

Red Tape Review Rule Report (Due: September 1, 2025)

Department Name:	Iowa Division of Banking	Date:	August 20, 2025	Total Rule Count:	13
IAC #:	187	Chapter/ SubChapter/ Rule(s):	15	Iowa Code Section Authorizing Rule:	Chapter 536
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PLEASE NOTE, THE BOXES BELOW WILL EXPAND AS YOU TYPE

What is the intended benefit of the rule?

To provide clarity and certainty about the process of applying for and renewing a regulated loan license.

Is the benefit being achieved? Please provide evidence.

The rule successfully enables the Division to receive and process applications and renewals for regulated loan licenses in an expeditious and cost-effective manner.

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

People interested in obtaining and maintaining a regulated loan license may incur costs to prepare and submit the required application materials and renewal materials. Licensees and prospective licensees must also pay fees for using the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System, a nationwide online application and licensing system operated and maintained by the states that streamlines, for licensees and for states, the process of obtaining and maintaining a license in multiple states.

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

The Division incurs staff time to review and respond to license and renewal applications and conduct examinations.

Do the costs justify the benefits achieved? Please explain.

Yes, because the rule establishes a fast and efficient system for licensing applications and renewals.

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.

The Division did not identify any less restrictive means of applying for and renewing a regulated loan license.

Does this chapter/rule(s) contain language that is obsolete, outdated, inconsistent, redundant, or unnecessary language, including instances where rule language is duplicative of statutory language?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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Yes, the chapter contains language that duplicates statutory language and includes other unnecessary or outdated language as noted herein:

15.1 Definitions: Includes repetitive statutory language and other unnecessary language.

15.3 Application for license: Includes repetitive language better addressed elsewhere in rule and unnecessary examples of expiration deadlines.

15.5 Renewal of license: Includes unnecessary language.

15.6 Changes in name, location, or control: Includes unnecessary language and repeats certain statutory language.

15.7 Notice of significant events: Includes unnecessary language about reorganization proceedings.

15.8 Administrative fees: Includes unnecessary repetition of statutory language about examination or investigation fees.

15.9 Licensee records: Includes unnecessary language and repetition of certain statutory language.

15.10 Complaints and investigations: Contains unnecessary repetition of provisions covered in the statute.

15.11 Disciplinary action: Repeats statutory language and provisions and includes other unnecessary language.

15.12 Annual report: Repeats statutory language about deadlines for filing.

15.13 Restrictions on making regulated loans: Includes unnecessary language regarding applicability of relevant Iowa Code chapters.

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

The Division proposes substantial revisions throughout but no complete repeal of any existing rule.

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

CHAPTER 15

REGULATED LOANS

Chapter exempt from chapter rescission pursuant to Iowa Code section [17A.7](#)

187—15.1(17A,536) Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter, the definitions in Iowa Code chapter 536 shall apply. In addition, unless the context otherwise requires:

“*NMLS*” means as defined in Iowa Code section 536.30.

“*Regulated loan*” means a loan made by a licensee acting under the terms of the Iowa Regulated Loan Act.

187—15.2(17A,536) Utilization of NMLS.

15.2(1) All application and licensing information shall be submitted through the NMLS including but not limited to the following: original application information; changes in application information; license renewal information; changes in name, location, and control; and notices of significant events.

15.2(2) The applicant or licensee shall pay any fees required by NMLS including but not limited to the following: initial set-up fee and annual processing fees, background check fees, ~~and~~ credit background check fees, and a loan sponsorship transfer fee.

187—15.3(17A,536) Application for license.

15.3(1) An application for a license to operate a regulated loan business in Iowa shall be submitted to the superintendent, on the form provided and with the information requested, through ~~the~~ NMLS. The superintendent may consider an application withdrawn if it does not contain all ~~of the~~ required information ~~required~~ and the missing information is not submitted to the superintendent within 30 days after the superintendent requests the missing information. The applicant may also request that the application be withdrawn at any time before the superintendent has decided to grant or deny the application.

15.3(2) Each officer, director, and individual who has control of an applicant must provide fingerprints, authorize a fingerprint background check through NMLS, and pay the appropriate fees for the purpose of conducting a national criminal history background check through the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

15.3(3) The applicant must submit the application fee and the initial license fee specified in Iowa Code section 536.2. The superintendent shall refund the initial license fee if the application is denied, but the application fee is not subject to refund.

15.3(4) If any information material to the application changes after the applicant files the initial application, the applicant shall provide updated information to the superintendent within 10 days of the change. When such a material change in information has occurred, the superintendent may deny an application if the applicant fails to provide updated information within the prescribed time frame.

