



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

June 18, 2021

AL TSA: NH: #2021-048
AL TSA: AFH #2021-033
AL TSA: ALF #2021-033
AL TSA: ESF #2021-029
AL TSA: CCRSS #2021-029
AL TSA: ICF/IID #2021-030

PASSED LEGISLATION AND BEGINNING RULE-MAKING PROJECTS

Dear Administrator/Provider/Superintendent:

During the 2021 legislative session, the Washington state legislature passed two bills in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency with major impacts on long-term care facilities and homes:

- [ESHB 1120](#) addresses the statutes and rules that were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic and how to return to normal operations at the end of the state of emergency. This directs the department to adopt rules on the suspended topics and adopt in rule the periods of time requirements were suspended and how to reinstate them. These topics include fingerprint background checks, the timeline of licensing inspections, nursing home staffing, and long-term care worker training.
- [SHB 1218](#) addresses the quality of life, health, and safety of long-term care residents during a state of emergency, such as a pandemic. The legislation directs the department develop rules requiring long-term care facilities to develop emergency preparedness plans, respond to communications from the public, make accommodations to assist residents with communication, maintain current resident information, post any notice of stop placement, and support a resident's right to visitation from an essential support person during times when visitation is otherwise limited.

The department will be conducting rule-making projects on these topics to amend Chapters 388-97, 388-76, 388-78A, 388-107, and 388-101 WAC in compliance with this legislation. Administrators, providers, and superintendents from long-term care facilities, as well as members of the general public, are invited to participate in this process. This will mean participating in a workgroup or workgroups, attending meetings, and reviewing draft language as the rule changes are drafted and adopted. This project is expected to begin in the summer of 2021 and continue through the adoption of the final rules.

If you have any questions or if you want to participate in the rule-making process, please contact the Policy Unit at rcspolicy@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"