STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATIONS 20-05 and 20-79, et seq.

20-79.1
Employment Security Department– Lump Sum Retirement Benefits

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout Washington State as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19, its significant progression in Washington State, and the high risk it poses to our most vulnerable populations, I have subsequently issued amendatory proclamations, exercising my emergency powers under RCW 43.06.220 by prohibiting certain activities and waiving and suspending specified laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 disease, caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person, which may result in serious illness or death and has been classified by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic, has broadly spread throughout Washington State and remains a significant health risk to all of our people, especially members of our most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, I issued Proclamations 20-25, et seq., first entitled "Stay Home – Stay Healthy," in which I initially prohibited all people in Washington State from leaving their homes except under certain circumstances, which I have subsequently amended based on changing COVID-19 activity and is now entitled "Healthy Washington" and contains a flexible, science-based matrix for determining the level of restrictions in place in Washington counties based on level of COVID-19 activity; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on Washington State, many members of our workforce are suffering significant economic hardship and in some cases their financial resources are becoming severely limited; and

WHEREAS, the Employment Security Department is responsible for administering the unemployment insurance program in the State of Washington and has been processing a historic number of unemployment claims due to the layoffs resulting from the economic impact on employers caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the imposition of necessary safe distancing requirements; and

WHEREAS, RCW 50.04.323(3), and associated WAC 192-190-020(1), require the Employment Security Department to prorate lump sum retirement benefits "over the life expectancy of the individual" claimant, and then deduct those benefits from a claimant's weekly unemployment benefit; which require an inordinate amount of time for the Employment Security Department's staff to process, even though these deductions, averaging seven dollars per week, are only subtracted from a claimant's weekly benefit and are not subtracted from a claimant's maximum available benefits, which means the amount deducted is usually paid later in the claim; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control indicate that the numbers of cases of COVID-19 and associated deaths continues to increase dramatically across the Unites States and specifically in Washington State, demonstrating the ongoing, present threat of this lethal disease; and

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2021, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions of Proclamations 20-79, et seq., were extended by Senate Concurrent Resolution 8402 until the termination of the state of emergency pursuant to RCW 43.06.210, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first; and

WHEREAS, to fully extend Proclamation 20-79, et seq., it is also necessary for me to extend the waiver and suspension of rules therein; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and its progression in Washington State continue to threaten the life and health of our people as well as the economy of Washington State, and remain a public disaster affecting life, health, property or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Health continues to maintain a Public Health Incident Management Team in coordination with the State Emergency Operations Center and other supporting state agencies to manage the public health aspects of the incident; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division, through the State Emergency Operations Center, continues coordinating resources across state government to support the Department of Health and local health officials in alleviating the impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and continues coordinating with the Department of Health in assessing the impacts and long-term effects of the incident on Washington State and its people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation, and under Chapters 38.08, 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency continues to exist in all counties of Washington State, that Proclamation 20-05, as amended, remains in effect, and that Proclamation 20-79, et seq., is amended to (1) recognize the extensions of statutory waivers and suspensions by the legislature therein until the termination of the state of emergency pursuant to RCW 43.06.210, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first and (2) similarly extend the waiver and suspension of rules

therein until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.

I again direct that the plans and procedures of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented throughout state government. State agencies and departments are directed to continue utilizing state resources and doing everything reasonably possible to support implementation of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* and to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of this event, I continue to order into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and the State Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of The Adjutant General to address the circumstances described above, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington State Military Department in addressing the outbreak. Additionally, I continue to direct the Department of Health, the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division, and other agencies to identify and provide appropriate personnel for conducting necessary and ongoing incident related assessments.

Violators of this of this order may be subject to criminal penalties pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(5).

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 19th day of January, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty-One at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State