15.3(5) An applicant for a regulated loan company license must file with the superintendent a bond complying with the provisions of Iowa Code section 536.3. For applicants or licensees who do not make, arrange, broker, process, or underwrite any residential mortgage loans, as defined in Iowa Code section 535D.3(13), the bond shall be in the amount of \$25,000. For applicants or licensees who make, broker, process, or underwrite residential mortgage loans, as defined in Iowa Code section 535D.3(13), the bond amount required to be filed and maintained shall be set and adjusted annually by March 31 using the following scale, based on the volume of residential mortgage loans made, originated, arranged, brokered, processed, and underwritten; ~~as the case may be,~~ by the applicant or licensee during the preceding calendar year:

<u>Loans</u>	<u>Bond Amount</u>
\$0 – \$5,000,000	\$25,000
\$5,000,001 – \$20,000,000	\$50,000
\$20,000,001 – \$50,000,000	\$75,000
\$50,000,001 – \$100,000,000	\$100,000
Over \$100,000,000	\$150,000

187—15.4(17A,536) Grounds for approval or denial.

15.4(1) The superintendent shall approve or deny a license application in accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code section 536.4.

15.4(2) The following may be considered evidence that the business of the applicant may not be operated lawfully and honestly within the purposes of Iowa Code chapter 536 and may therefore be considered grounds for denial of an application:

a. An applicant, or an officer, director, or individual who has control of an applicant, has had a mortgage loan originator license or any lending license revoked in any governmental jurisdiction.

b. An applicant, or an officer, director, or individual who has control of an applicant, has been convicted of, or has pleaded guilty or no contest to, a felony in a domestic, foreign, or military court if such felony involved an act of fraud, dishonesty, or breach of trust, or money laundering.

187—15.5(17A,536) Renewal of license.

15.5(1) A licensee must renew a license before the expiration date of the license to remain authorized to make regulated loans. Licenses expire on the next December 31 after they are issued, but licenses granted on or after November 1 but before January 1 do not expire until December 31 of the following year.

15.5(2) An application to renew a license shall be submitted to the superintendent, on the form provided and with the information requested, including any material change to information contained in the original application, through the NMLS by December 1 of the year of expiration.

15.5(3) The superintendent shall grant an application to renew a license if:

a. The licensee submits the application and the appropriate renewal fee by December 1 or the licensee submits the application after December 1 but before January 1 and pays the appropriate renewal fee and the appropriate late fee;

b. The application is fully completed and includes all necessary information; and

c. The application does not reveal grounds to deny a license.

15.5(4) The superintendent may reject for processing a renewal application submitted after December 31 or treat such an application as an application for a new license.

187—15.6(17A,536) Changes in the licensee's name, location, or control; fees.

15.6(1) A licensee wishing to change the name or location of a regulated loan business shall notify the superintendent through the NMLS at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the requested change and submit the appropriate fee. The notice shall include proof that the licensee has either obtained a new bond or amended the existing bond to reflect the new name or location.

15.6(2) When a change of control of a licensee is proposed, the party that will assume control of the licensee shall give notice to the superintendent through the NMLS, at least 60 days before the proposed change will take effect. The party that will assume control of the licensee shall furnish the superintendent through the NMLS with the same information required of initial applicants for a license, along with the appropriate fee. The party that will assume control may be required to provide fingerprints, authorize a fingerprint background check through NMLS, and pay the appropriate fees for the purpose of conducting a national criminal history background check through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The superintendent shall approve or deny the request in accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code section 536.4 and rule 187—15.4(17A,536).

187—15.7(17A,536) Notice of significant events. A licensee shall notify the administrator in writing within 10 days of the occurrence of any of the following events.

15.7(1) The licensee or any of the licensee's officers, directors, principal stockholders, or affiliates file for bankruptcy protection.

15.7(2) A prosecuting authority files criminal charges against the licensee or any of a licensee's officers, directors, principal stockholders, or affiliates.

15.7(3) Another state or jurisdiction institutes license denial, cease and desist, suspension, or revocation procedures, or other formal or informal regulatory action against the licensee or any of the licensee's officers, directors, principal stockholders, or affiliates.

15.7(4) The attorney general of Iowa, the Federal Trade Commission, or the enforcer of the consumer protection laws of any other jurisdiction initiates an action to enforce ~~the~~ any consumer protection laws against the licensee or any of the licensee's officers, directors, principal stockholders, or affiliates.

187—15.8(17A,536) Administrative fees.

15.8(1) *Late fees for failing to respond.* In the process of administering Iowa Code chapter 536, the superintendent may require a person to provide responses to formal orders, examinations, or complaint inquiries. If a person fails to respond within 30 days of the request, the superintendent may assess a penalty of \$10 per day after the initial 30 days.

