

Iowa Code and Rules Easy Navigation and Search

Scope Analysis Request to IOWAccess Advisory Council
From Legislative Services Agency
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- *Nonpartisan Agency and Statutory Duties.* The Legislative Services Agency (LSA) is a nonpartisan, central staff agency serving the Iowa General Assembly (Iowa Code ch. 2A), charged with the following statutory duties:
 - Publishing the statutes (Code and Acts), administrative rules, and court rules for the three branches of state government in both electronic and print format.
 - Providing legal, legislative, and library information to legislative constituencies and the public.
- *Mission.* LSA's mission includes the ongoing review and improvement of citizen access to legal and legislative information in order to bolster citizen input in the legislative process, participatory democracy, and the rule of law.
- *Electronic Delivery of Legal Information.* LSA has invested in the Internet provision of legal and legislative information, while maintaining some print publications, in order to do the following:
 - Serve more citizens through the Internet in a more efficient manner and timely basis. E.g., Iowa Code, Administrative Code, Court Rules, Billbook, and state budget, revenue, and fiscal analyses are available at no cost and prior to distribution of print publications.
 - Provide public institutions and depository libraries with the capacity to serve citizens through Internet access to LSA's legal and legislative information.
- *Investment Return.* Widespread electronic access to LSA's legal and legislative information results in increased citizen input in the legislative process, participation in the democratic process, and support of the rule of law, with a greater dispersion of knowledge and increased access to economic and life-enhancing opportunities.

- *Iowa Administrative Code and Iowa Code History.* Previously the Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) and Iowa Code (IC) were produced with the print publication as the primary focus. Electronic access and searching were secondary processes that required significant manual manipulation. The legacy publication process and format of the content prevented the LSA from being able to:
 - Reuse/Repurpose content.
 - Offer creative delivery options.
 - Improve transparency of Iowa law.

- *LSA's Multiyear Computerization Project to Consolidate its Publication Platforms and Adopt Uniform Software.* LSA has adopted a SQL Server database to store content as XML and an Arbortext desktop publication platform.

- *Current Status of Iowa Code and Iowa Rules Project.*
 - A large investment of time and planning continues to ensure that LSA's data structure and foundation will allow the greatest flexibility for reuse, repurposing, and content delivery.
 - Extensive development continues to leverage XML functionality and utilize its flexibility with LSA's customized code.
 - By March 2010 LSA will have the capacity to publish the Iowa Code, Iowa Administrative Code, Iowa Court Rules, and bills and amendments in a variety of formats from XML content.

- *Proposed Project.* LSA proposes two immediate enhancements to improve citizen access to relevant statutes and rules in defined subject matter areas:
 - Smart linking of Iowa Administrative Code provisions to their Iowa Code reference.
 - With proper XML structure a uniform, consistent relationship can be established that relates the IAC to the statutes that the IAC is implementing.
 - With this relationship in place LSA can more easily represent the IAC and Iowa Code in context with one another in a transparent delivery mechanism to consumers of Iowa law (see handout).
 - Flexible delivery mechanisms and reporting would enable these IAC-IC relationships to be more accurately maintained in an up-to-date fashion.
 - Creation of a uniform indexing taxonomy for the Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Code. (see handout)
 - User driven searches would return uniform search results across all bodies of content.
 - Saved searches and/or subscription-based delivery of information would now be straightforward.
 - Exposing interfaces for any user to link to the IAC and IC based on topic or subject from a user's own site.

- *Future Development.* With the solid foundation established LSA would hope to entertain these additional ideas in the future:
 - Provide customized subscriptions by subject matter across various bodies of content, including bills and amendments.
 - Expose electronic access to legal and legislative information to external users/developers for their own consumption in value-added activities.
 - Distribute updated legal and legislative information via the Internet that could be hosted locally, offline. This same mechanism would offer a search interface for use “in the field” without an Internet connection.
 - Provide users of legal and legislative information a means to annotate content to meet their needs. These annotations would be managed by the user, but could travel with the content throughout the legislative process.

Example of Rules Implementing Statutes

Iowa Code

CHAPTER 167 - USE AND DISPOSAL OF DEAD ANIMALS

167.17 Disinfecting outfit.

The driver or owner of a vehicle used in conveying animals which said driver or owner has reason to believe died of disease, shall, immediately after unloading said animals, cause the bed, box, tank or other container of such vehicle, the wheels thereof, all canvas and covers, the feet of the animals drawing said conveyance, and the outer clothing of all persons who have handled said carcasses to be disinfected with a solution of at least one part of creosol dip to four parts of water, or with some other equally effective disinfectant.

Iowa Administrative Code

Agriculture and Land Stewardship[21]

CHAPTER 61 - DEAD ANIMAL DISPOSAL

21—61.19 (167) Disposal vehicles—disinfection. Whenever a vehicle or person in charge thereof has been upon any premises for the purpose of removing the carcass of any animal, or where animals are dead or dying, before such vehicle can be taken upon a public highway or upon other premises and before leaving the premises of the rendering plant on each trip the wheels of such vehicles and shoes or boots of all persons having been upon such infected premises shall be disinfected thoroughly with any disinfectant of prescribed strength recommended by the division of animal industry as a disinfectant, preferably creosol compound, three percent, or by a 1-1000 solution of bichloride of mercury. Facilities and materials for disinfection shall be carried on truck at all times.

Example of Non-uniform Index Taxonomy

Iowa Administrative Code Index	
ANIMALS	
See also BEES; BIRDS; DEER; FISH AND FISHING; GAME; LIVESTOCK; POULTRY; WILDLIFE	
Dead, disposal 21—ch 61; 567—100.4, 105.1(2), 105.2(2), 105.6; 571—ch 80, 106.11(4)b(5), 114.13, see also	
LIVESTOCK; RENDERING PLANTS	
LIVESTOCK	
See also ANIMALS; MEAT; POULTRY	
Dead, disposal	
Licensure 21—1.2(1)a, 61.1–61.7, 61.23, 76.8	
Methods 21—61.3, 61.28–61.32, 64.11, 64.15, 64.111, 64.160(1)e, 76.8; 567—100.4, 105.1(2)b, 105.2(2), 105.6; 571—104.11	
Pet food processing 21—76.8, 76.10(2), 76.11	
Plant, rendering	
See also Licensure this subheading above; Disease: Control, Disinfection below	
Committee 21—61.23	
Employees 21—61.17	
Inspection 21—1.2(1)a, 76.4, 76.8	
Pet food, see Pet Food Processing this subheading above	
Plans/specifications 21—61.11, 61.12	
Iowa Code Index	
ANIMALS	
Dead animals	
Criminal offenses, ch 717–ch 717B	
Disposal of dead animals, 159.6(5), ch 167	
Disposal of infectious waste, 455B.501	
Euthanasia, see subhead Euthanasia for Animals below	
Killed by motor vehicles on highways, disposal of, 481A.11	
Wildlife, abandonment of, criminal offense, 481A.137	