

Preliminary Cost-Benefit Analysis

COVID 19 Emergency Rules – Phase 3

Introduction

Pursuant to RCW 34.05.328, the Employment Security Department (Department) hereby analyzes the costs and benefits of permanently adopting emergency rules (phase 3) adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Costs

COSTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT

The Department does not anticipate additional costs to implement the rules. The Department implemented the needed changes when the emergency rules were adopted in 2020.

COSTS FOR THE PUBLIC

The rules amended by the COVID 19 Emergency Rules – Phase 3 rulemaking do not create an additional tax burden on employers.

Benefits

The rules amended by the COVID 19 Emergency Rules – Phase 3 rulemaking provide flexibility for:

- The means of filing a petition for review with the Department.
- Reopening and backdating claims.
- Non-charging combined-wage claim in the second quarter of 2020.

Conclusion

The rule change supports the Department's mission to develop the nation's best and most future-ready workforce with opportunities for all by providing additional flexibility to employees and employers while imposing no costs across the employers. Therefore, the Department concludes the probable benefits of the proposed rule are greater than its probable costs.