



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 28, 2025

TIME: 4:10 PM

WSR 25-06-059

Agency: Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises

Subject of possible rule making: For title 326-20-WAC, adding a new chapter or sections, and amending sections concerning LGBTQ individuals and/or businesses to the presumptive disadvantage group and establishing a free-standing certification program.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 39.19.030, gives Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises authority to adopt rules to develop and maintain a central certification program for the state of Washington, and SB 5950 granted funding to implement a certification program for LGBTQ individuals and businesses.

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises was granted funding through a decision package in 2024 through SB 5950 to implement and operate an LGBTQ certification program. Rules are needed to implement the program.

Extending LGBTQ certification for LGBTQ-owned businesses will address the disparity of supporting some protected classes while leaving others out from statewide minority-owned business certification. Extending certification will put the state in the same level as the other states that already provide this certification. Moreover, this extension of certification aligns with the Governor's executive actions regarding equity in the state.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: N/A

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

- ☐ Negotiated rule making
- ☐ Pilot rule making
- ☐ Agency study
- ☒ Other (describe) Early solicitation of feedback and recommendations concerning new or amended rules, and consideration of comments and recommendations while drafting rule language.

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

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Additional comments:

Date: 02/28/2025	Signature: 
Name: Julie Bracken	
Title: Public Records Officer, Records Manager, Rules Coordinator	