



# Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee

## Meeting details

**Date:** Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Time:** 10:00 am – 11:00 am

**Location:** Zoom

### Committee members and alternates present

#### Employee Representatives

#### Employer Representatives

- Josie Cummings, Avista
- Julia Gorton, Washington Hospitality Association
- Lindsey Hueer, Association of Washington Businesses

#### General Public Representatives

- Anne Paxton, Unemployment Law Project
- John Glynn, Pac Mtn WF Dev Council

#### ESD staff

- Joshua Dye
- Shellie Dunning
- Vaughn Ellis
- Stephanie Frazee
- Camille Galeno
- Colin Helsley
- Kennidi Hunsicker
- Reese Hutchison
- Lawrence Larson

### Committee members and alternates absent

- Katie Beeson, Washington Food Industry Association (alternate)
- Monica Holland, Northwest Justice Project (alternate public rep)
- Sybill Hyppolite, Washington State Labor Council
- Joe Kendo, WA State Labor Council (alt employee rep)
- Allyson O'Malley-Jones, Northwest Justice Project
- Cindy Richardson, UNITE HERE Local 8
- Josh Swanson, Operating Engineers 302
- Brenda Wiest, Teamsters 117

- Marypat Meuli
- JR Richards
- Connie Riker
- Stephanie Sams
- Wendy Goldmark

## Summary

### Meeting Recorded

This meeting was [recorded](#) and livestreamed by TVW. Please reference this recording for further meeting details and full dialogue using the indicated timestamps.

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

Committee chair JR Richards welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked committee assistant Colin Helsley to call roll.

### Agenda

JR reviewed the following agenda items (also see Addendum I)

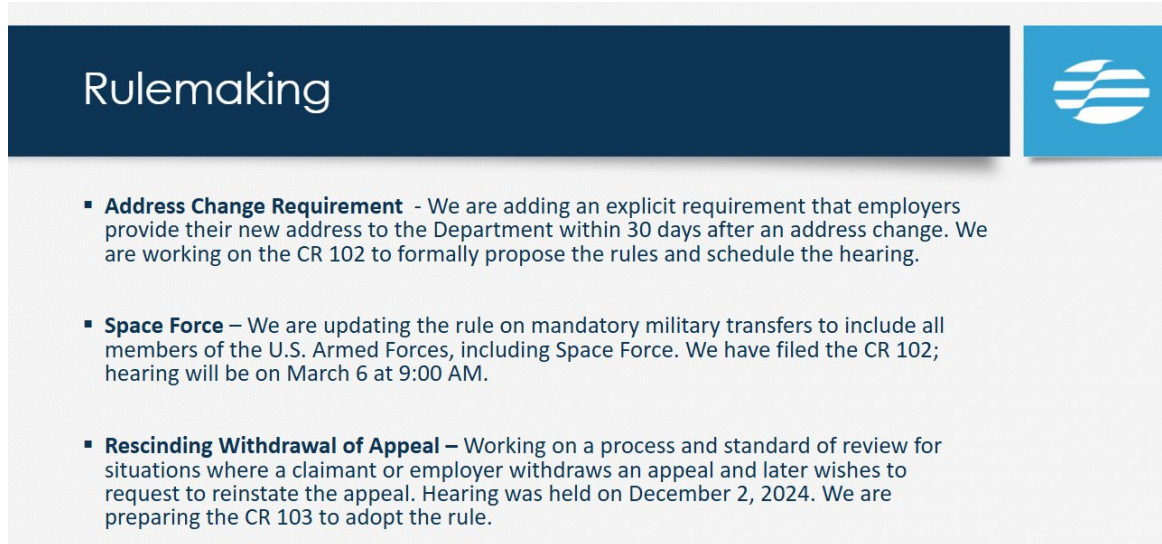
- Approval of December 11, 2024, meeting minutes
- Rulemaking Update
- Legislation Updates
- General UI Updates
- Public comment
- Adjourn

### Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from December 11, 2024, could not be approved due to an insufficient quorum. These minutes will be reviewed at the next UIAC meeting, where committee members will have the opportunity to provide feedback.

## Rulemaking Update

Stephanie Frazee, Legislation and Rules Coordinator, ESD provided a rulemaking update using the following slides.



