



# PROPOSED RULE MAKING

## CR-102 (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.320)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

DATE: July 30, 2020

TIME: 8:45 AM

WSR 20-16-085

**Agency:** Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration

**Original Notice**

**Supplemental Notice to WSR** \_\_\_\_\_

**Continuance of WSR** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 20-11-064 ; or**

**Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR \_\_\_\_\_; or**

**Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1); or**

**Proposal is exempt under RCW \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Title of rule and other identifying information:** (describe subject) The department is proposing amendments to WAC 388-412-0046, What is the purpose of DSHS cash and food assistance benefits and how can I use my benefits?.

**Hearing location(s):**

Date:	Time:	Location: (be specific)	Comment:
September 8, 2020	10:00 a.m.	Office Building 2 DSHS Headquarters 1115 Washington Street SE Olympia, WA 98504  Or by Skype	Public parking at 11 <sup>th</sup> and Jefferson. A map is available at: <a href="https://www.dshs.wa.gov/office-of-the-secretary/driving-directions-office-bldg-2">https://www.dshs.wa.gov/office-of-the-secretary/driving-directions-office-bldg-2</a>  Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, hearing may be held via Skype, see DSHS website for most up to date information.

**Date of intended adoption:** Not earlier than September 9, 2020 (Note: This is **NOT** the **effective** date)

**Submit written comments to:**

Name: DSHS Rules Coordinator

Address: PO Box 45850  
Olympia, WA 98504

Email: [DSHSRPAURulesCoordinator@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:DSHSRPAURulesCoordinator@dshs.wa.gov)

Fax: 360-664-6185

Other:

By (date) 5:00 p.m. September 8, 2020

**Assistance for persons with disabilities:**

Contact Jeff Kildahl, DSHS Rules Consultant

Phone: 360-664-6092

Fax: 360-664-6185

TTY: 711 Relay Service

Email: [Kildaja@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:Kildaja@dshs.wa.gov)

Other:

By (date) August 25, 2020

**Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:** Proposed amendments will align rule language with state law regarding restrictions on electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards per RCW 74.08.580. Rule language will reflect allowable use of EBT cards at specialty beer and liquor stores that are authorized SNAP retailers. Amendments also align with state law prohibiting use of EBT cards in tattoo, body piercing, and body art shops.

**Reasons supporting proposal:** These amendments are necessary to align rule language with existing state law and recently revised statute under SB 6136 (Chapter 64, Laws of 2020).

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 74.04.050, RCW 74.04.055, RCW 74.04.057, RCW 74.04.510, RCW 74.08.090, 7 C.F.R. §§ 271.2, 7 C.F.R. §§ 273.16

**Statute being implemented:** Chapter 64, Laws of 2020

**Is rule necessary because of a:**

Federal Law?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Federal Court Decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
State Court Decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

If yes, CITATION:

**Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:** None

**Name of proponent:** (person or organization) Department of Social and Health Services

<input type="checkbox"/> Private
<input type="checkbox"/> Public
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governmental

**Name of agency personnel responsible for:**

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting:	Christina M. Barras	PO Box 45470, Olympia, WA 98504-5770	360-725-4640
Implementation:	Christina M. Barras	PO Box 45470, Olympia, WA 98504-5770	360-725-4640
Enforcement:	Christina M. Barras	PO Box 45470, Olympia, WA 98504-5770	360-725-4640

**Is a school district fiscal impact statement required under RCW 28A.305.135?**  Yes  No

If yes, insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the school district fiscal impact statement by contacting:

Name:  
Address:  
Phone:  
Fax:  
TTY:  
Email:  
Other:

**Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?**

Yes: A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

Name:  
Address:  
Phone:  
Fax:  
TTY:  
Email:  
Other:

No: Please explain: These amendments are exempt as allowed under RCW 34.05.328(5)(b)(vii) which states in part, "this section does not apply to ...rules of the Department of Social and Health Services relating only to client medical or financial eligibility and rules concerning liability for care of dependents."

**Regulatory Fairness Act Cost Considerations for a Small Business Economic Impact Statement:**

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, **may be exempt** from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act (see chapter 19.85 RCW). Please check the box for any applicable exemption(s):

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.061 because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Please cite the specific federal statute or regulation this rule is being adopted to conform or comply with, and describe the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted.

Citation and description:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt because the agency has completed the pilot rule process defined by RCW 34.05.313 before filing the notice of this proposed rule.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under the provisions of RCW 15.65.570(2) because it was adopted by a referendum.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(3). Check all that apply:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b)<br>(Internal government operations) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e)<br>(Dictated by statute)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c)<br>(Incorporation by reference)     | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f)<br>(Set or adjust fees)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d)<br>(Correct or clarify language)    | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g)<br>((i) Relating to agency hearings; or (ii) process requirements for applying to an agency for a license or permit) |

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW \_\_\_\_\_.

Explanation of exemptions, if necessary: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF NO EXEMPTION APPLIES**

If the proposed rule is **not exempt**, does it impose more-than-minor costs (as defined by RCW 19.85.020(2)) on businesses?

No Briefly summarize the agency's analysis showing how costs were calculated. \_\_\_\_\_

Yes Calculations show the rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses, and a small business economic impact statement is required. Insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the small business economic impact statement or the detailed cost calculations by contacting:

- Name:
- Address:
- Phone:
- Fax:
- TTY:
- Email:
- Other:

**Date:** July 28, 2020

**Name:** Katherine I. Vasquez

**Title:** DSHS Rules Coordinator

**Signature:**

**WAC 388-412-0046 What is the purpose of DSHS cash and food assistance benefits and how can I use my benefits?** (1) What is the purpose of DSHS cash benefits?