15.8(2) *NMLS system processing fees.* The applicant or licensee shall pay any fee required by the NMLS or attributed to the licensee's record in the NMLS pursuant to rule 187-15.2(17A,536).

187—15.9(17A,536) Licensee records.

15.9(1) *General records requirements.* A licensee must keep records that allow the superintendent to determine the licensee's compliance with relevant statutes and regulations.

- a. The licensee may keep the records as a hard copy or in an electronic equivalent.
- b. The licensee shall maintain all books and records in good order and produce books and records for the superintendent upon request.
- c. The obligation to maintain records continues even after the licensee ceases business operations in Iowa and turns in or surrenders its license. The owners and directors of the licensee are responsible for ensuring that this requirement is met.

15.9(2) *Required records.* A licensee shall keep, at its principal place of business, a loan register, an account ledger, an account ledger control, a loan file, an index, and a disbursement voucher.

15.9(3) *Loan register.* The loan register shall be kept chronologically in the order the loans closed and include the following information for every loan that is made: the account number, the date of the transaction, the name of the borrower, and the amount financed.

15.9(4) *Account ledger.*

- a. An individual account ledger shall be kept for each account and shall show at least the loan number, name and address of the borrower, date of loan, date of first payment, date of final payment, terms of repayment including maturity date, amount financed, total of payments, face amount of note if different from amount financed or total payments, cash advanced to borrower, cash advanced to pay balance of previous regulated

loan, interest or discount charge, service charge, attorney fee, fee paid or to be paid to a public official for recording or filing a mortgage or for satisfying a judgment or lien on any real or personal property securing the loan, nature of security, type and cost of each credit insurance policy and any other insurance policy with each premium stated separately, and name of each endorser, comaker or surety.

b. All payments shall be posted on the account ledger as of the date received. Corrections to the transaction history in the account ledger shall be made by corrective entry and not by erasure. The entries on the account ledger shall correspond with the receipts given to the borrower.

c. If payment is made in any way other than in the ordinary course of business, the method of payment shall be so designated on the account ledger. When a death claim is filed, the exact date of death is to be recorded on the account ledger.

d. The account ledger for an interest-bearing loan shall show the amount of the loan if different from the amount financed, the amount and date of each payment received, the allocation of the payment to principal and interest, and the remaining principal balance. If a portion of the interest earned is not paid at the time payment is made, the account ledger for an interest-bearing loan must show either the date to which interest is paid or the amount of interest then due but unpaid.

e. The account ledger for a precomputed loan shall show the actual amount of the loan excluding the precomputed interest, the amount of the precomputed interest and the face amount of the note including interest, the amount and date of each payment applied to the note, the unpaid balance of the note after application of such payment and the type and amount of any additional charges collected or assessed. If a deferment charge is collected in whole or in part, the account ledger shall indicate any uncollected portion of the deferment charge, the particular installment deferred, the number of times deferred, and the date of the final installment.

f. When any loan is prepaid in full, the account ledger must show the date of prepayment, the amount paid to discharge the loan, the amount of the interest rebate, and any deduction from the rebate for previously earned but uncollected charges, and refunds of the unearned premiums of each credit insurance policy or other insurance policy. Each insurance refund shall be separately recorded on the account ledger.

g. Account ledgers relating to each type of business operation must be filed in separate groups. Paid-in-full and renewed account ledgers must also be filed in a similar manner and ~~must~~ be retained from one examination to the next. After the examination, the account ledgers may be filed in a permanent file.

15.9(5) *Account ledger control.* A record showing the total number of accounts and total amount receivable for each type of business shall be maintained in the licensed office and posted either daily or weekly.

15.9(6) *Loan file.* A separate file shall be maintained for each borrower in the office where the loan is outstanding. Such file shall contain the note, security agreement, wage assignment, and all other evidence of indebtedness or security pertaining to the loan except when the note is kept in a separate promissory note file or when said papers are in custody of a court or an agent for collection or are hypothecated. When a borrower is also a comaker, guarantor or endorser on another loan, the file of such borrower shall be cross-referenced to the other, unless such cross-referencing is included on the alphabetical record required by subrule [15.9\(7\)](#) or on the individual account ledger required by subrule [15.9\(4\)](#). All instruments taken in connection with a loan and signed by a borrower must bear the loan number.

15.9(7) *Index.* An alphabetical record shall be maintained and show the name of each borrower, endorser, comaker, or surety who is currently indebted to the licensee, together with sufficient information to locate the account ledger.

15.9(8) *Disbursement voucher.* Licensees shall use, in conjunction with each loan, a disbursement voucher or equivalent document showing a detailed itemization of the distribution of the loan proceeds.

