



Goldendale School District

# New payroll premium (deduction) for all employees starting January 1, 2022

On May 13, 2019, Governor Inslee signed a bill into law that establishes a state-operated Long Term Service and Support (LTSS) public insurance program to pay for Long-term care (LTC) services.

Beginning in January 2022 employers must deduct 0.58% of all employees' wages to fund the long-term care program.

This applies to all employees receiving wages in Washington State. Employees who have a qualifying private long-term care policy may apply to the state Employment Security Department (ESD) for an exemption from this payroll premium.

The deadline will approach quickly to enroll in a private long-term care plan. Providers are anticipated to have a high volume of enrollment inquiries from those seeking alternatives to the state plan so be prepared for it to take time for companies to process applications and inquiries. Private LTC plan eligibility is also subject to individual health assessments.

See the provided websites for more on the State Long-Term Care Policy and the list of companies approved by the Washington State Office of Insurance Commissioner to sell private policies.

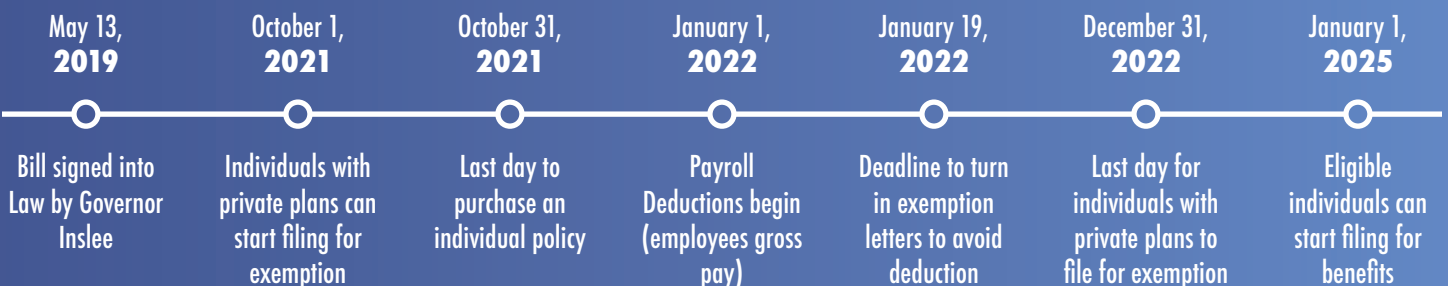
## WEBSITE INFORMATION:

- Long-Term Care Website: [www.wacaresfund.wa.gov](http://www.wacaresfund.wa.gov)
- Providers approved to sell Long-Term Care policies in WA State: [www.insurance.wa.gov/long-term-care-insurance](http://www.insurance.wa.gov/long-term-care-insurance)

*The Goldendale School District will not be providing a LTC option as Washington state does not have any companies that sell group policies and employees may need to check with multiple companies for a plan that best works for them.*



## IMPORTANT DATES



## WASHINGTON STATE LTC KEY POINTS:

- Claimant must be vested to be eligible for benefits (based on years and hours per year worked)
- Claims can be filed by eligible employees starting January 1, 2025
- Qualified employees need assistance with three or more activities of daily living
- Claims are filed with the Department of Social and Health Service
- Daily benefit limit is \$100.00 per day
- Lifetime maximum benefit of \$36,500 (adjusted for inflation)
- Claimant must reside in WA State to be eligible for LTC benefits

## NOTES REGARDING EXEMPTIONS:

- There is a one-time opportunity to apply for exemption
- Qualifying private policy must be issued prior to November 1, 2021
- Applications for exemption must be submitted to the WA State Employment Security Department (ESD) between October 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022
- Approved exemptions are permanent (once exempt, employees will not be eligible to claim benefits in the future)
- Employees' are responsible to provide current and future employers with proof of their exemption
- There will be no refunds for premiums paid prior to the employee submitting proof of exemption to their employer
- LTC riders attached to Life Insurance or annuity policies must meet specific criteria in order for the plan to qualify for exemption