STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Home and Community Living Administration
Residential Care Services • P.O. Box 45600 • Olympia, Washington 98504

07/08/2026

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HCLA: ALF #2026-027
HCLA: ESF #2026-020
HCLA: CCRSS #2026-013

Permanent Rules Filed to Implement Substitute House Bill 1142 and Senate Bill 5672 – Home Care Aide Extended Certification

Dear Provider/Administrator:

The Residential Care Services (RCS) is informing you that the Department of Health (DOH) filed a CR-103P (permanent rule) to permanently extend Home Care Aides (HCA) deadlines for certification, as required by Senate Bill (SB) 5672 and Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1142.

Prior to the permanent rules being filed, DOH filed emergency rules on August 25, 2025 under WSR 25-18-034, November 10, 2025 under WSR 25-3-07, and March 10, 2026 under WSR 26-07-028. The emergency rules included temporary amendments to WAC 246-980-025, WAC 246-980-030, WAC 246-980-040, and WAC 246-980-065 to implement SHB 1142 (chapter 18, Laws of 2025) and SB 5672 (chapter 341 Laws of 2025) by extending certification timelines for long term care workers, clarifying basic training requirements, and updating exemptions from home care aide certification requirements.

DOH filed a CR-103P (permanent rule) with the Code Reviser on June 2, 2025, as WSR 26-12-065. The adopted amendments include:

- Corrected typos and aligned the administrative rules with current practices and statutes;
- Permanently extended timelines for long-term care workers;
- Clarified basic training requirements; and
- Updates exemptions from home care aide certification requirements.
    - Applicants and licensees will not see any change in how applications and renewals are processed, professions are regulated, etc.
    - The Concise Explanatory Summary details the changes and impact of these changes.
- The adopted rules supersede prior emergency rules and are intended to support workforce sustainability and improve clarity of implementation. The effective date for these changes under WSR 26-12-065 is June 14, 2026.

The permanent rules will cover the time until December 31, 2027, when the emergency clause expires from SB 5672, under RCW 18.88B.022.

For questions related to the information in the Dear Provider Letter, you may contact rcspolicy@dshs.wa.gov, or Jenni Osbun at homecareaide@doh.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*