



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (June 2024) (Implements RCW 34.05.320) Do NOT use for expedited rule making

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: February 21, 2025

TIME: 8:32 AM

WSR 25-06-018

Agency: Board of Pilotage Commissioners

☐ Original Notice

☐ Supplemental Notice to WSR _____

☐ Continuance of WSR _____

☐ Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 24-21-165 ; or

☐ Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR _____; or

☐ Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1); or

☐ Proposal is exempt under RCW _____.

Title of rule and other identifying information: (describe subject) WAC 363-116-082 Limitations on new pilots

Hearing location(s):

Date:

Time:

Location: (be specific)

Comment:

April 17, 2025

10:00am

2901 3rd Avenue, Seattle, WA
and via MS Teams

For a link to the meeting, please visit
www.pilotage.wa.gov

Date of intended adoption: April 17, 2025 (Note: This is NOT the effective date)

Submit written comments to:

Name Jaimie C. Bever

Address 2901 3rd Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98121

Email jaimie.bever@wsdot.wa.gov

Fax

Other

Beginning (date and time) February 21, 2025

By (date and time) April 9, 2025

Assistance for persons with disabilities:

Contact Jolene Hamel

Phone 206-515-3904

Fax

TTY

Email jolene.hamel@wsdot.wa.gov

Other

By (date) April 9, 2025

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The proposed revisions to pilot licensing limitations aims to ensure that newly licensed pilots gain the necessary experience and that pilotage services can meet the growing demands of the Port of Grays Harbor. By adopting a more flexible and multifaceted approach, the district will be better equipped to support its expanding infrastructure and increasing vessel traffic, while maintaining high safety standards.

Reasons supporting proposal: The changes will revise the pilot licensing limitations within the Grays Harbor Pilotage District to better align with the Port's evolving traffic patterns. The existing licensing restrictions no longer match the types of vessels calling at the GH Pilotage District, leading to the following challenges: newly licensed pilots facing restrictions, inconsistent assignment of technically challenging jobs, enhanced port infrastructure, return of car carrier vessels, and upcoming retirements. Rather than relying solely on gross tonnage, the new proposed limitations would incorporate additional criteria, including vessel length, draft, and tonnage, to determine which vessels newly licensed pilots can safely handle. This more dynamic approach would better align with the operational realities of the Port, improving both safety and efficiency in pilot assignments.

Statutory authority for adoption: Chapter 88.16 RCW, Pilotage Act

Statute being implemented: Chapter 88.16 RCW, Pilotage Act

Is rule necessary because of a:

Federal Law?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Court Decision?

☐ Yes ☒ No

State Court Decision?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, CITATION:

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters: The Board received a recommendation from the Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC) favoring implementation of the proposed language based on the benefits listed above. The TEC develops and monitors the pilot license upgrade program.

Name of proponent: (person or organization) Board of Pilotage Commissioners
Type of proponent: ☐ Private. ☐ Public. ☒ Governmental.

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting	Jaimie Bever	Seattle, WA	206-515-3887
Implementation Commissioners	Board of Pilotage	Seattle, WA	206-515-3904
Enforcement Commissioners	Board of Pilotage	Seattle, WA	206-515-3904

Is a school district fiscal impact statement required under [RCW 28A.305.135](#)? ☐ Yes ☒ No
 If yes, insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the school district fiscal impact statement by contacting:
 Name
 Address
 Phone
 Fax
 TTY
 Email
 Other

Is a cost-benefit analysis required under [RCW 34.05.328](#)?
☐ Yes: A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:
 Name
 Address
 Phone
 Fax
 TTY
 Email
 Other

☒ No: Please explain: RCW 34.05.328 does not apply to the adoption of these rules. The Washington State Board of Pilotage Commissioners is not a listed agency in RCW 34.05.328(5)(a)(i).

Regulatory Fairness Act and Small Business Economic Impact Statement
 Note: The [Governor's Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance \(ORIA\)](#) provides support in completing this part.

(1) Identification of exemptions:
 This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, **may be exempt** from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act (see [chapter 19.85 RCW](#)). For additional information on exemptions, consult the [exemption guide published by ORIA](#). Please check the box for any applicable exemption(s):

☐ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under [RCW 19.85.061](#) because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Please cite the specific federal statute or regulation this rule is being adopted to conform or comply with, and describe the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted.
 Citation and description:

☐ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt because the agency has completed the pilot rule process defined by [RCW 34.05.313](#) before filing the notice of this proposed rule.
☐ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under the provisions of [RCW 15.65.570](#)(2) because it was adopted by a referendum.

