

Preliminary Cost-Benefit Analysis

COVID 19 Emergency Rules – Phase 4

Introduction

Pursuant to RCW 34.05.328, the Employment Security Department (Department) hereby analyzes the costs and benefits of permanently adopting emergency rules (phase 4) 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 proposed rules at issue in the COVID 19 Emergency Rules – Phase 4 rulemaking do not create an additional tax burden on employers.

Benefits

The proposed rules at issue in the COVID 19 Emergency Rules – Phase 4 rulemaking:

- Allows for overpayments of certain CARES Act benefits to be waived on a blanket basis; and
- Clarifies when claimants do not have to serve a waiting week.

Conclusion

The proposed rules support the Department's mission to develop the nation's best and most future-ready workforce with opportunities for all by providing additional flexibility and thereby economic stability to claimants while imposing no costs across the employers. Therefore, the Department concludes the probable benefits of the proposed rules are greater than their probable costs.