

Red Tape Review Rule Report (Due: September 1, 2024)

Department Name:	Transportation	Date:	6/11/2024	Total Rule Count:	12
IAC #:	761	Chapter/ SubChapter/ Rule(s):	131	Iowa Code Section Authorizing Rule:	314.31
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PLEASE NOTE, THE BOXES BELOW WILL EXPAND AS YOU TYPE

What is the intended benefit of the rule?

This chapter lays out uniform requirements, responsibilities, and procedures for requesting the installation of various types of signs on the interstate and primary highway systems within Iowa. These signs benefit road users by providing directions to nearby destinations or by providing supplementary information about the highway.

Is the benefit being achieved? Please provide evidence.

Yes. The rules are followed by Department personnel when processing requests for signing. Applications complying with the rules result in approval and installation of the appropriate signs.

What are the costs incurred by the public to comply with the rule?

Choosing to request a sign is completely voluntary.

Costs incurred by the requester depend on the type of sign:

- Organizations requesting signage for special events must furnish and install their own signs.
- Civic, religious, and nonprofit charitable organizations requesting signage for organized off-highway camps pay the Department to fabricate and install the signs.
- Citizens or groups requesting signage for a scenic trail, historic trail, memorial bridge, or memorial highway furnish their own signs and pay the Department to install the signs.

The cost for signs fabricated by the Department is based on the sign material and the size of the sign. Small aluminum signs cost \$7.99 per square foot and larger plywood signs cost \$9.50 per square foot.

Typical sign installation costs are \$200 and are based on historical averages for labor, equipment, and materials.

What are the costs to the agency or any other agency to implement/enforce the rule?

Department personnel processing the requests do so as part of their assigned duties.

Costs to the Department depend on the type of sign:

- Destination signs at secondary road intersections are fabricated and installed by the Department free of charge.

- Business route signs are installed by the Department free of charge.
- School signs are fabricated and installed by the Department free of charge.
- Camping service signs on interstates are fabricated and installed by the Department free of charge.
- Sanitary landfill signs are fabricated and installed by the Department free of charge.
- County conservation park signs are installed by the Department free of charge.
- No parking signs on rural primary highways are fabricated and installed by the Department free of charge.

Cities bear the cost of furnishing business route signs.

Counties bear the cost of furnishing county conservation park signs.

Do the costs justify the benefits achieved? Please explain.

Yes, the costs to fabricate and install these signs is minor compared to the increased awareness and navigation guidance they provide.

Are there less restrictive alternatives to accomplish the benefit? YES NO

If YES, please list alternative(s) and provide analysis of less restrictive alternatives from other states, if applicable. If NO, please explain.

Yes. Minimum requirements for certain types of signs could be softened. Examples of current minimum requirements include:

- Colleges and universities must have a minimum enrollment of 500 full-time students in order to qualify for a school sign.
- Campgrounds must be within 5 miles of the nearest off-ramp intersection in order to qualify for a camping service sign on the interstate.
- Special events must have an expected attendance of over 10,000 people per day in order to qualify for signing.

The minimum requirements provide uniformity, and they have been in place for many years, so it is recommended to keep the requirements in place.

The Department could choose to no longer charge sign fabrication and installation costs. That, however, would likely lead to a significant increase in:

- Requests for the Department to process,
- Costs to the Department, and
- The number of signs on the highways.

Does this chapter/rule(s) contain language that is obsolete, outdated, inconsistent, redundant, or unnecessary language, including instances where rule language is duplicative of statutory language? [list chapter/rule number(s) that fall under any of the above categories]

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Only one of the rules is authorized by statute; the remaining rules simply describe Department operating procedures.

131.1 is removed. This will be in an operational manual.
 131.2 is removed. This will be in an operational manual.
 131.3 is removed. This will be in an operational manual.
 131.4 is removed. This will be in an operational manual.
 131.5 is removed. This will be in an operational manual.
 131.6 is removed. This will be in an operational manual.
 131.7 is removed. This will be in an operational manual.
 131.8 is removed. This will be in an operational manual.
 131.9 is removed. This will be in an operational manual.
 131.10 is removed. This will be in an operational manual.
 131.11 is renumbered to 131.2.
 131.12 is reserved for future use and is removed.
 131.13 is reserved for future use and is removed.
 131.14 is reserved for future use and is removed.
 131.15 is renumbered to 131.1.

RULES PROPOSED FOR REPEAL (list rule number[s]):

131.1
 131.2
 131.3
 131.4
 131.5
 131.6
 131.7
 131.8
 131.9
 131.10

RULES PROPOSED FOR RE-PROMULGATION (list rule number[s] or include rule text if available):

131.1 Contact Information
 131.2 Signing for Iowa medal of honor highway

****For rules being re-promulgated with changes, you may attach a document with suggested changes.***

METRICS

Total number of rules repealed:	10
Proposed word count reduction after repeal and/or re-promulgation	3388
Proposed number of restrictive terms eliminated after repeal and/or re-promulgation	143

ARE THERE ANY STATUTORY CHANGES YOU WOULD RECOMMEND INCLUDING CODIFYING ANY RULES?

The process for signing the Iowa Medal of Honor Highway is well-established, non-controversial, and very similar to other types of signing programs administered by the Department that are covered in a Department operational manual. It is recommended to strike Iowa Code 314.31 and instead describe the process for signing the Iowa Medal of Honor Highway in a Department operational manual. If this were to occur, the entirety of Chapter 131 could be rescinded.