



# PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

## CR-101 (October 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.310)

Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

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DATE: May 28, 2021

TIME: 8:13 AM

WSR 21-12-067

**Agency:** Employment Security Department

**Subject of possible rule making:** In April, the Governor signed Substitute House Bill 1493, concerning job search monitoring. To be eligible to receive unemployment benefits, an unemployed individual must, among other requirements, be actively seeking work (RCW 50.20.010(1)(c)). Prior to the passage of SHB 1493, RCW 50.20.240(1)(b) required individuals to make contacts with at least three employers per week or to conduct at least three documented in-person job search activities at the local reemployment center per week. SHB 1493 amended RCW 50.20.240(1)(b) to require that until December 31, 2023, claimants demonstrate contacts with at least three employers per week or three in-person job search activities per week, "or as directed by the Employment Security Department to meet the intent of rigorous reemployment efforts." The Department is beginning rulemaking to define what efforts by claimants will be considered rigorous reemployment efforts, as provided in SHB 1493.

**Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject:** RCW 50.12.010; RCW 50.12.240; RCW 50.20.010; RCW 50.20.240, Substitute House Bill 1493 (2021)

**Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:** Washington's unemployed workers need more options and flexibility in how they search for work in order to adapt to the specific demands of local markets.

**Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:** The U.S. Department of Labor reviews the state's administration of the unemployment insurance program to ensure conformity to federal statutes and regulations. The state has broad flexibility in the implementation of the unemployment insurance laws so long as conformity is maintained. The proposed regulations will be shared with USDOL prior to adoption.

**Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):**

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study

Other (describe) The proposed rule will be shared with stakeholders as identified through the standard rulemaking process. ESD will solicit input and consider all comments in the development of the final rule.

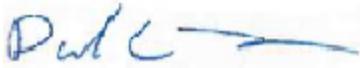
**Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:**

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(If necessary)

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 Web site:  
 Other:

Additional comments:

<b>Date:</b> May 28, 2021	<b>Signature:</b> 
<b>Name:</b> Daniel Zeitlin	
<b>Title:</b> Employment System Policy Director	