

Title: Exemption from the retiree deferral form requirement

PEBB Program Administrative Policy 21-1

Contact:	Policy and Rules Coordinator, ERB Division	Effective:	January 1, 2026
Associated RCW:	41.05.080	Owner:	Policy, Rules, & Compliance Manager, ERB Division
Associated PEB Board Policy Resolutions:	PEBB 2024-11 PEBB 2024-26 PEBB 2024-27 PEBB 2025-01	Approved by:	
Associated WAC:	182-08-197 182-12-109 182-12-171 182-12-180 182-12-200 182-12-205 182-12-250 182-12-265	Position:	Director of the PEBB Program
Assoc. fed law/reg:		Date approved:	August 21, 2025
Associated Forms & Communication	Forms: • PEBB Retiree Election Form (form A) 51-4031 • PEBB Retiree Change Form (form E) 51-0007 Publication: • Retiree Enrollment Guide 51-0205 PEBB website: • Deferring coverage PEBB Benefits Admin website: • PEBB Retiree Health Insurance Checklist		

Purpose:

This policy exempts certain retirees and survivors from the “deferral form requirement.” Under the procedural “deferral form requirement,” the retiree or survivor must submit a PEBB Retiree Election Form (form A) or a PEBB Retiree Change Form (form E) requesting deferral within the required time frame.

The exemption applies to certain retirees and survivors who are not required to submit a form and all retirees during the first year of implementation, in 2001, when the new form was not consistently available.

WAC 182-12-109: "Subscriber" means the employee, retiree, continuation coverage enrollee, retired employee or retired school employee continuing health plan coverage when their employer group ceases participation with the authority, or survivor who has been determined eligible by the PEBB Program, PEBB participating employer group, or state agency, is enrolled in PEBB benefits, and is the individual to whom the PEBB Program and contracted vendors will issue all notices, information, requests, and premium bills on behalf of an enrollee.

Policy:

1. A subscriber is exempt from the deferral form requirement under the following circumstances:
 - a. A retiring employee, a retiring school employee, or a retiree enrolled as a dependent in a health plan sponsored by Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) or School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) as described in WAC 182-12-200;
 - b. The retiree met all procedural and substantive eligibility requirements between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2001, as described in WAC 182-12-205(5);
 - c. The subscriber transitioned from one type of medical coverage to another type of medical coverage as described in WAC 182-12-205 (3)(a) through (e), or to permanently live outside of the United States as described in WAC 182-12-205 (3)(f). To be eligible for this exemption, the subscriber must have met all procedural and substantive eligibility requirements when they first deferred enrollment in PEBB retiree insurance coverage under WAC 182-12-205;
 - d. When a retiree or a survivor becomes eligible for the employer contribution toward PEBB or SEBB benefits, PEBB retiree insurance coverage will be automatically deferred by the PEBB Program. When the subscriber is no longer eligible for the employer contribution toward PEBB or SEBB benefits, they may enroll in PEBB retiree insurance coverage as described in WAC 182-12-171, 182-12-180, or 182-12-205 (6)(a)(ii), or continue in a deferred status if they meet the requirements as described in WAC 182-12-200 or 182-12-205;
 - e. When a retiree or a survivor is automatically deferred from PEBB retiree insurance coverage when they were enrolled in Uniform Medical Plan Classic Medicare with creditable drug coverage while permanently living outside of the United States as of December 31, 2024, and did not make an election during the annual open enrollment period held in 2024; or
 - f. When a retiree or a survivor is automatically deferred from PEBB retiree insurance coverage when they were not on Medicare while enrolled in PEBB retiree insurance coverage and permanently living outside of the United States, becomes eligible for Medicare Parts A and B, and does not respond to the Health Care Authority within the required timeframe.
2. A subscriber who qualifies for exemption from the deferral form requirement in (1) must meet all other applicable requirements in WAC 182-12-171, 182-12-180, 182-12-200, 182-12-205, 182-12-250, or 182-12-265 to be eligible to enroll in a PEBB health plan after deferral.