- ☒ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under [RCW 19.85.025\(3\)](#). Check all that apply:
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b)
(Internal government operations) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e)
(Dictated by statute) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c)
(Incorporation by reference) | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f)
(Set or adjust fees) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d)
(Correct or clarify language) | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g)
(i) Relating to agency hearings; or (ii) process requirements for applying to an agency for a license or permit) |
- ☐ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under [RCW 19.85.025\(4\)](#). (Does not affect small businesses).
- ☐ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW _____.
Explanation of how the above exemption(s) applies to the proposed rule:

(2) Scope of exemptions: *Check one.*

- ☒ The rule proposal: Is fully exempt. (*Skip section 3.*) Exemptions identified above apply to all portions of the rule proposal.
- ☐ The rule proposal: Is partially exempt. (*Complete section 3.*) The exemptions identified above apply to portions of the rule proposal, but less than the entire rule proposal. Provide details here (consider using [this template from ORIA](#)):
- ☐ The rule proposal: Is not exempt. (*Complete section 3.*) No exemptions were identified above.

(3) Small business economic impact statement: *Complete this section if any portion is not exempt.*

If any portion of the proposed rule is **not exempt**, does it impose more-than-minor costs (as defined by RCW 19.85.020(2)) on businesses?

- ☐ No Briefly summarize the agency's minor cost analysis and how the agency determined the proposed rule did not impose more-than-minor costs. _____
- ☐ Yes Calculations show the rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses and a small business economic impact statement is required. Insert the required small business economic impact statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the small business economic impact statement or the detailed cost calculations by contacting:

Name
Address
Phone
Fax
TTY
Email
Other

Date: February 21, 2025

Name: Jaimie C. Bever

Title: Executive Director

Signature:



WAC 363-116-082 Limitations on new pilots. (1) The following limitations and pilot license upgrade requirements shall apply to a newly licensed pilot during their first five years of active service. For purposes of this section, the term "tank vessel" shall, in addition to tank ships, include any articulated or integrated tug and tank barge combinations, and any tonnage restrictions thereon shall be calculated by including the gross tonnage of the tug and tank barge combined. For purposes of this section, the term "petroleum products" shall include crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas, and liquefied petroleum gas. GT (ITC) as used in this section refers to gross tonnages measured in accordance with the requirements of the 1969 International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships. Length overall (LOA) refers to maximum length of a vessel hull measured perpendicular to the waterline, measured vertically to the lowest point of the hull, keel, propellers, or other reference point.

(2) Puget Sound pilotage district - License limitation periods. Except for trips being made for pilot license upgrades, licenses issued in the Puget Sound pilotage district shall have the following limitations:

License Year	Maximum Size of Tank Vessels Carrying Petroleum Products as Bulk Cargo	Maximum Size of Other Vessels	Waterways
1	Piloting on vessels of any size prohibited	38,000 GT (ITC) except for passenger vessels which may only have a maximum size of 5000 GT (ITC)	Prohibited in the Duwamish Waterway on vessels greater than 3,000 GT
2	32,000 GT (ITC)	48,000 GT (ITC)	No restrictions
3	40,000 GT (ITC)	60,000 GT (ITC)	No restrictions
4	50,000 GT (ITC)	70,000 GT (ITC)	No restrictions
5	65,000 GT (ITC)	95,000 GT (ITC)	No restrictions

(3) Puget Sound pilotage district - Pilot license upgrade requirements. Progressive lifting of tonnage limitations requires a newly licensed pilot to satisfactorily pilot vessels on the trips specified in this section. The trainee evaluation committee shall recommend to the board a series of trips to be made by each pilot in the last 180 days of each year of the license limitation periods specified in subsection (2) of this section. As to these trips, the trainee evaluation committee shall specify the size and type of the vessel; origin and destination, whether the transit is to include a docking, waterway transit or other particular maneuvering requirement, whether any tank vessel trips are to be made while in ballast or loaded and whether the trip shall be taken with training pilots, trainee evaluation committee member pilots or pilots with a specified experience level. To the extent practical, the trips shall be on vessels of at least a size that falls between the upper limit in the expiring license limitation and the upper limit in the upcoming license limitation period. All of these trips shall be complete trips between one port and another port, between the pilot station and a port, or harbor shifts. The supervising pilots shall complete and submit to the board a familiarization form provided by the board for each trip a new pilot performs.

(4) Grays Harbor pilotage district - License limitation periods. Pilots licensed in the Grays Harbor pilotage district shall not pilot vessels in violation of the restrictions set forth in the table below during the indicated license year.

