

**193F—29.4(543D) Procedures for board referral to an administrative law judge.** The board, in its discretion, may refer a vendor appeal to the department of inspections and appeals for hearing before a qualified administrative law judge. The hearing procedures set forth in rule 193F—29.3(543D) and the board's rules governing contested cases shall be substantially the same, but the ruling of an administrative law judge acting as the sole presiding officer shall constitute a proposed decision. Board review of a proposed decision shall be according to Iowa Code section 17A.15(2) and this chapter and shall be subsequently appealable to the superintendent for purposes of interagency appeal and exhaustion. Nothing in this rule shall prevent the board from hearing a vendor appeal with the assistance of an administrative law judge. This rule merely authorizes an alternative procedure.

**29.4(1)** The proposed decision shall become the final decision of the board 14 days after mailing of the proposed decision, unless prior to that time a party submits an appeal of the proposed decision or the board seeks review on its own motion.

**29.4(2)** Notice of an appeal for review of a proposed decision or notice of the board's own review shall be mailed to all parties by the board's executive officer. Within 14 days after mailing of the notice of appeal or the board's review, any party may submit to the board exceptions to and a brief in support of or in opposition to the proposed decision, copies of which shall be mailed by the submitting party to all other parties to the proceeding. The board's executive officer shall notify the parties if oral argument will be heard and shall specify whether oral argument will be heard in person, by telephone or on the Iowa communications network. The executive officer shall schedule the board's review of the proposed decision not less than 30 days after mailing of the notice of appeal or the board's own review.

**29.4(3)** Failure to appeal a proposed decision will constitute a failure to exhaust administrative remedies and preclude judicial review.

**29.4(4)** Review of a proposed decision shall be based on the record and limited to the issues raised in the hearing. The issues shall be specified in the notice of appeal of a proposed decision. The party requesting the review shall be responsible for transcribing any tape of the oral proceedings or arranging for a transcript of oral proceedings reported by a certified shorthand reporter.

**29.4(5)** Each party shall have the opportunity to file exceptions and present briefs. The executive officer may set deadlines for the submission of exceptions or briefs. If oral argument will be held, the executive officer shall notify all parties of the date, time and location at least ten days in advance.

**29.4(6)** The board shall not receive any additional evidence unless the board grants an application to present additional evidence. Any such application must be filed by a party no fewer than five business days in advance of oral argument. Additional evidence shall be allowed only upon a showing that the evidence is material to the outcome and that there were good reasons for failure to present the evidence at hearing. If an application to present additional evidence is granted, the board shall order the conditions under which the evidence shall be presented.

**29.4(7)** The board's final decision shall be in writing and may incorporate all or part of the proposed decision.

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