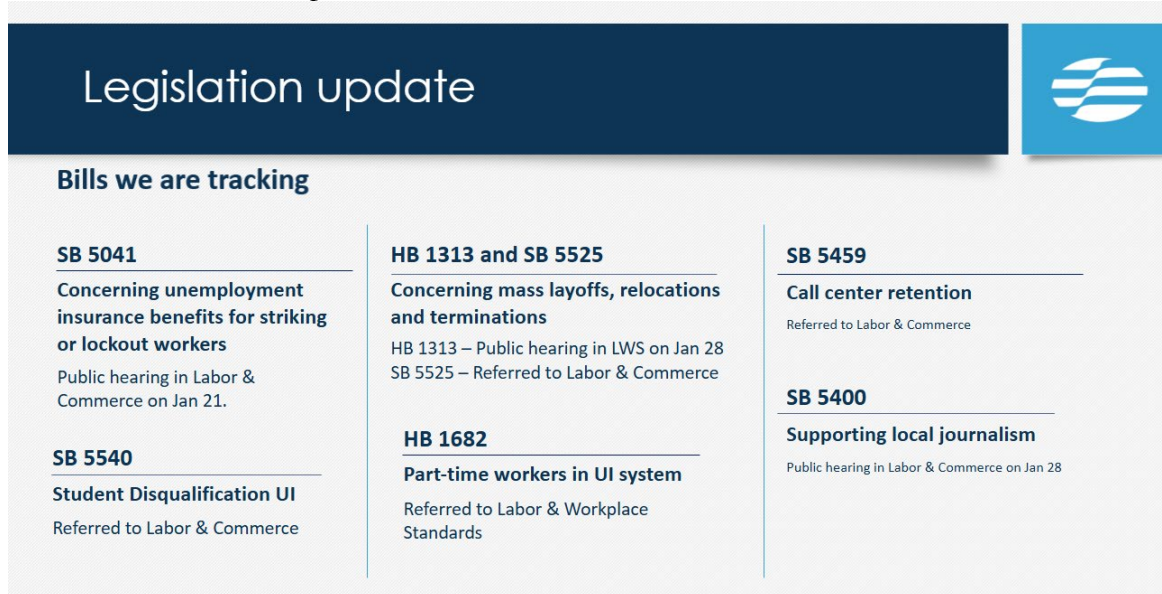
**Rulemaking**

- **Address Change Requirement** - We are adding an explicit requirement that employers provide their new address to the Department within 30 days after an address change. We are working on the CR 102 to formally propose the rules and schedule the hearing.
- **Space Force** – We are updating the rule on mandatory military transfers to include all members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including Space Force. We have filed the CR 102; hearing will be on March 6 at 9:00 AM.
- **Rescinding Withdrawal of Appeal** – Working on a process and standard of review for situations where a claimant or employer withdraws an appeal and later wishes to request to reinstate the appeal. Hearing was held on December 2, 2024. We are preparing the CR 103 to adopt the rule.

No questions were raised.

## Legislation Update

Josh Dye, Interim Government Relations Director, ESD to present information from the following slides on Government Relation Updates.



**Legislation update**

**Bills we are tracking**

<b>SB 5041</b> <b>Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers</b> Public hearing in Labor & Commerce on Jan 21.	<b>HB 1313 and SB 5525</b> <b>Concerning mass layoffs, relocations and terminations</b> HB 1313 – Public hearing in LWS on Jan 28 SB 5525 – Referred to Labor & Commerce	<b>SB 5459</b> <b>Call center retention</b> Referred to Labor & Commerce
<b>SB 5540</b> <b>Student Disqualification UI</b> Referred to Labor & Commerce	<b>HB 1682</b> <b>Part-time workers in UI system</b> Referred to Labor & Workplace Standards	<b>SB 5400</b> <b>Supporting local journalism</b> Public hearing in Labor & Commerce on Jan 28

No questions were raised.

## UI Updates

JR Richards, Unemployment Insurance Customer Support Director, ESD to present information from the following slides on general UI updates.

### Overpayments Update



Year in Review - 2024

- Completed 150,000 applications.
- Waived \$525M.
- Completed 17,000 outreach attempts (outbound calls & emails).
- Identified process improvements for operational efficiency.
- Strategized to maximize and leverage resource capacity.

### Peak Season Update



- Performing better Year over year compared to last peak
  - Q4 24 vs Q4 23 first pay timeliness went from 61.8% to 67.6% (5.8% higher)
  - Comparing December 23 vs. 24, we answered 22,025 calls vs. 23,516 (6.7% higher)
  - High call volume messages played 157,087 vs. 103,414 (down 34%)

No questions were raised.

## Public Comments

JR offered an opportunity for committee members to bring up any topics they would like to discuss before public comments. Committee members did not bring forward additional topics.

JR reminded meeting participants that if they would like their comments captured in the meeting minutes to please email them to [camille.galeno@esd.wa.gov](mailto:camille.galeno@esd.wa.gov).

# Public Comment



- If you would like to make public comment, please state your name and spell it so we can capture it correctly for the minutes, as well as the organization you represent if any.
- **Reminder:** Your comments are being recorded.
- If you would like your comments to be included in the meeting minutes, please submit them in writing via email to Camille Galeno at [camille.galeno@esd.wa.gov](mailto:camille.galeno@esd.wa.gov). *(Camille's email will be posted in the chat)*
- Please limit your comments to **two minutes**.

No public comments were made.

## **Adjourned**

JR thanked everyone for joining and adjourned the meeting.

## **Action Items**

- UIAC will review December 11, 2024, draft UIAC meeting minutes at the next meeting.

## **Next meeting**

January 29th, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.

## Addendum I



### Agenda

#### Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee (UIAC)

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Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 | 10:00 am- 11:00 am | Via Zoom | 212 Maple Park Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Time	Topic
10:00am	Welcome from JR Richards, Director, Unemployment Insurance Customer Support, Employment Security Department (ESD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Agenda overview</li></ul>
10:05am	Approval of Dec. 11, 2024, meeting minutes – JR Richards
10:10am	Rulemaking – Stephanie Frazee
10:15am	Legislative updates – Josh Dye
10:35am	General UI updates – JR Richards
10:50am	Public Comment
11:00 am	Adjourn

For more information, please visit the UIAC website at <https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/UIAC>

#### RECORDING DISCLAIMER:

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