



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (October 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.310)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: February 18, 2025

TIME: 1:57 PM

WSR 25-05-087

Agency: Department of Health – Washington State Board of Nursing

Subject of possible rule making: Nursing Assistant (NA) rules, chapter 246-841A WAC. The Washington State Board of Nursing (board) is considering amendments to nursing assistant rules to implement skills testing in training programs, make changes to the specialty curricula rule requirements, and other related rules as appropriate. The board will also consider updates to this chapter resulting from legislation passed in the 2025 Legislative Session.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 18.88A.030, 18.88A.060, and 18.88A.087

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:

The board is initiating rulemaking to amend chapter 246-841A WAC to:

- Integrate skills testing into NA training programs;
- Make changes to the specialty curricula rule requirements; and
- Address any impacts resulting from legislation passed during the 2025 Legislative Session and other related priorities

This rulemaking is necessary to ensure nursing assistant training programs comply with state and federal requirements and to address areas for improvement identified since the adoption of chapter 246-841A WAC.

In 2023, the board introduced chapter 246-841A WAC and launched a voluntary training program skills testing initiative. These changes have increased efficiency in the NA certification process, expanded testing capacity, improved student confidence, and raised pass rates. However, the board has identified the need for further rulemaking to streamline processes, formally integrate skills testing into training programs, and make changes to the specialty curricula rule requirements in order to address issues such as trainer backlog, increased program cost, and settings where the specialty curricula is currently not required in rule.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: None

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study
- Other (describe) Collaborative rulemaking

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:

Name: Jessilyn Dagum
Address: PO Box 47864
Olympia, WA
98504-7864

(If necessary)

Name:
Address

Phone: 360-236-3538

Fax: 360-236-4738

TTY: 711

Email: WABONRules@doh.wa.gov

Web site: www.nursing.wa.gov

Other: None

Phone:

Fax:

TTY:

Email:

Web site:

Other:

Additional comments: The board will notify interested parties of rulemaking by posting information on the Department of Health website, the board website, and by use of GovDelivery. Interested parties may sign up to receive board rulemaking notices at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOH/subscriber/new>. The board will hold virtual meetings at varying times to encourage participation.

Date: February 18, 2025

Name: Alison Bradywood DNP, MN/MPH, RN, NEA-BC

Title: Executive Director, Board of Nursing

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AB', written in a cursive style.