



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

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

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

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OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: February 25, 2021

TIME: 11:50 AM

WSR 21-06-049

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 20-22-062 ; 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 adoption of WAC 388-434-0015, Extension of certification periods and waiver of eligibility reviews and mid-certification reviews during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hearing location(s):

Date:	Time:	Location: (be specific)	Comment:
April 6, 2021	10:00 a.m.	Office Building 2 DSHS Headquarters 1115 Washington Street SE Olympia, WA 98501 Or by Skype	Public parking at 11th and Jefferson. A map is available at: https://www.dshs.wa.gov/office-of-the-secretary/driving-directions-office-bldg-2 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 April 7, 2021 (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

Fax: 360-664-6185

Other:

By (date) 5:00 p.m. April 6, 2021

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

Other:

By (date) March 23, 2021

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: Proposed adoption of WAC 388-434-0015 will implement administrative flexibilities regarding certification periods and mid-certification reviews as allowed under H.R. 8337, Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act of 2020.

These adjustments to certification periods and mid-certification reviews have been in effect since November 2020 under emergency rule adoption filed as WSR 20-22-065.

Reasons supporting proposal: The proposed rule is necessary to administer flexibilities of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act of 2020 (H.R. 8337 Section 4603) related to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which support preservation of public health, safety, and general welfare through access to food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 74.04.050, RCW 74.04.055, RCW 74.04.057, RCW 74.04.500, RCW 74.04.510, RCW 74.08.090, and RCW 74.08A.120

Statute being implemented:

Is rule necessary because of a:

Federal Law?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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: H.R. 8337 Section 4603)

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:	Ivette Dones-Figueroa	PO Box 45470, Olympia WA 98504	360-764-3812
Implementation:	Ivette Dones-Figueroa	PO Box 45470, Olympia WA 98504	360-764-3812
Enforcement:	Ivette Dones-Figueroa	PO Box 45470, Olympia WA 98504	360-764-3812

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 rules are exempt as allowed under RCW 34.05.328(5)(b)(vii) which states in part, “[t]his 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:

- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b) (Internal government operations)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c) (Incorporation by reference)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d) (Correct or clarify language)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e) (Dictated by statute)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f) (Set or adjust fees)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g) ((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 34.05.328(5)(b)(vii).

Explanation of exemptions, if necessary: These amendments do not impact small businesses. They only impact DSHS clients.

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: February 25, 2021

Name: Katherine I. Vasquez

Title: DSHS Rules Coordinator

Signature:



NEW SECTION

WAC 388-434-0015 Extension of certification periods and waiver of eligibility reviews and mid-certification reviews during the COVID-19 pandemic.

(1) Recertification requirements for food assistance under WAC 388-434-0010 are waived in the months listed below and your certification period will automatically be extended as follows:

(a) Certification periods ending in November 2020 and December 2020 will be automatically extended by two months;

(b) Certification periods ending in January 2021 and February 2021 will be automatically extended by four months, if not previously extended.

(2) Eligibility review requirements for cash assistance under WAC 388-434-0005 are waived as follows:

(a) All eligibility reviews due in November 2020 and December 2020;

(b) Eligibility reviews, not already extended, due in January 2021 and February 2021.

(3) If your cash assistance eligibility review is waived under subsection (2) of this section, the following programs are included:

(a) Temporary assistance for needy families;

(b) State family assistance;

(c) Aged, blind or disabled cash assistance; and

(d) Housing and essential needs referral.

(4) If your working family support certification period ends under WAC 388-493-0010, your certification period will be extended as described in subsection (1) of this section.

(5) Mid-certification review requirements for cash and food assistance under WAC 388-418-0011 are waived from November 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

(6) You are still required to report changes under WAC 388-418-0005.

(7) The department will review and act upon any new information we receive from you during this time under WAC 388-418-0020.