

441—3.5(17A) Public participation.

3.5(1) *Written comments.* For at least 20 days after publication of the Notice of Intended Action, persons may submit argument, data, and views, in writing or via electronic transmission, on the proposed rule. These submissions should identify the proposed rule to which they relate and should be submitted to the Bureau of Policy Analysis, Department of Human Services, Hoover State Office Building, Fifth Floor, 1305 East Walnut, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114, or to the department's rules administrator at appeals@dhs.state.ia.us. Persons may also submit written comments on a Notice of Intended Action at the website rules.iowa.gov, which lists all Notices of Intended Action that are open for public comment.

3.5(2) *Oral proceedings.* The department may, at any time, schedule an oral proceeding on a proposed rule. The department shall schedule an oral proceeding on a proposed rule if, within 20 days after the published Notice of Intended Action, a written request for an opportunity to make oral presentations is submitted to the department by the administrative rules review committee, a governmental subdivision, a state 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 that request.

3. A request by a state 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 that request.

The department may waive technical compliance with these procedures.

The department shall determine for each rule for which oral proceedings are scheduled the number of locations at which hearings will be held throughout the state, if needed. Anyone may object to the department's decision prior to the date of the proceedings by writing the same addressee specified in the Notice of Intended Action for receiving written data, views, or arguments. The department shall review the adequacy of the number of locations in light of the comments received.

3.5(3) *Conduct of oral proceedings.*

a. Applicability. This subrule 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" or subrule 3.5(2).

b. 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.

c. Presiding officer. An employee of the department shall preside at the oral proceeding on the proposed rules and shall present a prepared statement on the substance of the rules. The presiding officer shall transcribe the proceeding or prepare a written summary of the presentations made.

d. Conduct of 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 the proceeding are encouraged to notify the department 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 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 department 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) Whenever possible, persons making oral presentations should submit their testimony 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. These submissions become the property of the department.
- (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 questioning of participants by other 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 the adjournment of the oral presentations.

3.5(4) *Additional information.* In addition to receiving written comments and oral presentations on a proposed rule according to the provisions of this rule, the department may obtain information concerning a proposed rule through any other lawful means deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

The department may send notices of proposed rule making and a request for comments to any agency, organization, or association known to it to have a direct interest or expertise pertaining to the substance of the proposed rule.

3.5(5) *Accessibility.* The department shall schedule oral proceedings in rooms accessible to and functional for persons with physical disabilities. Persons who have special requirements should contact the Bureau of Policy Analysis, Department of Human Services, at appeals@dhs.state.ia.us in advance to arrange access or other needed services.

[ARC 6345C, IAB 6/15/22, effective 8/1/22]