

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

July 2, 2021

ALTSA: NH #2021-053 CR-101 FILED TO CONSIDER AMENDING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 388-97 WAC, NURSING HOMES

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

The Department of Social and Health Services (Department) is considering amending Chapter 388-97 WAC as may be required to implement the sections in <u>Engrossed Substitute House Bill</u> (<u>ESHB</u>) 1120 (Chapter 203, Laws of 2021) related to nursing homes. The department filed three Preproposal Statements of Inquiry (CR-101) to address inspection timelines, staffing requirements, and nursing assistant certification. The following CR-101's were filed on July 1, 2021.

- CR-101 (<u>WSR 21-14-046</u>) relates to nursing home inspections. The proposed rule making seeks to address sections four and five of ESHB 1120, which amended RCWs 18.51.091 and 18.51.230. The rule making would re-establish inspection timelines and document in rule the time when inspections were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- CR-101 (<u>WSR 21-14-049</u>) relates to nursing home staffing requirements. Section six of ESHB 1120 amended RCW 74.42.360 related to staffing, and the rule making would reestablish when the suspended portions of the rules will be re-implemented.
- CR-101 (<u>WSR 21-14-051</u>) relates to nursing assistants and associated training requirements. Section 16 of ESHB 1120 amended RCW 18.88A.030, and the rule making will address re-implementation of nursing assistant training requirements and document in rule the time when the requirements were suspended.

For questions about the rule making, including how to participate in the rule-making process, please contact Lisa Herke, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager at <u>lisa.herke@dshs.wa.gov</u> or (509) 209-3088.

Sincerely,

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Mike Anbesse, Director Residential Care Services

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