



**Small Business Economic Impact Statement  
Re-adoption of WAC 170-296A-4550  
Licensed Family Home Child Care Standards**

**Rule Development Process**

**Negotiated Rule Making.** WAC chapter 170-296A was developed using a “negotiated rule making” process under RCW 34.05.310 and 43.215.350. The NRMT included FHCC licensees, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 925 that represents FHCC licensees, DEL licensing and policy staff, Provider and Parent Advocates, and the statewide Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Network representatives.

**1. Emergency exit platform**

WAC 170-296A-4550 (4) An emergency exit window must have a place to land outside that is forty-eight inches or less below the window which may be either:

- (a) The ground; or
- (b) A deck, landing or platform constructed to meet current building codes.

**Why the rule is needed.**

Effective means of exiting the home during an emergency are necessary in order to safeguard and promote the health, safety, and well-being of children receiving child care and early learning assistance in a family home setting. Further, under RCW 43.215.005(4)(c), the health, safety and well-being of children is paramount over the right of any person to provide care.

**Cost of adding an emergency exit platform.**

The average cost of a platform averages \$30.00 to \$43.00 per square foot. Costs may vary from area to area, based on materials and labor costs..

- \$37.72 is listed as the estimated price for decks and porches, in the Thurston County Building Feed Guide, which is based on the estimated construction cost per square foot as published by the International Code Council. Contacts with licensed contractors provided an estimate between \$30 and \$43 per square foot.

**Efforts to Mitigate (Reduce) Costs of the Proposed Rules**

Not all Family Child Care homes will require installation of an emergency exit platform. An emergency exit platform is only required if you are caring for children in a room on the second floor of a two story

or split level home and you use a window more than four feet above grade as one of the two means of egress from the room and no fire sprinkler system is installed in the home..

- If you operate a child care in a living room or kitchen more than four feet above grade and there are two doors or doorways from the room that lead directly to two separate pathways to emergency exits, then an emergency exit platform is not required because no window is being used as an emergency exit. For example, a living room four feet above grade with a front door leading outside and another door leading to an outside deck with a stairway to the ground does not require a platform outside the window.
- If you operate a child care in a bedroom more than four feet above grade and one exit is a door to a pathway that leads to an emergency exit and the other exit is a door leading directly to the exterior of the building, then an emergency exit platform is not required because no window is being used as an emergency exit. For example, a bedroom four feet above grade with a door leading to a deck with a stairway to the ground and a door leading to a hallway that leads to the front door does not require a platform outside the window.
- If you operate a child care in a bedroom more than four feet above grade and one exit is a door to a pathway that leads to an emergency exit and the other exit is an emergency exit window, then an emergency exit platform is required. For example, a bedroom with a door leading to a hallway that leads to the front door and a window used as an exit requires a platform outside the window.

#### **Impact of the Proposed Rules on Job Creation or Loss**

**One-time Cost:** New one-time costs imposed by the proposed rule on small businesses are estimated to range from \$480.00 to \$688.00. Actual costs to a new or current licensee will depend on individual factors such as: if the use or proposed use of the licensed child care space in the home requires installation; ; the height of the platform off the ground; specific costs of local building permits; and the type of materials used to build the platform.

**Job Loss:** Based on how the licensee chooses to meet the requirements of the proposed rule and whether certain conditions such as use or proposed use exist on the FHCC premises, these costs may impact the licensee's decision to employ paid staff, or the number of hours that the licensee uses paid staff in a given year. At a rate of \$8.50 per hour, the low end of compliance costs may result in the licensee foregoing paying about 56 hours of staff time in the first year. At the high end, compliance costs may result in the licensee foregoing paying an estimated 105 hours of staff time in the first year. Licensees may choose less costly or no cost options to comply with the rule, which would have a lower impact on their ability to hire staff.

**Job Creation:** The rules are not expected to result in significant job creation or loss