



RULE-MAKING ORDER PERMANENT RULE ONLY

CR-103P (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: February 09, 2018

TIME: 11:30 AM

WSR 18-05-028

Agency: Attorney General's Office

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

- 31 days after filing.
- Other (specify) _____ (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

- Yes No If Yes, explain:

Purpose: The Public Records Act is at chapter 42.56 RCW. RCW 42.56.120 as amended effective July 23, 2017 (Chap. 304, 2017 Laws, Sec. 3) requires that before an agency uses the amended statutory default copy fee schedule in the new law (rather than determining actual costs of copies), the agency must have a rule declaring the reason that it is not calculating actual costs because to do so would be unduly burdensome. The new rule at WAC 44-06-092 makes those findings. The statute as amended also allows an agency to waive any charge assessed for a public record pursuant to a rule. WAC 44-06-092 also provides for fee waivers. The purpose of the rule is to implement the State Legislature's new Public Records Act requirement and provide the necessary findings so that the Office of the Attorney General may use the amended statutory default fee and waive copy fees under listed circumstances. The additional purpose of the rule is to explain procedures for payment. WAC 44-06-090 is repealed.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New: WAC 44-06-092
 Repealed: WAC 44-06-090
 Amended:
 Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 42.56.100; RCW 42.56.040(1)(d); RCW 42.56.120 (as amended by Chap. 304, 2017 Laws); RCW 43.10.110

Other authority:

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 17-22-095 on October 30, 2017 (date).
 Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name:
 Address:
 Phone:
 Fax:
 TTY:
 Email:
 Web site:
 Other:

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Federal rules or standards:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	<u>1</u>	Amended	___	Repealed	<u>1</u>

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
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The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

New	<u>1</u>	Amended	___	Repealed	<u>1</u>
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	<u>1</u>	Amended	___	Repealed	<u>1</u>
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Pilot rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Other alternative rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___

Date Adopted: February 9, 2018

Name: Bob Ferguson

Title: Attorney General

Signature:



NEW SECTION

WAC 44-06-092 Copying fees--Payments. (1) The following copy fees and payment procedures apply to requests to the office under chapter 42.56.

(2) Pursuant to RCW 42.56.120(2)(b), the office is not calculating all actual costs for copying records because to do so would be unduly burdensome for the following reasons: (i) The office does not have the resources to conduct a study to determine all its actual copying costs; (ii) to conduct such a study would interfere with other essential agency functions; and (iii) through the 2017 legislative process, the public and requesters have commented on and been informed of authorized fees and costs, including for electronic records, provided in RCW 42.56.120(2)(b) and (c), (3) and (4).

(3) The office will charge for copies of records pursuant to the default fees in RCW 42.56.120(2)(b) and (c). The office will charge for customized services pursuant to 42.56.120(3). Under RCW 42.56.130, the office may charge other copy fees authorized by statutes outside of chapter 42.56 RCW. The office may enter into an alternative fee agreement with a requester under RCW 42.56.120(4). The charges for copying methods used by the office are summarized in the fee schedule available on the office's website at www.atg.wa.gov.

(4) Requesters are required to pay for copies in advance of receiving records. Fee waivers are an exception and are available for some small requests under the following conditions.

(a) It is within the discretion of the public records officer to waive copying fees when: (i) all of the records responsive to an entire request are paper copies only and are twenty-five or fewer pages; or (ii) all of the records responsive to an entire request are electronic and can be provided in a single email with attachments of a size totaling no more than the equivalent of 100 printed pages. If that email for any reason is not deliverable, records will be provided through another means of delivery, and the requester will be charged in accordance with this rule.

(b) Fee waivers are not applicable to records provided in installments.

(5) The public records officer may require an advance deposit of ten percent of the estimated fees when the copying fees for an installment or an entire request, or customized service charge, exceeds twenty-five dollars.

(6) All required fees must be paid in advance of release of the copies or an installment of copies, or in advance of when a deposit is required. The office will notify the requester of when payment is due.

(7) Payment should be made by check or money order to the attorney general's office. The office prefers not to receive cash. For cash payments, it is within the public records officer's discretion to determine the denomination of bills and coins that will be accepted.

(8) The office will close a request when a requester fails by the payment date to pay in the manner prescribed for records, an installment of records, or a required deposit.

REPEALER

WAC 44-06-090 - - Copying Fees