urged in the rule-making proceeding for and against the rule, and the commission's reasons for overruling the arguments made against the rule.

c. Time of issuance. After a proper request, the commission shall issue a concise statement of reasons by the time the rule is adopted or 35 days after receipt of the request, whichever is later.

1.2(10) *Contents, style, and form of rule.*

- a. Contents.* Each adopted rule by the commission shall contain the text of the rule and, in addition:
- (1) The date the commission adopted the rule;
 - (2) A brief explanation of the principal reasons for the rule-making action if such reasons are required by Iowa Code section 17A.4(1) "b" as amended by 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, or the commission in its discretion decides to include such reasons;
 - (3) A reference to all rules repealed, amended, or suspended by the rule;
 - (4) A reference to the specific statutory or other authority authorizing adoption of the rule;
 - (5) Any findings required by any provision of law as a prerequisite to adoption or effectiveness of the rule;
 - (6) A brief explanation of the principal reasons for the failure to provide for waivers to the rule if no waiver provision is included and a brief explanation of any waiver or special exceptions provided in the rule if such reasons are required by Iowa Code section 17A.4(1) "b" as amended by 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, or the commission in its discretion decides to include such reasons; and
 - (7) The effective date of the rule.

b. References to materials not published in full. When the administrative code editor decides to omit the full text of a proposed or adopted rule because publication of the full text would be unduly cumbersome, expensive, or otherwise inexpedient, the commission shall prepare and submit to the administrative code editor for inclusion in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin and Iowa Administrative Code a summary statement describing the specific subject matter of the omitted material. This summary statement shall include the title and a brief description sufficient to inform the public of the specific nature and subject matter of the proposed or adopted rules, and of significant issues involved in these rules. The summary statement shall also describe how a copy of the full text of the proposed or adopted rule, including any unpublished matter, may be obtained from the commission. The commission will provide a copy of that full text at actual cost upon request and shall make copies of the full text available for review at the state law library and may make the standards available electronically.

At the request of the administrative code editor, the commission shall provide a proposed statement explaining why publication of the full text would be unduly cumbersome, expensive, or otherwise inexpedient.

c. Style and form. In preparing its rules, the commission shall follow the uniform numbering system, form, and style prescribed by the administrative rules coordinator.

1.2(11) *Filing of rules.* The commission shall file each rule it adopts in the office of the administrative rules coordinator. The filing must be executed as soon after adoption of the rule as is practicable. At the time of filing, each rule must have attached to it any fiscal impact statement and any concise statement of reasons that was issued with respect to that rule. If a fiscal impact statement or statement of reasons for that rule was not issued until a time subsequent to the filing of that rule, the note or statement must be attached to the filed rule within five working days after the note or statement is issued. In filing a rule, the agency shall use the standard form prescribed by the administrative rules coordinator.

1.2(12) *Effectiveness of rules prior to publication.*

a. Grounds. The commission may make a rule effective after its filing at any stated time prior to 35 days after its indexing and publication in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin if it finds that a statute so provides, the rule confers a benefit or removes a restriction on some segment of the public, or that the effective date of the rule is necessary to avoid imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare. The

commission shall incorporate the required finding and a brief statement of its supporting reasons in each rule adopted in reliance upon this subrule.

b. Special notice. When the commission makes a rule effective prior to its indexing and publication in reliance upon the provisions of Iowa Code section 17A.5(2)“b”(3), the commission shall employ all reasonable efforts to make its contents known to the persons who may be affected by that rule prior to the rule’s indexing and publication. The term “all reasonable efforts” requires the commission to employ the most effective and prompt means of notice rationally calculated to inform potentially affected parties of the following: the effectiveness of the rule under the circumstances, the various alternatives available for this purpose, the comparative costs to the commission of utilizing each of those alternatives, and the harm suffered by affected persons from any lack of notice concerning the contents of the rule prior to its indexing and publication. The means that may be used for providing notice of such rules prior to their indexing and publication include, but are not limited to, any one or more of the following means: radio, newspaper, television, signs, mail, telephone, personal notice, or electronic means.

A rule made effective prior to its indexing and publication in reliance upon the provisions of Iowa Code section 17A.5(2)“b”(3) shall include in that rule a statement describing the reasonable efforts that will be used to comply with the requirements of 1.2(12)“b.”

1.2(13) *Review by commission of rules.*

a. Any interested person, association, agency, or political subdivision may submit a written request to the administrative rules coordinator requesting the commission to conduct a formal review of a specified rule. Upon approval of that request by the administrative rules coordinator, the commission shall conduct a formal review of a specified rule to determine whether a new rule should be adopted instead or the rule should be amended or repealed. The commission may refuse to conduct a review if it has conducted such a review of the specified rule within five years prior to the filing of the written request.

b. In conducting the formal review, the commission shall prepare within a reasonable time a written report summarizing its findings, its supporting reasons, and any proposed course of action. The report must include a concise statement of the commission’s findings regarding the rule’s effectiveness in achieving its objectives, including a summary of any available supporting data. The report shall also concisely describe significant written criticisms of the rule received during the previous five years, including a summary of any petitions for waiver of the rule received by the commission or granted by the commission. The report shall describe alternative solutions to resolve the criticisms of the rule, the reasons any were rejected, and any changes made in the rule in response to the criticisms as well as the reasons for the changes. A copy of the commission’s report shall be sent to the administrative rules review committee.

[ARC 8749B, IAB 5/5/10, effective 6/9/10; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 7/23/25]