

CHAPTER 14

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

<p>14.03 Nonapplicability.</p> <p>14.05 General authority.</p> <p>14.091 Petition; unit of local government.</p> <p>14.131 Statement of need and reasonableness.</p> <p>14.16 Adoption of rule: chief administrative law judge; filing of rule.</p> <p>14.23 Statement of need and reasonableness.</p>	<p>14.26 Adoption of proposed rule; submission to administrative law judge.</p> <p>14.386 Procedure for adopting exempt rules; duration.</p> <p>14.389 Expedited process.</p>
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14.03 NONAPPLICABILITY.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 2. **Contested case procedures.** The contested case procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act provided in sections 14.57 to 14.69 do not apply to (a) the Minnesota municipal board, (b) the commissioner of corrections, (c) the reemployment compensation benefits program and the social security disability determination program in the department of economic security, (d) the commissioner of mediation services, (e) the workers' compensation division in the department of labor and industry, (f) the workers' compensation court of appeals, or (g) the board of pardons.

[For text of subds 3 and 3a, see M.S.1998]

History: 1999 c 107 s 66

14.05 GENERAL AUTHORITY.

[For text of subds 1 to 5, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 6. **Veto of adopted rules.** The governor may veto all or a severable portion of a rule of an agency as defined in section 14.02, subdivisions 2 and 4, by publishing notice of the veto in the State Register within 14 days of receiving a copy of the rule from the secretary of state under section 14.16, subdivision 3, 14.26, subdivision 3, or 14.386 or the agency under section 14.389, subdivision 3. This authority applies only to the extent that the agency itself would have authority, through rulemaking, to take such action. If the governor vetoes a rule or portion of a rule under this section, the governor shall notify the chairs of the legislative committees having jurisdiction over the agency whose rule was vetoed.

History: 1999 c 129 s 1

NOTE: Subdivision 6, as added by Laws 1999, chapter 129, section 1, expires June 30, 2001. Laws 1999, chapter 129, section 6.

14.091 PETITION; UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

(a) The elected governing body of a statutory or home rule city or a county may petition for amendment or repeal of a rule or a specified portion of a rule. The petition must be adopted by resolution of the elected governing body and must be submitted in writing to the agency and to the office of administrative hearings, must specify what amendment or repeal is requested, and must demonstrate that one of the following has become available since the adoption of the rule in question:

- (1) significant new evidence relating to the need for or reasonableness of the rule; or
- (2) less costly or intrusive methods of achieving the purpose of the rule.

(b) Within 30 days of receiving a petition, an agency shall reply to the petitioner in writing stating either that the agency, within 90 days of the date of the reply, will give notice under section 14.389 of intent to adopt the amendment or repeal requested by the petitioner or that the agency does not intend to amend or repeal the rule and has requested the office of administrative hearings to review the petition. If the agency intends to amend or repeal the rule in

the manner requested by the petitioner, the agency must use the process under section 14.389 to amend or repeal the rule. Section 14.389, subdivision 5, applies.

(c) Upon receipt of an agency request under paragraph (b), the chief administrative law judge shall assign an administrative law judge, who was not involved when the rule or portion of a rule that is the subject of the petition was adopted or amended, to review the petition to determine whether the petitioner has complied with the requirements of paragraph (a). The petitioner, the agency, or any interested person, at the option of any of them, may submit written material for the assigned administrative law judge's consideration within ten days of the chief administrative law judge's receipt of the agency request. The administrative law judge shall dismiss the petition if the judge determines that:

- (1) the petitioner has not complied with the requirements of paragraph (a);
- (2) the rule is required to comply with a court order; or

(3) the rule is required by federal law or is required to maintain authority to administer a federal program.

(d) If the administrative law judge assigned by the chief administrative law judge determines that the petitioner has complied with the requirements of paragraph (a), the administrative law judge shall conduct a hearing and issue a decision on the petition within 120 days of its receipt by the office of administrative hearings. The agency shall give notice of the hearing in the same manner required for notice of a proposed rule hearing under section 14.14, subdivision 1a. At the public hearing, the agency shall make an affirmative presentation of facts establishing the need for and reasonableness of the rule or portion of the rule in question. If the administrative law judge determines that the agency has not established the continued need for and reasonableness of the rule or portion of the rule, the rule or portion of the rule does not have the force of law, effective 90 days after the administrative law judge's decision, unless the agency has before then published notice in the State Register of intent to amend or repeal the rule in accordance with paragraph (e).

