



Department of Health
2021-23 Regular Budget Session
Policy Level - PB - Modernize Boards and Commissions

Agency Recommendation Summary

The Department of Health is proposing legislation to increase membership for certain health profession boards and commissions. The goals are to improve efficiency in disciplinary and other regulatory action, improve the pool of candidates for board and commission membership, and broaden professional and public representation.

Fiscal Summary

| Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i> | Fiscal Years | | Biennial | Fiscal Years | | Biennial |
|---|--------------|------|----------|--------------|------|----------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2021-23 | 2024 | 2025 | 2023-25 |
| Staffing | | | | | | |
| FTEs | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.15 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Operating Expenditures | | | | | | |
| Fund 02G - 1 | \$12 | \$26 | \$38 | \$26 | \$26 | \$52 |
| Total Expenditures | \$12 | \$26 | \$38 | \$26 | \$26 | \$52 |
| Revenue | | | | | | |
| 02G - 0252 | \$12 | \$26 | \$38 | \$26 | \$26 | \$52 |
| Total Revenue | \$12 | \$26 | \$38 | \$26 | \$26 | \$52 |

Decision Package Description

Problem

Certain boards and commissions that regulate health professions are facing challenges related to their size and composition. Many of the boards and commissions were created years ago and have cumbersome membership requirements that hinder recruitment and restrictive quorum requirements that are difficult to meet. These issues, coupled with the small size of several boards and a rising workload, are resulting in meeting cancellations and increasing reliance on pro tem members. DOH seeks to change membership requirements for a number of boards and commissions to address these concerns.

The department proposes legislation to increase membership in six health profession boards and commissions, remove restrictive membership requirements, and harmonize quorum requirements. These boards and commission include the:

- Veterinary Board of Governors,
- Dental Quality Assurance Commission,
- Board of Nursing Home Administrators,
- Board of Massage,
- Board of Physical Therapy, and
- Board of Psychology.

The desired results of the proposal include improving board and commission efficiency in disciplinary and other regulatory action, improving the pool of candidates for board and commission membership, and broadening professional and public representation. The details regarding the proposed changes for each of these boards and commissions are included in the support document titled, "2021-23 PL-PB Modernize Boards & Commissions - Details".

If no action is taken, it would be a missed opportunity to bring greater efficiency to board and commission operations. The boards and commissions will still be able to work under the existing statutes to regulate health professions, but it will become more difficult to recruit replacements and maintain existing members under the current requirements. As workload rises over time, there will be an increasing reliance on pro tems who have not been appointed or confirmed. There may also be delays in policy and rule development and disciplinary case resolution. Finally, these boards and commissions will continue to lack representation from key segments of the professional community.

Assumptions and Calculations

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

Not applicable

Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:

Expenditure assumptions include:

- New members will begin their terms no sooner than January 1, 2022;
- Members will be compensated for full-day meetings;
- The number of meetings per year is based on 2019 data;
- The FTEs represent board and commission members in eight hours per board meeting;
- Other events, such as panel calls and conferences, were not included in these calculations;
- Additional membership does not automatically change the number of participants in boards and commissions panel calls or in conference attendance; and
- Expenses includes one night hotel (Thurston Co. \$120), per diem (Thurston Co. \$66), and mileage 100 miles each way (federal rate \$.575/mile).

There are no tangible receipts associated with the proposal. The costs of this proposal will be charged against current fee revenues collected by each program.

The estimated annual cost for this proposal is \$26,000 annually across the six boards and commissions. This investment can reduce the number of board and commission meeting cancellations due to lack of a quorum. By increasing the capacity of boards and commissions to do their work, the department can better protect the public through better, safer health care.

For more details, see the support document titled, “2021-23 PL-PB Modernize Boards & Commissions - FnCal”.

Workforce Assumptions:

The changes proposed will allow boards and commissions to add new board members. This request assumes about 0.1 FTE of extra costs to compensate board/commission members in fiscal year 2022 and 0.2 FTE in fiscal year 2023.

How is your proposal impacting equity in the state?

Currently, these boards and commissions lack representation from key segments of the professional community. This proposal increases the diversity of voices and ideas that impact the governance of health professionals in the state.

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic Framework:

This proposal contributes to the Governor’s Results Washington goal of Healthy and Safe Communities. Increasing membership and removing barriers to appointments and decision-making improves the efficiency of boards and commissions and allows them to take timely action on regulatory and policy issues.

The rule and policy work of boards and commissions supports several other elements of this goal, including improving behavioral health, taking action to end the opioid crisis, and reducing infant mortality. Having boards and commissions comprised of a variety of professional perspectives results in more comprehensive policy solutions that support this goal.

Performance Outcomes:

This proposal contributes the following performance outcomes:

- Greater efficiency: Adding members, modifying quorum requirements, and revising membership qualifications will ensure boards and commissions have the capacity needed to respond quickly to disciplinary and other regulatory issues. It will also broaden candidate pools for board and commission positions, resulting in shorter vacancies; and
- Better decision-making: Adding public and professional members to boards and commissions brings a wider range of perspectives, promoting more informed decision-making. Adding public members enhances responsiveness to the public at large. Adding professional members that represent more sub-specialties, practice settings, or sectors of the industry provides a broader base of subject matter expertise.

Other Collateral Connections

State Workforce Impacts:

Not applicable

Intergovernmental:

Recruitment for boards and commissions involves significant outreach to tribal nations. DOH continues to explore new avenues to encourage these communities to serve. This proposal, by expanding the number of positions, creates new opportunities for engagement. The agency anticipates neutrality for this proposal.

State Facilities Impacts:

Not applicable

Changes from Current Law:

This proposal requires statutory changes. A supporting document titled, "2021-23 PL-PB Modernize Boards & Commissions - Z-0906.2" accompanies this request. This document shows the proposed changes to statute.

Puget Sound Recovery:

Not applicable

Legal or Administrative Mandates:

Not applicable

Stakeholder Response:

Adding members to boards and commissions raises the costs of their operation. Although the cost increases are quite modest (\$26,000 a year across all six boards and commissions), professional associations that represent fee-paying licensees may raise concerns. The department has reviewed impacts for each of the professions affected and determined that these increases are very small and would not necessitate fee increases.

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 | \$2 | \$4 | \$6 | \$4 | \$4 | \$8 |
| Obj. E | \$0 | \$1 | \$1 | \$1 | \$1 | \$2 |
| Obj. G | \$7 | \$15 | \$22 | \$15 | \$15 | \$30 |
| Obj. T | \$3 | \$6 | \$9 | \$6 | \$6 | \$12 |

Agency Contact Information

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