WSR 26-19-025
PERMANENT RULES
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

[Filed September 8, 2026, 1:28 p.m., effective October 9, 2026]

Effective Date of Rule: Thirty-one days after filing.

Purpose: In order to be eligible for unemployment benefits, an individual must be registered for work through the state's labor exchange system, under 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 that 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.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 192-180-005.

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

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 26-10-102 on May 6, 2026.

Changes Other than Editing from Proposed to Adopted Version: The department determined that the proposed rule language should be updated to account for how claimants who have been regularly commuting to work in Washington from out of state should register for work. Therefore, subsection (3) was updated to state the following (the language updated since the proposed rule was shared is italicized):

(3) How do I register for work? You 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 a state other than Washington, you must register for work *either in Washington* or with the equivalent public employment agency in the state *where you live*.

A final cost-benefit analysis is available 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 stephanie.frazee@esd.wa.gov, website https://esd.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/rulemaking/unemployment-insurance-benefits-rules/registration-work.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, 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 1, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 1, 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 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: September 8, 2026.

Lekha Fernandes, Director
Employment System Policy and Integrity Division

RDS-7014.4

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 actually 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 either in Washington or with the equivalent public employment agency in ((~~that~~)) the state where you live.

(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.