

# Participate in the Process

# **Look for the Agency Notice**

Review (inspect) notices published in the *Arizona Administrative Register*. Many agencies maintain stakeholder lists and would be glad to inform you when they proposed changes to rules. Check an agency's website and its newsletters for news about notices and meetings.

Feel like a change should be made to a rule and an agency has not proposed changes? You can petition an agency to make, amend, or repeal a rule. The agency must respond to the petition. (See A.R.S. § 41-1033)

# Attend a public hearing/meeting

Attend a public meeting that is being conducted by the agency on a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Public meetings may be listed in the Preamble of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking or they may be published separately in the *Register*. Be prepared to speak, attend the meeting, and make an oral comment.

An agency may not have a public meeting scheduled on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. If not, you may request that the agency schedule a proceeding. This request must be put in writing within 30 days after the published Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

# Write the agency

Put your comments in writing to the agency. In order for the agency to consider your comments, the agency must receive them by the close of record. The comment must be received within the 30-day comment timeframe following the *Register* publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

You can also submit to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council written comments that are relevant to the Council's power to review a given rule (A.R.S. § 41-1052). The Council reviews the rule at the end of the rulemaking process and before the rules are filed with the Secretary of State.

# Arizona Regular Rulemaking Process

# START HERE APA, statute or ballot proposition is passed. It gives an agency authority to make rules. It may give an agency an exemption to the process or portions thereof.

Agency opens a docket.

Agency files a Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening; it is published in the *Register*. Often an agency will file the docket with the proposed rulemaking.

Agency decides not to act and closes docket.

The agency may let the docket lapse by not filing a Notice of Proposed rulemaking within one year.

Agency drafts proposed rule and Economic Impact Statement (EIS); informal public review/comment.

Agency files Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

Notice is published in the *Register*.

Notice of meetings may be published in Register or included in Preamble of Proposed Rulemaking.

Agency opens comment period.

Agency decides not to proceed and does not file final rule with G.R.R.C. within one year after proposed rule is published. A.R.S. § 41-1021(A)(4).

Agency decides not to proceed and files Notice of Termination of Rulemaking for publication in *Register*. A.R.S. § 41-1021(A)(2).

Agency files Notice of Supplemental Proposed Rulemaking. Notice published in Register.

Oral proceeding and close of record. Comment period must last at least 30 days after publication of notice. Oral proceeding (hearing) is held no sooner than 30 days after publication of notice of hearing

Substantial change?

If no change then

Agency decides not to proceed; files Notice of Termination of Rulemaking. May open a new Docket.

Rule must be submitted for review or terminated within 120 days after the close of the record.

A final rulemaking package is submitted to G.R.R.C. or A.G. for review. Contains final preamble, rules, and Economic Impact Statement.

G.R.R.C. has 90 days to review and approve or return the rule package, in whole or in part;
A.G. has 60 days.

After approval by G.R.R.C. or A.G., the rule becomes effective 60 days after filing with the Secretary of State (unless otherwise indicated).

Final rule is published in the Register and the quarterly Code Supplement.



#### **Definitions**

*Arizona Administrative Code* (A.A.C.): Official rules codified and published by the Secretary of State's Office. Available online at www.azsos.gov.

*Arizona Administrative Register* (A.A.R.): The official publication that includes filed documents pertaining to Arizona rulemaking. Available online at www.azsos.gov.

**Administrative Procedure Act (APA)**: A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Articles 1 through 10. Available online at www.azleg.gov.

**Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.):** The statutes are made by the Arizona State Legislature during a legislative session. They are complied by Legislative Council, with the official publication codified by Thomson West. Citations to statutes include Titles which represent broad subject areas. The Title number is followed by the Section number. For example, A.R.S. § 41-1001 is the definitions Section of Title 41 of the Arizona Administrative Procedures Act. The "§" symbol simply means "section." Available online at www.azleg.gov.

**Chapter:** A division in the codification of the *Code* designating a state agency or, for a large agency, a major program.

**Close of Record:** The close of the public record for a proposed rulemaking is the date an agency chooses as the last date it will accept public comments, either written or oral.

**Code of Federal Regulations (CFR):** The *Code of Federal Regulations* is a codification of the general and permanent rules published in the *Federal Register* by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government.

**Docket:** A public file for each rulemaking containing materials related to the proceedings of that rulemaking. The docket file is established and maintained by an agency from the time it begins to consider making a rule until the rulemaking is finished. The agency provides public notice of the docket by filing a Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening with the Office for publication in the *Register*.

**Economic, Small Business, and Consumer Impact Statement (EIS):** The EIS identifies the impact of the rule on private and public employment, on small businesses, and on consumers. It includes an analysis of the probable costs and benefits of the rule. An agency includes a brief summary of the EIS in its preamble. The EIS is not published in the *Register* but is available from the agency promulgating the rule. The EIS is also filed with the rulemaking package.

Governor's Regulatory Review (G.R.R.C.): Reviews and approves rules to ensure that they are necessary and to avoid unnecessary duplication and adverse impact on the public. G.R.R.C. also assesses whether the rules are clear, concise, understandable, legal, consistent with legislative intent, and whether the benefits of a rule outweigh the cost.

**Incorporated by Reference**: An agency may incorporate by reference standards or other publications. These standards are available from the state agency with references on where to order the standard or review it online.

**Federal Register (FR)**: The *Federal Register* is a legal newspaper published every business day by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). It contains federal agency regulations; proposed rules and notices; and executive orders, proclamations, and other presidential documents.

**Session Laws or "Laws":** When an agency references a law that has not yet been codified into the Arizona Revised Statutes, use the word "Laws" is followed by the year the law was passed by the Legislature, followed by the Chapter number using the abbreviation "Ch.", and the specific Section number using the Section symbol (§). For example, Laws 1995, Ch. 6, § 2. Session laws are available at www.azleg.gov.

**United States Code (U.S.C.):** The Code is a consolidation and codification by subject matter of the general and permanent laws of the United States. The Code does not include regulations issued by executive branch agencies, decisions of the federal courts, treaties, or laws enacted by state or local governments.

# **Acronyms**

A.A.C. - Arizona Administrative Code

A.A.R. – Arizona Administrative Register

APA – Administrative Procedure Act

A.R.S. – Arizona Revised Statutes

CFR - Code of Federal Regulations

EIS – Economic, Small Business, and Consumer Impact Statement

FR - Federal Register

G.R.R.C. – Governor's Regulatory Review Council

U.S.C. - United States Code

### **About Preambles**

The Preamble is the part of a rulemaking package that contains information about the rulemaking and provides agency justification and regulatory intent.

It includes reference to the specific statutes authorizing the agency to make the rule, an explanation of the rule, reasons for proposing the rule, and the preliminary Economic Impact Statement.

The information in the Preamble differs between rulemaking notices used and the stage of the rulemaking.