

INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Structure

The Legislature, by s. 35.93 and ch. 227, Stats., directed the publication of the rules of executive agencies having rule-making authority in a loose-leaf, continual revision system known as the Wisconsin Administrative Code. The Code is kept current by means of new and replacement pages. The pages are issued monthly, together with notices of hearings, notices of proposed rules, notices of emergency rules, other notices relating to an agency's processing a proposed rule, instructions for insertion of new material, and other information relating to administrative rules and the administrative rulemaking process. This service is called the Wisconsin Administrative Register, and comes to the subscriber near the middle and at the end of each month. Code pages are issued to subscribers only with the end of the month Register. The editing and publishing of the Register and Code is done by the Legislative Reference Bureau, Suite 200, One East Main St., PO Box 2037, Madison, Wisconsin, 53701. Telephone 608-266-7590 or E-mail bruce.hoesly@legis.wisconsin.gov.

Availability

The complete code and the upkeep service are distributed to the county law libraries; to the libraries of the University of Wisconsin Law School and Marquette University Law School; to the State Historical Society; to the Legislative Reference Bureau and to the State Law Library, and to certain designated public libraries throughout the state.

The sale and distribution of the printed Register, Code and of its parts is handled by Department of Administration, Document Sales, P.O. Box 7840, Madison, Wisconsin 53707. (608-266-3358 information) (1-800-362-7253 or 608-264-9419 charge card orders).

The entire Code and Registers from January, 1996, can be found on the WisLaw[®] CD-ROM. End-user license and subscription order forms are available from Document Sales and Distribution.

The Code and Register can also be found on the internet at www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code.htm.

Arrangement and Table of Contents

The Code is arranged in the complete set alphabetically by agency. Certain descriptors such as "Department" and "Wisconsin" are ignored for arrangement purposes. Several agencies further subdivide their rules either by program e.g. Department of Commerce - Plumbing or by division within the agency e.g. Department of Health & Family Services - Health, chs. HFS 110-. These Codes are arranged in numerical order within the appropriate alphabetical arrangement for the agency.

Each agency adopts a prefix to identify their rules. For example, the Department of Natural Resources uses "NR" before each chapter number.

Each Code with more than one chapter will have a table of chapters. After the title of each chapter will be the page numbers on which the chapter begins. Each chapter will have a table of sections.

History Notes

Each page of the Code as it was originally filed and printed pursuant to the 1955 legislation, had a date line "1-2-56". A rule which is revised or created subsequent to the original printing date is followed by a history note indicating the date and number of the Register in which it was published and the date on which the revision or creation of the rule became effective. Additions to a section's history note will be shown in bold face when those affected code sections are first released. The absence of a history note at the end of a section indicates that the rule has remained unchanged since the original printing in 1956. The date line at the bottom of the page indicates the month in which the page was released, but does not necessarily mean a substantive change has occurred on that page. Some common abbreviations used in the history notes are: **CR...** Clearinghouse Rule, **cr...** create, **am...** amend, **r...** repeal, **recr...** recreate, **renum...** renumber, **eff...** effective, and **emerg...** emergency.

In some instances an *entire* chapter has been repealed and recreated or renumbered subsequent to the original printing date. When this occurs a note has been placed at the beginning of the chapter after the table of sections to contain this information. A separate history note appears after each section indicating the date when the revision or creation became effective.

Beginning July 2001, history notes will indicate the Clearinghouse Rule number associated with a rule revision. The Clearinghouse Rule number is assigned by the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse to a proposed rule near the start of the rulemaking process. This number is portrayed in a history note as, for example, the following: **CR 01-041**. The first 2 numbers indicate the year the rule proposal was initiated and the last 3 numbers refer to a sequential numbering of proposals as the rule proposals are received by the Legislative Council during the course of the year.

Emergency Rules

The Legislature has granted state agencies the authority to enact rules without using the normal rule-making process by publishing those rules in the official state newspaper. To justify the use of the emergency rule process, an agency must find that the preservation of the public peace, health, safety or welfare will be jeopardized without the emergency rule. Some agency emergency rules are specifically authorized by legislation and are adopted without a finding of emergency. Readers should review the current Wisconsin Administrative Register to see if a particular published rule is also affected by an emergency rule. Most emergency rules are eventually adopted as permanent rules and published in the Code.

Index

The index for the complete Wisconsin Administrative Code will be found in the last volume of the complete set. It will be recompiled, reprinted and distributed at least 3 times a year. Some Codes have a separate index prepared by the agency involved. Agency prepared indexes tend to be more comprehensive than the general index. See the Uniform Dwelling Code (chs. Comm 20-25) as an example.