(e) The agency may amend or repeal the rule in the manner requested by the petitioner, or in another manner that the administrative law judge has determined is needed and reasonable. Amendments under this paragraph may be adopted under the expedited process in section 14.389. Section 14.389, subdivision 5, applies to this adoption. If the agency uses the expedited process and no public hearing is required, the agency must complete the amendment or repeal of the rule within 90 days of the administrative law judge's decision under paragraph (d). If a public hearing is required, the agency must complete the amendment or repeal of the rule within 180 days of the administrative law judge's decision under paragraph (d). A rule or portion of a rule that is not amended or repealed in the time prescribed by this paragraph does not have the force of law upon expiration of the deadline. A rule that is amended within the time prescribed in this paragraph has the force of law, as amended.

(f) The chief administrative law judge shall report the decision under paragraph (d) within 30 days to the chairs of the house and senate committees having jurisdiction over governmental operations and the chairs of the house and senate committees having jurisdiction over the agency whose rule or portion of a rule was the subject of the petition.

(g) The chief administrative law judge shall assess a petitioner half the cost of processing a petition and conducting a public hearing under paragraph (d).

(h) This section expires July 31, 2001.

History: 1999 c 193 s 1

14.131 STATEMENT OF NEED AND REASONABLENESS.

Before the agency orders the publication of a rulemaking notice required by section 14.14, subdivision 1a, the agency must prepare, review, and make available for public review a statement of the need for and reasonableness of the rule. The statement of need and reasonableness must be prepared under rules adopted by the chief administrative law judge and must include the following to the extent the agency, through reasonable effort, can ascertain this information:

(1) a description of the classes of persons who probably will be affected by the proposed rule, including classes that will bear the costs of the proposed rule and classes that will benefit from the proposed rule;

(2) the probable costs to the agency and to any other agency of the implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule and any anticipated effect on state revenues;

(3) a determination of whether there are less costly methods or less intrusive methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule;

(4) a description of any alternative methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule that were seriously considered by the agency and the reasons why they were rejected in favor of the proposed rule;

(5) the probable costs of complying with the proposed rule; and

(6) an assessment of any differences between the proposed rule and existing federal regulations and a specific analysis of the need for and reasonableness of each difference.

The statement must describe how the agency, in developing the rules, considered and implemented the legislative policy supporting performance-based regulatory systems set forth in section 14.002.

The statement must also describe the agency's efforts to provide additional notification to persons or classes of persons who may be affected by the proposed rule or must explain why these efforts were not made.

The agency must send a copy of the statement of need and reasonableness to the legislative reference library when it becomes available for public review.

History: 1999 c 250 art 3 s 1

NOTE: The amendment to this section by Laws 1999, chapter 250, article 3, section 1, is effective July 1, 2001. Laws 1999, chapter 250, article 3, section 29.

14.16 ADOPTION OF RULE; CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE; FILING OF RULE.

[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 3. **Filing.** After the agency has adopted the rule, the agency shall promptly file three copies of it in the office of the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall forward one copy of each rule filed to the revisor of statutes and to the governor.

History: 1999 c 129 s 2

14.23 STATEMENT OF NEED AND REASONABLENESS.

Before the date of the section 14.22 notice, the agency shall prepare a statement of need and reasonableness, which must be available to the public. The statement of need and reasonableness must include the analysis required in section 14.131. The statement must also describe the agency's efforts to provide additional notification to persons or classes of persons who may be affected by the proposed rules or must explain why these efforts were not made. For at least 30 days following the notice, the agency shall afford the public an opportunity to request a public hearing and to submit data and views on the proposed rule in writing.

The agency shall send a copy of the statement of need and reasonableness to the legislative reference library when it becomes available to the public.

History: 1999 c 250 art 3 s 2

NOTE: The amendment to this section by Laws 1999, chapter 250, article 3, section 2, is effective July 1, 2001. Laws 1999, chapter 250, article 3, section 29.

