WSR 26-17-088
PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY
DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

[Order 26-15—Filed August 18, 2026, 8:56 a.m.]

Subject of Possible Rule Making: Indoor heat exposure and heat illness prevention in all industries; Title 296 WAC, Department of labor and industries (L&I).

Statutes Authorizing the Agency to Adopt Rules on this Subject: RCW 49.17.101, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060.

Reasons Why Rules on this Subject may be Needed and What They Might Accomplish: In 2021, L&I initiated rule making under WSR 21-17-135 to consider occupational heat exposure hazards from high temperatures in all industries, including outdoor and indoor exposures. Subsequently, L&I decided to separate indoor and outdoor heat exposure requirements into phases. Rule making related to outdoor heat exposure requirements was completed in June 2023. L&I received a petition for rule making on October 15, 2025, requesting changes to L&I's rules to include more specific requirements to prevent heat-related illness for indoor workers in all industries.

This rule making will consider occupational heat exposure hazards from high temperatures in all industries, and will consider requirements for, but not limited to: Trigger temperatures or another measure of environmental conditions stress to the human body, preventative measures (such as water, cooling methods, and rest time/breaks), emergency response measures, training, and planning. Establishing indoor heat exposure requirements benefits employers and employees by providing clear and consistent health and safety standards.

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration currently has a national emphasis program regarding indoor heat exposure.

Other Federal and State Agencies that Regulate this Subject and the Process Coordinating the Rule with These Agencies: None.

Process for Developing New Rule: Parties interested in the formulation of these rules for proposal may contact the individual listed below. The public may also participate by commenting after amendments are proposed by providing written comments or giving oral testimony during the public hearing process.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting Carmyn Shute, Administrative Regulations Analyst, L&I, Division of Occupational Safety and Health, P.O. Box 44620, Olympia, WA 98504-4620, phone 360-870-4525, fax 360-902-5619, email Carmyn.Shute@Lni.wa.gov.

Additional comments: For more information on L&I rule making, visit L&I's rule-making activity web page at https://www.Lni.wa.gov/rulemaking-activity/.

August 18, 2026
Joel Sacks
Director