



## 2019-21 Biennium Budget Decision Package

**Agency:** 303 - Department of Health  
**Decision Package Code-Title:** 3E - CQAC Increased AG Costs  
**Budget Session:** 2019-21 Regular  
**Budget Level:** Policy Level  
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### Agency Recommendation Summary

The Commission is requesting an additional appropriation of \$500,000 in FY 2019-2021 to meet the projected increase in costs for Attorney General services. Over the past two years, Office of the Attorney General costs have risen 139%.

### Fiscal Summary

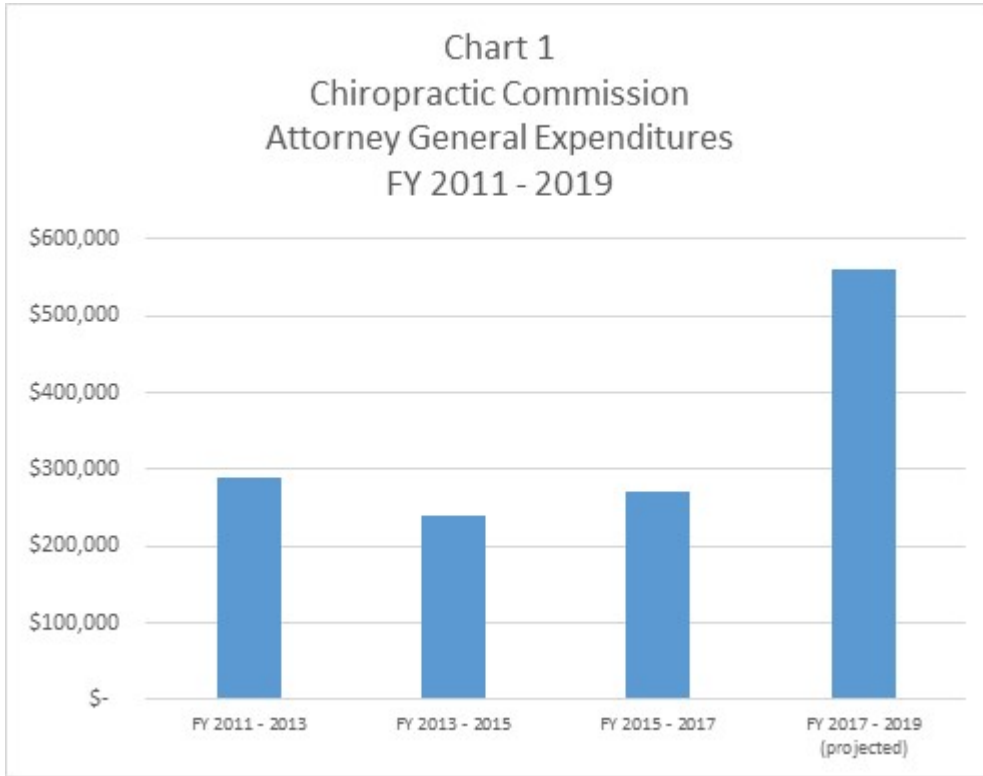
*Dollars in Thousands*

Operating Expenditures	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Fund 02G - 1	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Biennial Totals</b>		<b>\$500</b>		<b>\$500</b>
Object of Expenditure	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Obj. E	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250

### Package Description

Current expenditures project a significant increase in Office of the Attorney General costs in FY 2017-2019 (See Chart 1). Several related factors have contributed to this trend. In general over the last decade, disciplinary cases were almost always resolved through settlement negotiations, and did not require formal Commission hearings to determine final case disposition. However, during the last two years, some respondents have been less willing to settle cases. The Office of the Attorney General has indicated that they are seeing this trend of fewer settlements in disciplinary cases in most of the health professions. For the Chiropractic Commission this has resulted in an increase in formal disciplinary hearings, each requiring significant Attorney General time and associated costs to prepare and present evidence at the hearings. Consequently, the Chiropractic Commission will require an additional appropriation of \$500,000 in FY 2019-2021 to meet the projected increase in costs for Attorney General services. The Commission currently

has sufficient financial reserves to cover this increase, and does not anticipate having to raise license fees, its primary revenue source, during the next biennium.



## Assumptions and Calculations

### Expansion or alteration of a current program or service:

Not applicable

### Detailed assumptions and calculations:

#### Assumptions

- The trend of fewer case settlements will continue.
- As a result, more disciplinary hearings will continue to be needed to resolve cases.
- As a result, higher costs for Office of the Attorney General services to prepare for and participate in the increased number of hearings will continue.
- Commission reserves will cover the increased Office of the Attorney General costs during the next biennium

#### Calculations

- The Chiropractic Commission's current biennium allotment for Office of the Attorney General services is approximately \$80,000.

- Office of the Attorney General services costs to the Chiropractic Commission are projected to be approximately \$580,000 for the biennium.
- The Chiropractic Commission will therefore require an additional allotment of \$500,000 to have sufficient allotment to cover the increased costs.

**Workforce Assumptions:**

Not applicable

## Strategic and Performance Outcomes

**Strategic framework:**

Governor's Priorities

- Goal 4: Healthy & safe communities
- Goal 5: Efficient, effective & accountable government

Department of Health Strategic Plan

- Goal 1: Protect everyone in Washington from communicable diseases and other health threats

**Performance outcomes:**

The Commission's role is to protect patient safety by responding in a timely fashion to complaints against chiropractic practitioners in the state. Having the necessary resources to respond to increasing caseloads will ensure that the Commission is able to meet its obligations to the public.

## Other Collateral Connections

**Intergovernmental:**

Not applicable

**Stakeholder response:**

Washington State Chiropractic Association - Indicates probable support

Washington State Licensed Chiropractors and Chiropractic X-ray Technicians - support or opposition unknown

**Legal or administrative mandates:**

Not applicable

**Changes from current law:**

Not applicable

**State workforce impacts:**

Not applicable

**State facilities impacts:**

None

**Puget Sound recovery:**

None

## Agency Questions

**Did you include cost models and backup assumptions?**

See attachment

## Reference Documents

- 3E-Agenda Item 5.1b- CQAC AG Costs and Projections (002).pdf
- 3E-FNCal 20.1 FY19-21 Bien CQAC AG Support-FINAL.xlsm

## IT Addendum

**Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?**

No