

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CES)

Contractor Registration Fee Increases (FY26)

WAC 296-200A-900, What fees does the department charge contractors for issuance, renewal, reregistration, and reinstatement of certificates of registration?

The date of adoption for this rule: April 22, 2025

The effective date for this rule: July 1, 2025

I. Purpose of rulemaking:

The purposed of this rulemaking is to adopt amendments to the Contractor Registration fees under [WAC 296-200A-900](#). The adopted amendments increase fees by the fiscal growth factor of 6.41% for fiscal year 2026, to support operating expenses for the Contractor Registration Program (Program). The Program's current fee levels are inadequate to cover current expenses. The fee increases will ensure the Program's revenues match expenditures.

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

There are no differences between the rules as adopted and proposed.

3. Comments on proposed rule:

The public comment period for this rulemaking began on January 22, 2025, and written comments were accepted through February 25, 2025. L&I received two written comment on the proposed rules.

A hybrid public hearing was held on February 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at L&I headquarters and via Zoom meeting. Three (3) L&I staff and no other persons attended the public hearing. No persons provided testimony on the proposed rules.

Below is a summary of the comments that L&I received and L&I's responses.

General Comments	L&I Responses
Comment #1:	Response #1:
Regular fee increases according to inflation makes great sense. In addition, please consider adding a fee	Thank you for your comment and participation in the rulemaking process.

<p>waiver for first-time registrants or very small businesses. I started my business in 2023 and the list of license fees I had to pay was quite long. It creates a barrier to entry for new, small businesses, especially those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds who don't have lots of start-up capital. This approach would support the state's equity goals.</p>	<p>The contractor registration law, RCW 18.27.075, instructs L&I to revise the registration fees at least once every two years.</p> <p>Thank you for the support. I understand your request and appreciate the valuable feedback. At this time the fee increase is being applied consistently across the board for maintaining current staffing levels as well as program services through fee increases proposed in this rulemaking are critical to public protection.</p>
<p>Comment #2:</p> <p>I am a property manager in Vancouver, WA. I utilize many Tradesman/Contractors in my business. The cost to run their businesses has increased exponentially over the last few years with the increase in goods and the high rate of taxes and insurance especially in Washington State. Raising any fees at a time when inflation is killing America is not acceptable. I realize this is a trickledown effect but stopping it before it hits the working men and women is essential. Cut the budgets instead of raising the fees.</p>	<p>Response #2:</p> <p>Thank you for your comment and participation in the rulemaking process. The contractor registration law, RCW 18.27.075, instructs L&I to revise the registration fees at least once every two years.</p> <p>Fee increases are necessary to help cover the operating expenses of the programs. The benefits of maintaining current staffing levels as well as program services through fee increases proposed in this rulemaking are critical to public protection.</p>