



Department of Health
2021-23 Regular Budget Session
Maintenance Level - M3 - Increase Fees to Maintain Services

Agency Recommendation Summary

The Department of Health (DOH) requests additional fee-based spending authority to maintain current levels of service. Additional revenue to support this extra spending authority will be generated by increases to several groups of fees. Currently these fees are not sufficient to support agency activities to protect and improve the health of Washingtonians, promote healthy behaviors, and maintain high standards for quality healthcare delivery.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2022	2023	2021-23	2024	2025	2023-25
Operating Expenditures						
Fund 001 - 7	\$633	\$633	\$1,266	\$633	\$633	\$1,266
Fund 02G - 1	\$236	\$225	\$461	\$225	\$225	\$450
Total Expenditures	\$869	\$858	\$1,727	\$858	\$858	\$1,716
Revenue						
001 - 0597	\$633	\$633	\$1,266	\$633	\$633	\$1,266
02G - 0207	\$142	\$134	\$276	\$134	\$134	\$268
02G - 0264	\$89	\$86	\$175	\$86	\$86	\$172
02G - 0275	\$5	\$5	\$10	\$5	\$5	\$10
Total Revenue	\$869	\$858	\$1,727	\$858	\$858	\$1,716

Decision Package Description

Problem

Many of the fee-supported programs within DOH are designed to recover the full costs of service; these programs do not have any other sources of funding. Such programs include many of the regulatory activities that support legal requirements to protect and improve the health of people in Washington, to inform and encourage communities to practice healthy behaviors, and to maintain high professional and facility standards for safe and effective healthcare delivery. At this time, certain fees are projected to generate insufficient revenue to support their programs.

Background

State law (RCW 43.70.250) authorizes DOH to establish and collect individual fees to cover the cost of services such as issuing birth certificates, inspecting radioactive materials, and licensing healthcare professionals. Twenty-six percent of the department's budget is supported by these types of fees – about \$358 million in the 2019-2021 biennium. In order to continue these services, fee levels must be reviewed and adjusted periodically to ensure they are sufficient to cover operating costs changes and to implement any work required through new legislation. When a fee needs to be updated, the department conducts a comprehensive administrative review process with community stakeholders.

This request seeks sufficient spending authority to utilize the additional fee revenue, which will sustain current levels of service for all Washingtonians.

Assumptions and Calculations

Expansion, Reduction, Elimination or Alteration of a current program or service:

This request does not propose any changes to existing fee-based programs. DOH seeks sufficient appropriations to spend the additional fee revenue to maintain existing activities in fee-based programs.

Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:

Fees for the following professions and programs will increase:

Profession or Program	Effective Date of the Fee Increase
Ocularist	April 1, 2021
Counselor - Certified Advisor	April 1, 2021
Counselor - Certified	April 1, 2021
Nursing Home Administrator	April 1, 2021
Large Onsite Sewage System	July 1, 2021
Transient Accommodation	July 1, 2021

More details are included in the supporting document titled, "2021-23 ML-M3 Increase Fees to Maintain Svcs - Fee Request Form".

Workforce Assumptions:

Not applicable

How is your proposal impacting equity in the state?

Not applicable

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic Framework:

This program makes key contributions to Results Washington Goal 4: Healthy & Safe Communities. Adequate funding for these programs will help ensure timely credentialing and regulation of these health care practitioners and facilities, ultimately improving the health and safety of patients.

It contributes to the agency's strategic plan through Strategy 4: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

4.5: Meaningfully engage communities to inform our efforts. Extensive communication with stakeholders on the need and feasibility of changes to fees ensures buyoff and equitable access to licensing and credentialing services and information for all communities.

Key Measure 4: Transform our workplace to be inclusive of employees from marginalized and underrepresented communities. Integrate the voices of the underrepresented communities into all policy, program, and resource decisions. Ensure equitable access to services, programs, opportunities, and information.

Performance Outcomes:

Not applicable

Other Collateral Connections

State Workforce Impacts:

Not applicable

Intergovernmental:

Not applicable

State Facilities Impacts:

Not applicable

Changes from Current Law:

Not applicable

Puget Sound Recovery:

Not applicable

Legal or Administrative Mandates:

Not applicable

Stakeholder Response:

DOH has already consulted with impacted stakeholders regarding these fee changes. DOH anticipates the stakeholders impacted by the fee increases, as listed in this request, to remain neutral.

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

Objects of Expenditure

Objects of Expenditure <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2022	2023	2021-23	2024	2025	2023-25
Obj. A	\$443	\$437	\$880	\$437	\$437	\$874
Obj. B	\$160	\$158	\$318	\$158	\$158	\$316
Obj. C	\$25	\$25	\$50	\$25	\$25	\$50
Obj. E	\$88	\$86	\$174	\$86	\$86	\$172
Obj. N	\$38	\$38	\$76	\$38	\$38	\$76
Obj. T	\$115	\$114	\$229	\$114	\$114	\$228

Agency Contact Information

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