14.26 ADOPTION OF PROPOSED RULE; SUBMISSION TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE.

[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 3. **Review.** (a) Within 14 days, the administrative law judge shall approve or disapprove the rule as to its legality and its form to the extent that the form relates to legality, including the issues of whether the rule if modified is substantially different, as determined under section 14.05, subdivision 2, from the rule as originally proposed, whether the agency has the authority to adopt the rule, and whether the record demonstrates a rational basis for

the need for and reasonableness of the proposed rule. If the rule is approved, the administrative law judge shall promptly file three copies of it in the office of the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall forward one copy of each rule to the revisor of statutes and to the governor. If the rule is disapproved, the administrative law judge shall state in writing the reasons for the disapproval and make recommendations to overcome the defects.

(b) The written disapproval must be submitted to the chief administrative law judge for approval. If the chief administrative law judge approves of the findings of the administrative law judge, the chief administrative law judge shall send the statement of the reasons for disapproval of the rule to the agency, the legislative coordinating commission, and the revisor of statutes and advise the agency and the revisor of statutes of actions that will correct the defects. The rule may not be filed in the office of the secretary of state, nor published, until the chief administrative law judge determines that the defects have been corrected or, if applicable, that the agency has satisfied the rule requirements for the adoption of a substantially different rule.

(c) If the chief administrative law judge determines that the need for or reasonableness of the rule has not been established, and if the agency does not elect to follow the suggested actions of the chief administrative law judge to correct that defect, then the agency shall submit the proposed rule to the legislative coordinating commission for the commission's advice and comment. The agency may not adopt the rule until it has received and considered the advice of the commission. However, the agency is not required to wait for the commission's advice for more than 60 days after the commission has received the agency's submission.

(d) The administrative law judge shall disregard any error or defect in the proceeding due to the agency's failure to satisfy any procedural requirements imposed by law or rule if the administrative law judge finds:

(1) that the failure did not deprive any person or entity of an opportunity to participate meaningfully in the rulemaking process; or

(2) that the agency has taken corrective action to cure the error or defect so that the failure did not deprive any person or entity of an opportunity to participate meaningfully in the rulemaking process.

[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1998]

History: 1999 c 129 s 3

14.386 PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTING EXEMPT RULES; DURATION.

(a) A rule adopted, amended, or repealed by an agency, under a statute enacted after January 1, 1997, authorizing or requiring rules to be adopted but excluded from the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14 or from the definition of a rule, has the force and effect of law only if:

(1) the revisor of statutes approves the form of the rule by certificate;

(2) the office of administrative hearings approves the rule as to its legality within 14 days after the agency submits it for approval and files three copies of the rule with the revisor's certificate in the office of the secretary of state; and

(3) a copy is published by the agency in the State Register.

The secretary of state shall forward one copy of the rule to the governor.

A statute enacted after January 1, 1997, authorizing or requiring rules to be adopted but excluded from the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14 or from the definition of a rule does not excuse compliance with this section unless it makes specific reference to this section.

(b) A rule adopted under this section is effective for a period of two years from the date of publication of the rule in the State Register. The authority for the rule expires at the end of this two-year period.

(c) The chief administrative law judge shall adopt rules relating to the rule approval duties imposed by this section and section 14.388, including rules establishing standards for review.

(d) This section does not apply to:

(1) any group or rule listed in section 14.03, subdivisions 1 and 3, except as otherwise provided by law;

(2) game and fish rules of the commissioner of natural resources adopted under section 84.027, subdivision 13, or sections 97A.0451 to 97A.0459;

(3) experimental and special management waters designated by the commissioner of natural resources under sections 97C.001 and 97C.005;

(4) game refuges designated by the commissioner of natural resources under section 97A.085; or

(5) transaction fees established by the commissioner of natural resources for electronic or telephone sales of licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, or transfers under section 84.027, subdivision 15, paragraph (a), clause (3).

(e) If a statute provides that a rule is exempt from chapter 14, and section 14.386 does not apply to the rule, the rule has the force of law unless the context of the statute delegating the rulemaking authority makes clear that the rule does not have force of law.

History: 1999 c 129 s 4; 1999 c 231 s 19

14.389 EXPEDITED PROCESS.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 3. Adoption. The agency may modify a proposed rule if the modifications do not result in a substantially different rule, as defined in section 14.05, subdivision 2, paragraphs (b) and (c). If the final rule is identical to the rule originally published in the State Register, the agency must publish a notice of adoption in the State Register. If the final rule is different from the rule originally published in the State Register, the agency must publish a copy of the changes in the State Register. The agency must also file a copy of the rule with the governor. The rule is effective upon publication in the State Register.

[For text of subds 4 and 5, see M.S.1998]

History: 1999 c 129 s 5