WSR 24-01-094 PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES (Economic Services Administration) [Filed December 18, 2023, 10:29 a.m.]

Subject of Possible Rule Making: The department of social and health services (DSHS) is planning to amend WAC 388-439-0020 Eligibility for pandemic EBT benefits for children under age six and 388-439-0025 Eligibility for pandemic EBT benefits during the 2023 summer period, and other related rules as appropriate.

Statutes Authorizing the Agency to Adopt Rules on this Subject: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120.

Reasons Why Rules on this Subject may be Needed and What They Might Accomplish: Planned amendments are necessary to more accurately align pandemic EBT program rules with federal regulations. As needed, planned amendments will also make additional changes required to improve clarity, update policy, or better align rule language with state and federal law or regulations.

Other Federal and State Agencies that Regulate this Subject and the Process Coordinating the Rule with These Agencies: United States Department of Agriculture: Food and Nutrition Service.

Process for Developing New Rule: DSHS welcomes the public to take part in developing the rules. Anyone interested should contact the staff person identified below. At a later date, DSHS will file a proposal with the office of the code reviser with a notice of proposed rule making. A copy of the proposal will be sent to everyone on the mailing list and to anyone who requests a copy.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting Troy Burgess, P.O. Box 45470, Olympia, WA 98504-4570, phone 360-584-5162, email troy.burgess@dshs.wa.gov.

> December 14, 2023 Katherine I. Vasquez Rules Coordinator