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

RCS MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

R26-041 – Information
07/08/2026

TO:
RCS Management
RCS Regional Administrators
RCS Field Managers
RCS Compliance Specialists
RCS AFH, ALF, ESF & CCRSS Complaint Investigators & Surveyors

FROM:
Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

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

PURPOSE:
To inform RCS staff of the CR-103P (permanent rule) filed by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to extend Home Care Aides (HCA) deadlines for certification as required by SB 5672, which includes nursing assistants (NA).

BACKGROUND:
To comply with Senate Bill (SB) 5672, DOH filed emergency rules on August 25, 2025 under WSR 25-18-034, November 10, 2925 under WSR 25-3-07, and March 10, 2026 under WSR 26-07-028.

The emergency rules that were filed also included temporary amendments to WAC 246-980-025, WAC 246-980-030, WAC 246-980-040, and WAC 246-980-065 to implement Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1142 (chapter 18, Laws of 2025) and Senate Bill 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.

WHAT'S NEW, CHANGED, OR CLARIFIED:
DOH filed a CR-103P (permanent rule) with the Code Reviser on June 2, 2025, as WSR 26-12-065 to codify the information in the emergency rules. The adopted amendments include:

- Corrected typos and align the administrative rules with current practices and statutes;
- Permanently extends timelines long-term care workers;
- Clarifies 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.

ACTION: RCS staff will:
Be aware of the permanent rules and apply to investigations related to staffing requirements

RELATED REFERENCES: Washington State Department of Health GovDelivery bulletin
Washington State Department of Health Home Care Aide

ATTACHMENT(S): WSR 26-12-065

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