

RCW 50.29.026 Modification of contribution rate. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a qualified employer's contribution rate or array calculation factor rate determined under RCW 50.29.025 may be modified as follows:

(a) Subject to the limitations of this subsection, an employer may make a voluntary contribution of an amount equal to part or all of the benefits charged to the employer's account during the two years most recently ended on June 30th that were used for the purpose of computing the employer's contribution rate or array calculation factor rate. On receiving timely payment of a voluntary contribution, plus a surcharge of ten percent of the amount of the voluntary contribution, the commissioner shall cancel the benefits equal to the amount of the voluntary contribution, excluding the surcharge, and compute a new benefit ratio for the employer. The employer shall then be assigned the contribution rate applicable for rate years beginning before January 1, 2005, or array calculation factor rate applicable for rate years beginning on or after January 1, 2005, applicable to the rate class within which the recomputed benefit ratio is included. The minimum amount of a voluntary contribution, excluding the surcharge, must be an amount that will result in a recomputed benefit ratio that is in a rate class at least four rate classes lower than the rate class that included the employer's original benefit ratio.

(b) Payment of a voluntary contribution is considered timely if received by the department during the period beginning on the date of mailing to the employer the notice of contribution rate required under this title for the rate year for which the employer is seeking a modification of the employer's rate and ending on February 15th of that rate year.

(c) A benefit ratio may not be recomputed nor a rate be reduced under this section as a result of a voluntary contribution received after the payment period prescribed in (b) of this subsection.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, this section does not apply to any employer who has not had an increase of at least twelve rate classes from the previous tax rate year.

(3) From February 8, 2021, and until May 31, 2026, the following applies:

(a) The surcharge in subsection (1)(a) of this section will not be charged or used in the calculations;

(b) The ending payment date in subsection (1)(b) of this section is March 31st;

(c) The minimum amount of a voluntary contribution must be an amount that will result in a recomputed benefit ratio that is in a rate class at least two rate classes lower than the rate class that included the employer's original benefit ratio; and

(d) This section does not apply to any employer who has not had an increase of at least eight rate classes from the previous tax rate year. [2021 c 2 § 18; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 17; 2000 c 2 § 5; 1995 c 322 § 1.]

Intent—Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—2021 c 2: See notes following RCW 50.04.323.

Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—2003 2nd sp.s. c 4: See notes following RCW 50.01.010.

Application—2000 c 2 §§ 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 12-15: See note following RCW 50.22.150.

Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—2000 c 2: See notes following RCW 50.04.355.

Conflict with federal requirements—1995 c 322: "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1995 c 322 § 2.]