(a) DSHS cash assistance benefits are provided to low-income residents who qualify for public assistance programs. These benefits are intended to help pay for basic living expenses as described under RCW 74.04.770. TANF cash grants must be used for the sole benefit of the children, and we may require proof that you are using your TANF cash assistance to benefit your children as allowed under RCW 74.12.260.

(b) Your electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card or cash assistance benefits may only be used by you, an eligible member of your household, or an authorized representative/protective payee for the purposes of your cash assistance program. You are not allowed to sell, attempt to sell, exchange, or donate your EBT card or benefits to any other person or entity.

(c) You may use your cash benefits to pay a reasonable amount of basic living expenses such as:

(i) Shelter;

(ii) Utilities such as heating, telephone, water, sewer, garbage, and recycling;

(iii) Food;

(iv) Transportation;

(v) Clothing;

(vi) Household maintenance;

(vii) Personal hygiene;

(viii) Employment or school related items; and

(ix) Other necessary incidentals and items.

(d) It is not legal to use electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards or cash obtained with EBT cards to:

(i) Gamble. Gambling includes:

(A) The purchase of lottery tickets;

(B) The purchase of pull tabs;

(C) Use of punch boards;

(D) Purchase of bingo cards;

(E) Betting on horse racing;

(F) Participating in casino games; and

(G) Participating in other games of chance as found in chapters 9.46, 67.16 and 67.70 RCW.

(ii) Participate in or purchase any activities located in a tattoo, body piercing, or body art shop licensed under chapter 18.300 RCW;

(iii) Purchase cigarettes as defined in RCW 82.24.010 or tobacco products as defined in RCW 82.26.010;

(iv) Purchase any (~~alcoholic~~) items regulated under Title 66 RCW;

(v) Purchase or participate in any activities in any of the following locations:

(A) Taverns licensed under RCW 66.24.330;

(B) Beer/wine specialty stores licensed under RCW 66.24.371, except if the store is an authorized supplemental nutrition assistance program or women, infants, and children retailer;

(C) Nightclubs licensed under RCW 66.24.600;

(D) (~~Contract liquor stores defined under RCW 66.04.010;~~

~~(E)~~) Bail bond agencies regulated under chapter 18.185 RCW;  
~~((F))~~ (E) Gambling establishments licensed under chapter 9.46  
RCW;

(F) Tattoo, body piercing, or body art shops regulated under  
chapter 18.300 RCW;

(G) Adult entertainment venues with performances that contain  
erotic material where minors under the age of eighteen are prohibited  
under RCW 9.68A.150;

(H) Any establishments where persons under the age of eighteen  
are not permitted.

(e) If you use your electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card or  
cash obtained from your EBT card illegally we may:

(i) Assign a protective payee to manage your cash assistance ben-  
efits under WAC 388-460-0035;

(ii) For households receiving TANF, require proof that your bene-  
fits are being used for the benefit of the children in the household;

(iii) Terminate your cash benefits; or

(iv) Pursue legal action, including criminal prosecution.

(2) What is the purpose of DSHS food assistance benefits?

(a) DSHS food assistance benefits, including those from the basic  
food program, state funded basic food program for legal immigrants  
(FAP), Washington state combined application project (WASHCAP), and  
transitional food assistance (TFA), help low-income individuals and  
families have a more nutritious diet by providing food assistance ben-  
efits through EBT cards for eligible households to buy groceries.

(b) You, members of your household, or an authorized representa-  
tive may use your food assistance benefits to buy food items for your  
household from a food retailer authorized to accept supplemental nu-  
trition assistance program (SNAP) benefits by the U.S. Department of  
Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS).

(c) You can use your food assistance benefits to buy items such  
as:

(i) Breads and cereals;

(ii) Fruits and vegetables;

(iii) Cheese, milk, and other dairy products;

(iv) Meats, fish, poultry, and eggs;

(v) Most other food items that are not prepared hot foods; and

(vi) Seeds and plants that produce food.

(d) It is not legal to:

(i) Give your EBT card or benefits to anyone who is not in your  
food assistance household or your authorized representative.

(ii) Use food benefits for any purpose other than to buy food for  
eligible household members.

(iii) Exchange food benefits for anything of value (trafficking).  
Examples of illegal trafficking include exchanging food benefits or  
attempting to exchange food benefits for cash, drugs, weapons, or any-  
thing other than food from an authorized retailer.

(iv) Sell, attempt to sell, exchange, or donate an EBT card, EBT  
card number, personal identification numbers (PINs), or any benefits  
to any person or entity.

(v) Buy, attempt to buy, or steal someone's EBT card, EBT card  
number, or PIN.

(vi) Sell or trade any food that was purchased using food assis-  
tance benefits for cash, drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, firearms,  
or anything of value.

(vii) Use food benefits to buy nonfood items such as cigarettes, tobacco, beer, wine, liquor, household supplies, soaps, paper products, vitamins, medicine, or pet food.

(viii) Commit any other act in violation of the Food Nutrition Act of 2008, regulations for the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) under Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations or any Washington state administrative code relating to the use, presentation, transfer, acquisition, receipt, trafficking, or possession of food assistance benefits.

(e) If you intentionally misuse food assistance benefits, you may be:

(i) Disqualified for an intentional program violation under WAC 388-446-0015 and 388-446-0020. If you are disqualified you will lose your benefits for at least one year and up to a lifetime. The disqualification continues even if you move to another state.

(ii) Subject to fines.

(iii) Subject to legal action, including criminal prosecution. DSHS will cooperate with state, local, and federal prosecuting authorities to prosecute trafficking in food assistance/SNAP benefits.