15.9(9) *Denial file.* For each application the licensee denies, the licensee shall retain a copy of the application and a copy of the adverse action notice. The licensee may maintain this information in one file in either alphabetical or chronological order.

15.9(10) *General business records.* A licensee must keep the following general business records for at least 36 months:

a. All checkbooks, check registers, bank statements, deposit slips, withdrawal slips, and canceled checks (or copies thereof) relating to the regulated loan business of the licensee.

b. Complete records (including invoices and supporting documentation) for all expenses and fees paid on behalf of each loan applicant, including a record of the date and amount of all such payments actually made by each loan applicant.

c. Copies of all federal tax withholding forms, reports of income for federal taxation, and evidence of payments to all employees, independent contractors, and others compensated by a licensee in connection with the conduct of the regulated loan business.

d. All correspondence and other records relating to the maintenance of any ~~surety~~ bond required by Iowa Code chapter 536.

e. Copies of all reports of audits, examinations, inspections, reviews, investigations, or other similar functions performed by any third party, including but not limited to the superintendent or any other regulatory or supervisory authority.

f. Copies of all advertisements and solicitations concerning regulated loans directed at Iowa residents, including advertisements and solicitations on the Internet or by other electronic means, in the format in which the advertisements and solicitations were published or distributed. An advertisement shall clearly show the licensee's unique NMLS identification number.

15.9(11) *Disposal of records.* If a licensee or former licensee disposes of records at the end of the retention period, the licensee or former licensee shall dispose of the records in a reasonable manner that safeguards any identification information, as defined in Iowa Code section 715A.8(1) "a." The owners and directors of licensees and former licensees are responsible for ensuring that this requirement is met.

187—15.10(17A,536) Complaints and investigations.

15.10(1) The superintendent may, at any time and as often as the superintendent deems necessary, investigate or examine a licensee pursuant to Iowa Code section 536.10, including investigating complaints about, or alleged violations by, any licensee.

15.10(2) A complaint or alleged violation means:

a. A written complaint received from a consumer, member of the public, employee, business affiliate, or other governmental agency.

b. Notice to the superintendent from any source that the licensee has been the subject of disciplinary proceedings in another jurisdiction.

c. Notice to the superintendent from any source that an individual with control of the licensee has been convicted of forgery, embezzlement, obtaining money under false pretenses, extortion, conspiracy to defraud, or other similar offense, in a court of competent jurisdiction in this state or in any other state, territory, or district of the United States, or in any foreign jurisdiction.

187—15.11(17A,536) Disciplinary action.

15.11(1) Grounds for discipline. The superintendent may impose any of the disciplinary sanctions set out in Iowa Code section [536.9\(2\)](#) when the superintendent makes any of the findings in Iowa Code section [536.9\(1\)](#) or when the superintendent finds any of the following:

a. The licensee has abandoned its place of business for 60 or more days.

b. The licensee fails to respond to an inquiry from the superintendent within 30 days of the date the superintendent mails a written communication directed to the licensee's last-known address on file with the superintendent.

c. Another state or jurisdiction has denied, suspended, revoked, or refused to renew the licensee's license, registration, or authorization to engage in the business of making loans under the other state's or jurisdiction's law.

15.11(2) The superintendent shall not refund the license fee, in whole or in part, of a license that has been suspended, revoked, or surrendered.

187—15.12(17A,536) Annual report. Licensees must file with the superintendent an annual report as required by Iowa Code section 536.11(2) and the superintendent may assess a late fee of \$10 for each day a licensee's annual report is delinquent. The information contained in the annual report is confidential and the superintendent may publish the information only in aggregate form.

187—15.13(17A,536) Restrictions on making regulated loans. The following restrictions apply to making regulated loans.

15.13(1) Jurisdiction. A licensee has the authority to make and complete loans by mail, or by comparable electronic means, from the lender’s licensed office.

15.13(2) Default charge. Default charges are not to be collected if payment is made by a credit accident and health insurance claim.

15.13(3) Interest rate. Pursuant to Iowa Code sections [536.13\(1\) “b”](#) and [536.13\(2\)](#), the maximum rate of interest that may be charged beginning September 1, 2020, and until such time as a different rate is fixed by the superintendent, is 36 percent per annum on any part of the unpaid balance not exceeding \$3,000 and 24 percent per annum on any part of the unpaid balance in excess of \$3,000, but not exceeding \$8,400 and 18 percent per annum on any part of the unpaid balance in excess of \$8,400, but not exceeding \$30,000.

15.13(4) Branch locations. Licensees may not establish branch locations outside of the United States. These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A and 536.

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

METRICS

Total number of rules repealed:	0
Proposed word count reduction after repeal and/or re-promulgation	646
Proposed number of restrictive terms eliminated after repeal and/or re-promulgation	16

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

No.