

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CES)
Workers' Compensation Incentives: Preferred Workers and Stay at Work

Chapter 296-16 WAC, Employer—Worker reemployment incentives, and Chapter 296-16A WAC, Stay-at-Work program.

The date of adoption for this rule: November 19, 2024

The effective date for this rule: January 1, 2025

1. Purpose of rulemaking:

The purpose of this rulemaking is to implement the requirements of Substitute House Bill 2127, Chapter 90, Laws of 2024 and House Bill 1927, Chapter 144, Laws of 2024, which increases the maximum amounts an employer may be reimbursed by the Stay at Work Program and the Preferred Worker Program. These programs provide financial incentives to employers when they help injured workers return to approved work within their restrictions.

2. Differences between the rule as adopted and the proposed rule:

There are no differences between the adopted rule and the proposed rule.

3. Comments on proposed rule:

The public comment period for this rulemaking began October 2, 2024, and ended at 5 p.m. on November 12, 2024. A public hearing was held on November 12, 2024, in-person and by Zoom.

Fifteen people other than L&I staff attended the hearing, but did not give testimony.

We received no written comments.