

WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington State Implements New Rules for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The Washington State Human Rights Commission (WSHRC) has completed its rule-making process and published new administrative rules for sexual orientation and gender identity in Washington State's Law Against Discrimination (WLAD), Chapter 49.60 Revised Code of Washington (RCW 49.60). In 2007, the Washington State Legislature added sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of protected classes covered under RCW 49.60; the WSHRC is the state agency that administers and enforces the law. The rule-making process is used by government agencies to create and promulgate regulations after the legislature passes statutes. Created through the application of public participation and agency expertise, the detailed regulations are designed to increase clarity on the requirements of the law and facilitate compliance. The new section of rules is located in Chapter 162-32 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) and may be found under the "Find Laws and Rules" icon at the Washington State Legislature's website at <http://leg.wa.gov/>.

The WSHRC investigates and resolves complaints of discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodation, credit and insurance transactions. For more information on the WLAD or to inquire about rights and responsibilities under the law, please visit their website at www.hum.wa.gov .