

WSR 25-01-147

EMERGENCY RULES

HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

(Public Employees Benefits Board)

[Admin #2024-03.04—Filed December 18, 2024, 8:23 a.m., effective December 18, 2024, 8:23 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: The health care authority (agency) is refiling WAC 182-12-5200 When is a retiring employee or a retiring school employee who separates from employment eligible to enroll in public employees benefits board (PEBB) retiree insurance coverage, as authorized in HB 1008, chapter 164, Laws of 2023, 68th legislature, 2023 regular session.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 182-12-5200.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: HB 1008, chapter 164, Laws of 2023, 68th legislature, 2023 regular session.

Other Authority: RCW 41.05.021 and 41.05.160.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: This emergency rule making is necessary to implement HB 1008, chapter 164, Laws of 2023, while the authority conducts the permanent rule-making process.

This filing continues the emergency rules filed under WSR 24-18-023, filed on August 23, 2024. Since the filing of this emergency rule, the agency adopted permanent rules under WSR 24-18-080, effective January 1, 2025. This emergency refiling covers the gap between the expiration of the emergency rules and the effective date of the permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: December 18, 2024.

Wendy Barcus
Rules Coordinator

OTS-4906.3

NEW SECTION

WAC 182-12-5200 When is a retiring employee or a retiring school employee who separates from employment eligible to enroll in public employees benefits board (PEBB) retiree insurance coverage? (1) A retiring employee or a retiring school employee who meet the definition of a separated employee as defined in RCW 41.05.011 (25)(a) or (b) is eligible to continue enrollment or defer enrollment in public employees benefits board (PEBB) insurance coverage as a retiree if they meet procedural and substantive eligibility requirements as described in WAC 182-12-171 (1), (2), and (3), except as described in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) Effective January 1, 2024, the exceptions for a retiring employee and a retiring school employee to immediately begin receiving a monthly retirement plan payment to meet the substantive eligibility requirements as described in WAC 182-12-171 (2)(a), (c)(ii), and (d), and 182-12-5110 (4)(b), will include the following:

(a) A retiring employee or a retiring school employee who is a member of a Plan 3 retirement plan, also called a separated employee, must meet their Plan 3 retirement eligibility criteria; and

(b) A retiring employee or a retiring school employee who is a member of the teachers' retirement system Plan 2, school employees' retirement system Plan 2, or public employees' retirement system Plan 2, also called a separated employee, who separates from employment on or after January 1, 2024, and who is at least age 55 and have at least 20 years of service.

(3) The exceptions described in subsection (2) of this section apply to an employee or a school employee who is determined to be retroactively eligible for a disability retirement as described in WAC 182-12-211 (1)(c).