

CHAPTER 14

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

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14.03 NONAPPLICABILITY.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2002]

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) proceedings under chapter 414, except as specified in that chapter, (b) the commissioner of corrections, (c) the unemployment insurance 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.

Subd. 3. **Rulemaking procedures.** (a) The definition of a rule in section 14.02, subdivision 4, does not include:

(1) rules concerning only the internal management of the agency or other agencies that do not directly affect the rights of or procedures available to the public;

(2) an application deadline on a form; and the remainder of a form and instructions for use of the form to the extent that they do not impose substantive requirements other than requirements contained in statute or rule;

(3) the curriculum adopted by an agency to implement a statute or rule permitting or mandating minimum educational requirements for persons regulated by an agency, provided the topic areas to be covered by the minimum educational requirements are specified in statute or rule;

(4) procedures for sharing data among government agencies, provided these procedures are consistent with chapter 13 and other law governing data practices.

(b) The definition of a rule in section 14.02, subdivision 4, does not include:

(1) rules of the commissioner of corrections relating to the placement and supervision of inmates serving a supervised release term, the internal management of institutions under the commissioner's control, and rules adopted under section 609.105 governing the inmates of those institutions;

(2) rules relating to weight limitations on the use of highways when the substance of the rules is indicated to the public by means of signs;

(3) opinions of the attorney general;

(4) the data element dictionary and the annual data acquisition calendar of the Department of Education to the extent provided by section 125B.07;

(5) the occupational safety and health standards provided in section 182.655;

(6) revenue notices and tax information bulletins of the commissioner of revenue;

(7) uniform conveyancing forms adopted by the commissioner of commerce under section 507.09; or

(8) the interpretive guidelines developed by the commissioner of human services to the extent provided in chapter 245A.

[For text of subd 3a, see M.S.2002]

History: 2003 c 2 art 5 s 2; 2003 c 130 s 12; 1Sp2003 c 3 art 2 s 20

14.091 PETITION; UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

(a) The elected governing body of a statutory or home rule city, a county, or a sanitary district 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).

History: *1Sp2003 c 1 art 2 s 29*

14.131 STATEMENT OF NEED AND REASONABLENESS.

By the date of the section 14.14, subdivision 1a, notice, 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, including the portion of the total costs that will be borne by identifiable categories of affected parties, such as separate classes of governmental units, businesses, or individuals;

(6) the probable costs or consequences of not adopting the proposed rule, including those costs or consequences borne by identifiable categories of affected parties, such as separate classes of government units, businesses, or individuals; and

(7) 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 under section 14.14, subdivision 1a, 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 the notice of hearing is mailed under section 14.14, subdivision 1a.

History: *2003 c 3 s 1*

14.3691 RULE REVIEW AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2002]

Subd. 2. **Schedule.** (a) Rules of the Administration Department, Agriculture Department, Education Department, Commerce Department, Corrections Department, Economic Security Department, Employee Relations Department, and Health Depart-

ment will be reviewed before and during the legislative session in 2002. Policies and procedures of the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities that would be rules if they were not exempt from chapter 14 will be reviewed before and during the legislative session in 2002.

(b) Rules of the Environmental Assistance Office, Board of Teaching, Housing Finance Agency, Human Rights Department, Human Services Department, Labor and Industry Department, and Mediation Services Bureau will be reviewed before and during the legislative session in 2003.

(c) Rules of the Natural Resources Department, Pollution Control Agency, Public Safety Department, Public Service Department, and Revenue Department will be reviewed before and during the legislative session in 2004.

(d) Rules of the State Planning Agency, Employment and Economic Development Department, Transportation Department, and Veterans Affairs Department will be reviewed before and during the legislative session in 2005.

[For text of subd 3, see M.S.2002]

History: 2003 c 130 s 12

14.388 GOOD CAUSE EXEMPTION.

Subdivision 1. Requirements. If an agency for good cause finds that the rulemaking provisions of this chapter are unnecessary, impracticable, or contrary to the public interest when adopting, amending, or repealing a rule to:

- (1) address a serious and immediate threat to the public health, safety, or welfare;
- (2) comply with a court order or a requirement in federal law in a manner that does not allow for compliance with sections 14.14 to 14.28;
- (3) incorporate specific changes set forth in applicable statutes when no interpretation of law is required; or
- (4) make changes that do not alter the sense, meaning, or effect of a rule,

the agency may adopt, amend, or repeal the rule after satisfying the requirements of subdivision 2 and section 14.386, paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (4). The agency shall incorporate its findings and a brief statement of its supporting reasons in its order adopting, amending, or repealing the rule.

After considering the agency's statement and any comments received, the Office of Administrative Hearings shall determine whether the agency has provided adequate justification for its use of this section.

Rules adopted, amended, or repealed under clauses (1) and (2) are effective for a period of two years from the date of publication of the rule in the State Register.

Rules adopted, amended, or repealed under clause (3) or (4) are effective upon publication in the State Register.

Subd. 2. Notice. An agency proposing to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule under this section must give electronic notice of its intent in accordance with section 16E.07, subdivision 3, and notice by United States mail or electronic mail to persons who have registered their names with the agency under section 14.14, subdivision 1a. The notice must be given no later than the date the agency submits the proposed rule to the Office of Administrative Hearings for review of its legality and must include:

- (1) the proposed rule, amendment, or repeal;
- (2) an explanation of why the rule meets the requirements of the good cause exemption under subdivision 1; and
- (3) a statement that interested parties have five business days after the date of the notice to submit comments to the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Subd. 3. Review by chief judge. If a rule has been disapproved by an administrative law judge, the agency may ask the chief administrative law judge to review the rule. The agency must give notice of its request for review in accordance with subdivision 2. The notice must be given no later than the date the agency requests review by the chief

judge and must include a summary of any information or arguments the agency intends to submit to the chief judge that were not submitted to the judge who disapproved the rule.

Subd. 4. Costs. The costs of any proceeding conducted by the Office of Administrative Hearings in accordance with this section must be paid by the agency seeking to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule under this section.

History: 2003 c 2 art 1 s 4; 1Sp2003 c 6 s 1

14.48 OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.2002]

Subd. 4. Mandatory retirement. An administrative law judge and compensation judge must retire upon attaining age 70. The chief administrative law judge may appoint a retired administrative law judge or compensation judge to hear any proceeding that is properly assignable to an administrative law judge or compensation judge. When a retired administrative law judge or compensation judge undertakes this service, the retired judge shall receive pay and expenses in the amount payable to temporary administrative law judges or compensation judges serving under section 14.49.

History: 1Sp2003 c 1 art 2 s 30