WSR 26-10-102
PROPOSED RULES
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT
[Filed May 6, 2026, 11:28 a.m.]

Original Notice.

Preproposal statement of inquiry was filed as WSR 26-04-126.

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: WAC 192-180-005 Registration for work—RCW 50.20.010(1) and 50.20.230.

Hearing Location(s): On June 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., via Zoom at https://esd-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/88303918998?pwd=lx7Xa0LKj70qdG55BbD07Ws2Fz4JBR.1, Meeting ID 883 0391 8998, Passcode 002368; or One-tap mobile +13017158592,,88303918998#,,,,*002368# US (Washington DC), +13052241968,,88303918998#,,,,*002368# US.

Date of Intended Adoption: June 15, 2026.

Submit Written Comments to: Stephanie Frazee, P.O. Box 9046, Olympia, WA 98507-9046, email esdgpuirules@esd.wa.gov, fax 844-652-7096, beginning on the date of this filing, by June 11, 2026.

Assistance for Persons with Disabilities: Contact Teresa Eckstein, phone 360-507-9890, fax 360-586-4600, TTY relay 711, email Teresa.eckstein@esd.wa.gov, by June 4, 2026.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: In order to be eligible for unemployment benefits, an individual must be registered for work through the state's labor exchange system (RCW 50.20.010). Under the current version of WAC 192-180-005, if an individual lives within the state of Washington, the employment security department (department) will generally automatically register that individual for work based on the information provided in the application for unemployment benefits; individuals who live in a state other than Washington must register for work within one week of the date their first payment is issued. Under the proposed amendments to the rule, claimants will be required to register themselves for work. The goals of the rule making include ensuring compliance with state and federal law. Additionally, the department is updating its workforce integrated technology system in 2026 to comply with legal requirements regarding claimant registration for work (RCW 50.20.230), and this rule change is necessary to be consistent with those operational changes. Currently, with the department registering claimants for work, claimants may not be aware they have been registered for work and may not be aware of the reemployment services available to them through the labor exchange system. Having claimants register themselves will help ensure that they have access to the work registration system and can take advantage of those services.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: The purpose of this rule making is to make the department's rule regarding registration for work consistent with state and federal law. RCW 50.20.010 (1)(a), 50.20.230, and 20 C.F.R. § 652.210(a) require that claimants register for work in order to be eligible for benefits. Currently, WAC 192-180-005 states that the department will register claimants for work. The rule is being updated to require that claimants register themselves for work.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 50.12.010, 50.12.040, 50.20.010, and 50.20.230.

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 50.20.010 and 50.20.230.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Employment security department, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Stephanie Frazee, Olympia, Washington, 425-465-0313; Implementation and Enforcement: J.R. Richards, Olympia, Washington, 360-463-1079.

A school district fiscal impact statement is not required under RCW 28A.305.135.

A cost-benefit analysis is required under RCW 34.05.328. A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting Stephanie Frazee, P.O. Box 9046, Olympia, WA 98507-9046, phone 425-465-0313, fax 844-652-7096, TTY relay 771 [711], email esdgpuirules@esd.wa.gov, web https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/rulemaking.

Scope of exemption for rule proposal from Regulatory Fairness Act requirements:

Is not exempt.

The proposed rule does not impose more-than-minor costs on businesses. Following is a summary of the agency's analysis showing how costs were calculated. This rule pertains to claimants registering for work. It should not impose any costs on businesses.

May 6, 2026
Joy E. Adams, Director
Employment System Policy and Integrity Division

RDS-7014.3

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-13-007, filed 6/2/22, effective 7/3/22)

WAC 192-180-005 Registration for work—RCW 50.20.010(1) and 50.20.230. (1) **Am I required to register for work?** You must register for work unless you are:

(a) Attached to an employer, meaning you are:

(i) Partially unemployed as defined in WAC 192-180-013(1);

(ii) On standby as defined by WAC 192-110-015;

(iii) Unemployed because you are on strike or locked out from the worksite as provided in RCW 50.20.090; or

(iv) Participating in the shared work program under chapter 50.60 RCW;

(b) A member of a union that participates in the referral union program (see WAC 192-210-110);

(c) Participating in a training program approved by the commissioner;

(d) The subject of an antiharassment order. This includes any court-issued order providing for your protection, such as restraining orders, no contact orders, domestic violence protective orders, and similar documents;

(e) An active registered electrical apprentice in an approved electrical apprenticeship program under chapter 49.04 RCW and chapter 296-05 WAC; or

(f) Under isolation or quarantine at the request of a medical professional, local health official, or the Secretary of Health as a consequence of a disease that is the subject of a public health emergency, even if you or your immediate family member have not been ac-

tually diagnosed with a disease that is the subject of a public health emergency.

(2) **((~~How soon~~)) When do I have to register for work?**

(a) If you live within the state of Washington, ((~~the department will register you automatically based on information contained in your application for benefits. In unusual circumstances where you are not automatically registered,~~)) you must register for work within one week of the date on which you are notified by the department of the requirement to register for work.

(b) If you live in ((~~another~~)) a state other than Washington, you must register for work within one week of the date your first payment is issued ((~~on your new or reopened claim~~)).

(c) If you have been requested by a medical professional, local health official, or the Secretary of Health to be isolated or quarantined as a consequence of a disease that is the subject of a public health emergency, even if you or your immediate family member have not been actually diagnosed with a disease that is the subject of a public health emergency ((~~and were not automatically registered~~)), you must register for work within one week of the date you are no longer requested to be isolated or quarantined.

(3) **((~~Where~~)) How do I register for work?** You ((~~will be registered for work with the department. However,~~)) register for work by creating a user account on the state's public online labor exchange system and making your resume or profile viewable by employers. If you live in ((~~another~~)) a state other than Washington, you must register for work with the equivalent public employment agency in that state.

(4) **What if I have already registered for work?** If you previously registered for work, you must ensure that your profile information and resume are current within one week of the date on which you are notified by the department of the requirement to register for work.

(5) **What is the penalty if I do not register for work?** You ((~~will~~)) may not be eligible for benefits for any week in which you are not registered for work, or have not updated your registration, as required by this section.