License Year	Maximum Size of Tank Vessels Carrying Petroleum Products as Bulk Cargo	Maximum Size of Other Vessels
((1	Piloting on vessels of any size prohibited	32,000 GT (ITC) except that piloting on vessels of any size is prohibited through the Chehalis River Bridge unless vessel is in ballast and does not exceed 25,000 GT (ITC)
2	15,000 GT (ITC)	42,000 GT (ITC)
3	32,000 GT (ITC)	52,000 GT (ITC)
4	42,000 GT (ITC)	62,000 GT (ITC)
5	52,000 GT (ITC)	72,000 GT (ITC)))
<u>0-6 months</u>	<u>Prohibited</u>	<u>38,000 GT(ITC)/LOA 200m (656 feet)/Draft 11.5m (37.7 feet). Passenger vessels prohibited.</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>Prohibited</u>	<u>38,000 GT(ITC)/LOA 200m (656 feet)/Draft 11.7m (38.4 feet). Passenger vessels prohibited.</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>LOA 170m (557.6 feet)/11.2 (36.7 feet) draft</u>	<u>48,000 GT(ITC)/LOA 230m (754.4 feet)</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>LOA 185m (607 feet)/11.6m (38.0 feet) draft</u>	<u>60,000 GT(ITC)/LOA 230m (754.4 feet)</u>

Notwithstanding subsection (7) of this section, upon determination that a bona fide safety concern may result from no pilot without license restrictions being available within a reasonable time to pilot a vessel requiring pilotage services, the chairperson or acting chairperson of the board, on a single trip basis, may authorize a newly licensed pilot holding a restricted license to provide pilotage services to the vessel, irrespective of the tonnage, service or location of the assigned berth of the vessel.

(5) Grays Harbor pilotage district - Pilot license upgrade requirements - Progressive lifting of tonnage limitations requires a newly licensed pilot to satisfactorily pilot vessels on the trips specified in this section. The trainee evaluation committee shall recommend to the board a series of trips to be made by each pilot in the last 180 days of each year of the license limitation periods specified in subsection (4) of this section. The trainee evaluation committee may assign trips to a newly licensed pilot prior to reaching 180 days of licensure if deemed necessary by the committee. As to these trips, the trainee evaluation committee shall specify the size and type of the vessel; origin and destination, whether the transit is to include a docking, waterway transit or other particular maneuvering requirement, whether any tank vessel trips are to be made while in ballast or loaded and whether the trip shall be taken with training pilots, trainee evaluation committee member pilots or pilots with a specified experience level. To the extent practical, the trips shall be on vessels of at least a size that falls between the upper limit in the expiring license limitation and the upper limit in the upcoming license limitation period. All of these trips shall be complete trips between one port and another port, between the pilot station and a port, or harbor shifts. The supervising pilots shall complete and submit to the

board a familiarization form provided by the board for each trip a new pilot performs.

If vessels are not available in the Grays Harbor pilotage district to allow a pilot to comply with this subsection in a timely manner, the board may designate substitute trips in the Puget Sound pilotage district as allowed by law and in so doing may specify the size of the vessel and any other characteristics of the trips that the board deems appropriate. Such designation shall be considered a modification of the pilot's state license to authorize the specified trips in the Puget Sound pilotage district.

The trainee evaluation committee may recommend to the board simulation trainings, in addition to upgrade trips, to be completed by pilots within the Grays Harbor pilotage district prior to completion of all upgrade trips and the lifting of all limitations.

(6) The initial license shall contain the limitations contained above and list the date of commencement and expiration of such periods. If a newly licensed pilot is unable to pilot for 45 days or more in any one of the five years the trainee evaluation committee may put a hold on the upgrade program. Upon the newly licensed pilot's return to the program, the trainee evaluation committee may prescribe an extension.

(7) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, no pilot shall be dispatched to, or accept an assignment on, any vessel which exceeds the limitations of their license. On vessels in which there is more than one pilot assigned, the license limitations shall apply only to the pilot in charge.

(8) All limitations on a pilot's license shall be lifted (~~((at the beginning of the sixth year of piloting))~~) after time periods prescribed in the tables in subsections (2) and (4) of this section, provided they have submitted to the board a statement attesting to the fact that the pilot has completed all the required license upgrade trips and the vessel simulator courses.

(9) Whenever the governor issues a proclamation declaring a state of emergency, the board may determine whether there is a threat to trainees, pilots, vessel crews, or members of the public. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this chapter, the board, at its discretion, may suspend or adjust the pilot training program during the pendency of a state of emergency lawfully declared by the governor.