

STATEMENT OF SCOPE

Department of Employee Trust Funds

Rule No.:	Chapters ETF 50 and 52 (revised)
Relating to:	Disability Benefit Programs Redesign and Technical Changes to Regulations Related to the Duty Disability Program
Rule Type:	Permanent

1. Detailed description of the objective of the proposed rule:

The Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) proposes technical updates to the regulations for the Long-Term Disability Insurance program (LTDI) to reflect the closure of the program to new claims, which took effect on January 1, 2018. ETF also proposes minor technical modifications to the regulations related to the Duty Disability Program established by Wis. Stat. § 40.65.

2. Description of the existing policies relevant to the rule, new policies proposed to be included in the rule, and an analysis of policy alternatives:

This rule is technical in nature and does not contain significant changes in policy. It is designed to update ETF rules by deleting obsolete regulatory provisions, terms, and cross-references and making ETF regulations consistent with recent program changes. The alternative is continuing with the outdated language in ETF's current code.

3. Detailed explanation of statutory authority for the rule (including the statutory citation and language):

Authority for the ETF Secretary to promulgate rules affecting ETF-administered programs is found at Wis. Stat. § 40.03 (2) (i): "The secretary... Shall promulgate, with the approval of the board, all rules, except rules promulgated under par. (ig) or (ir), that are required for the efficient administration of the fund or of any of the benefit plans established by this chapter. In addition to being approved by the board, rules promulgated under this paragraph relating to teachers must be approved by the teachers retirement board and rules promulgated under this paragraph relating to participants other than teachers must be approved by the Wisconsin retirement board, except rules promulgated under s. 40.30."

General rulemaking authority for state agencies is found at Wis. Stat. § 227.11 (2):

Rule-making authority is expressly conferred as follows:

(a) Each agency may promulgate rules interpreting the provisions of any statute enforced or administered by the agency, if the agency considers it necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute, but a rule is not valid if the rule exceeds the bounds of correct interpretation. All of the following apply to the promulgation of a rule interpreting the provisions of a statute enforced or administered by an agency:

1. A statutory or nonstatutory provision containing a statement or declaration of legislative intent, purpose, findings, or policy does not confer rule-making authority on the agency or augment the agency's rule-making authority beyond the rule-making authority that is explicitly conferred on the agency by the legislature.
2. A statutory provision describing the agency's general powers or duties does not confer rule-making authority on the agency or augment the agency's rule-making authority beyond the rule-making authority that is explicitly conferred on the agency by the legislature.
3. A statutory provision containing a specific standard, requirement, or threshold does not confer on the agency the authority to promulgate, enforce, or administer a rule that contains a standard, requirement, or threshold that is more restrictive than the standard, requirement, or threshold contained in the statutory provision.

(b) Each agency may prescribe forms and procedures in connection with any statute enforced or administered by it, if the agency considers it necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute, but this paragraph does not authorize the imposition of a substantive requirement in connection with a form or procedure.

(c) Each agency authorized to exercise discretion in deciding individual cases may formalize the general policies evolving from its decisions by promulgating the policies as rules which the agency shall follow until they are amended or repealed. A rule promulgated in accordance with this paragraph is valid only to the extent that the agency has discretion to base an individual decision on the policy expressed in the rule.

(d) An agency may promulgate rules implementing or interpreting a statute that it will enforce or administer after publication of the statute but prior to the statute's effective date. A rule promulgated under this paragraph may not take effect prior to the effective date of the statute that it implements or interprets.

(e) An agency may not inform a member of the public in writing that a rule is or will be in effect unless the rule has been filed under s. 227.20 or unless the member of the public requests that information.

4. Estimate of amount of time that state employees will spend developing the rule and of other resources necessary to develop the rule :

State employees will spend an estimated 80 hours to develop this rule.

5. List with description of all entities that may be affected by the proposed rule :

The proposed rule will affect all WRS employers and employee participants who apply for disability benefits.

6. Summary and preliminary comparison with any existing or proposed federal regulation that is intended to address the activities to be regulated by the proposed rule :

N/A

7. Anticipated economic impact of implementing the rule (note if the rule is likely to have a significant economic impact on small businesses):

ETF anticipates that the proposed rule will have no economic impact locally or statewide and will not impact small businesses.

Contact Person: ETF General Counsel David H. Nispel. Phone: (608) 264-6936