

RA 26-113

COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, IOWA[751]**Regulatory Analysis**

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 751—Chapter 7
“Authorized Use and Users”

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 8D

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: 2024 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2370

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

July 15, 2026
1 to 2 p.m.

ICN Director’s Conference Room
400 East 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Iowa Communications Network no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

Lori Larsen
400 East 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Phone: 515.725.4713
Email: lori.larsen@icn.state.ia.us or lori.larsen@iowa.gov

Purpose and Summary

Pursuant to Executive Order 10, the agency proposes to rescind Chapter 7 and adopt a new chapter in lieu thereof. The chapter describes the authorized use and users of the statewide network. This proposed rulemaking eliminates language that is overly restrictive or obsolete and shortens the chapter.

*Analysis of Impact***1. Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:**

- **Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:**

There is no direct cost associated with the proposed rulemaking.

- **Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:**

All individuals within the State benefit from a well-run and organized State communications network.

2. Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:

- **Quantitative description of impact:**

There is no quantitative impact; this chapter simply provides authorized use and users structure for the agency.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

The qualitative impact is positive; the rulemaking simplifies the regulatory environment by removing obsolete language and providing clearer guidance on authorized use and users structure.

3. Costs to the State:

- **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**

There are no costs to the State or the agency associated with this rulemaking.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

There are no anticipated effects on State revenues.

4. Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:

This rulemaking has no costs associated with it and ensures the agency has a basic structure.

5. Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:

The agency seeks to implement these rules in a minimally intrusive and minimally prescriptive manner while still fulfilling the responsibilities of maintaining a well-run State communications network.

6. Alternative methods considered by the agency:

- **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

No other methods were considered because the proposed rulemaking is necessary to comply with the Executive Order 10 mandate to streamline and modernize existing rules.

- **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

Not applicable.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

- Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.

- Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

- Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

- Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.

- Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

There is no expected impact on small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 751—Chapter 7 and adopt the following new chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 7
AUTHORIZED USE AND USERS

751—7.1(8D) Definitions. For the purposes of interpreting these rules, the following definitions are applicable.

“*Authorized facility*” means a site operated by an authorized user that is consistent with the written mission of the authorized user.

“*Authorized use*” means use of the network by an authorized user or by persons acting on behalf of an authorized user as provided in this chapter for the following purposes of the authorized user: (1) state or federal communications as defined in this chapter; (2) education or educational purposes as defined in this chapter; (3) training programs provided under state law and training programs developed by authorized users; (4) telemedicine or related purposes as defined in this chapter; (5) official governmental use by a state agency or a federal agency as defined in this chapter consistent with authorized purposes under applicable state or federal law; (6) establishing and operating a shared data only network for law enforcement, emergency management, disaster services, emergency warning and other emergency information dissemination services to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and local emergency management offices; or (7) city of Des Moines.

“*Authorized user*” means a private or public agency as defined in Iowa Code section 8D.2.

“*Private agency*” means an accredited nonpublic school, a nonprofit institution of higher education eligible for tuition grants, a hospital licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 135B, or a physician clinic to the extent provided in Iowa Code section 8D.13(13).

“*Public agency*” means a state agency, an institution under the control of the board of regents, the judicial branch as provided in Iowa Code section 8D.13(14), a school corporation, a city library, a regional library as provided in Iowa Code chapter 256, a county library as provided in Iowa Code chapter 336, or an agency of the federal government.

751—7.2(8D) Eligibility.

7.2(1) *Mission-based use.* Use of the network must be consistent with the written mission of the authorized user.

7.2(2) *Unauthorized use.* The network shall not be used for personal, commercial, or political purposes, except as specifically authorized by law.

751—7.3(8D) Authorized facility connectivity.

7.3(1) *Education.* Public and private K-12 schools, area education agencies, and higher education institutions may connect directly to the network.

7.3(2) *State agencies.* State boards, commissions or departments; the Iowa national guard; and the executive, legislative, and judicial branches may connect directly to the network.

7.3(3) *Telemedicine.* Hospitals and physician clinics (as defined in Iowa Code section 8D.13(13)) may connect for telemedicine and educational purposes.

7.3(4) *Federal.* A board, commission, department, or agency of the federal government may connect to the network as provided in Iowa Code section 8D.13(13).

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 8D.2, 8D.3(1), 8D.3(3) “b,” and 8D.13(14) through 8D.13(17).