



Preliminary Cost-Benefit Analysis

COVID 19 Emergency Rules – Phase 1

Introduction

Pursuant to RCW 34.05.328, the Employment Security Department (Department) hereby analyzes the costs and benefits of permanently adopting emergency rules (phase 1) 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 1 rulemaking do not create an additional tax burden on employers.

Benefits

The proposed rules at issue in the COVID 19 Emergency Rules – Phase 1 rulemaking:

- Provides flexibility for employers and claimants in the event of a declared public health emergency.
- Allows for greater access to standby and shared work so that more employers and employees can benefit from those programs.
- Protects the integrity of the unemployment trust fund by temporarily pausing the payment of benefits on potentially fraudulent claims.

Conclusion

The rule changes support the Department's mission to develop the nation's best and most future-ready workforce. The rule changes do not create an additional tax burden on employers while providing flexibility for employers and claimants, additional access to programs, and thereby economic stability to claimants and employers while protecting the integrity of the unemployment trust fund. Therefore, the Department concludes the probable benefits of the proposed rule are greater than its probable costs.