WSR 26-19-042
PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[Filed September 11, 2026, 8:02 a.m.]

Subject of Possible Rule Making: Residential treatment facility (RTF) chapter cleanup. The department of health (department) is considering rule amendments in chapter 246-337 WAC to ensure the rules reflect current health and safety standards for licensure and operation of RTFs.

Statutes Authorizing the Agency to Adopt Rules on this Subject: RCW 43.70.040 and 71.12.670.

Reasons Why Rules on this Subject may be Needed and What They Might Accomplish: Except for revising individual sections, a comprehensive review of this chapter has not been done since 2018. In accordance with RCW 43.70.041, the department has reviewed chapter 246-337 WAC and determined updates may be needed to reflect current health and safety standards for licensure and operations of RTFs. Updates may include, but are not limited to:

- Aligning regulations with current industry standards and related RCW and WAC.
- Inclusion or clarification of requirements related to specific types of services provided in RTFs.
- Inclusion or clarification of the treatment criteria set by the American Society of Addiction Medicine which guide treatment placement, care levels, and discharge for individuals with substance use disorder and cooccurring conditions.
- Correcting RCW and WAC citations.
- Amending and adding new definitions as needed.

Rule making is needed to clarify existing requirements, remove outdated or unnecessary provisions, make corrections, and update language to industry standards. These updates will help ensure the rules remain clear, current, and effective while supporting efficient program administration and public safety.

Other Federal and State Agencies that Regulate this Subject and the Process Coordinating the Rule with These Agencies: The department will work closely with the health care authority and other interested agencies on this rule making.

Process for Developing New Rule: Collaborative rule making.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting Dan Overton, P.O. Box 47843, Olympia, WA 98504-7843, phone 564-201-0579, TTY 711, email dan.overton@doh.wa.gov, website www.doh.wa.gov.

Additional comments: Interested parties may participate in the development of draft rules prior to a formal proposal by joining the department's interested parties list, attending workshops, and providing input on draft and proposed materials. To find out more information about our rule making and to be included on the interested parties list, follow these steps: (1) Go to www.doh.wa.gov; (2) click on the "Sign up for Updates from DOH" button on the bottom of the page; (3) enter your contact information; (4) click "Submit"; (5) under the subscription topics, select the "Residential Treatment Facilities" box under the "Health Systems Quality Assurance (HSQA)" and "Facilities Licensing and Certificate of Need" dropdowns; and (6) scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Submit."

September 10, 2026
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