

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEWS

RCW 43.20.285

A Health Impact Review (HIR) is an objective, non-partisan, evidence-based tool that provides the Governor and Legislators with information about how proposed legislation may impact health and health equity in Washington

The State Board of Health conducts HIRs in collaboration with the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities. We complete HIRs on a first-come, first-serve basis. Our staff will:

- Work to understand the intent of the proposed legislative or budgetary change
- Conduct a review of published literature to determine how the bill may impact health
- Apply objective criteria to evaluate the evidence
- Determine conclusions about whether the proposal may impact health or health equity
- Provide a final report
- Be available to provide impartial testimony on HIR findings.

Requesters use HIRs to:

- Determine if there is enough evidence to support a policy direction
- Determine if a bill will have the intended impact
- Build support for bills that may have positive impacts on health or equity
- Get information to decide how to vote on a colleague's bill.

Requesters who have requested a HIR state it is an important tool to inform legislative decision-making. HIRs provide important information to talk with other Legislators, deliver unbiased data and information, and give weight and credibility to bills and work.

The Board has completed 81 HIRs at the request of 48 different Legislators since 2013.

EXAMPLES OF HEALTH IMPACT REVIEWS

- Concerning Veterans' mental health services at institutions of higher education (SB 5428), Senator L. Wilson
 - Increasing monetary penalties for the unlawful use of a personal electronic device while driving a motor vehicle in a school, playground, or crosswalk speed zone (HB 1256), Representative Lovick
 - Preventing the sexual harassment and sexual assault of certain isolated workers (SB 5258), Senator Keiser
 - Protecting youth from tobacco products and vapor products by increasing the minimum legal age of sale of tobacco and vapor products (HB 1074), Representative Harris
 - Eliminating lunch copays for students who qualify for reduced-price lunches (HB 1892), Representative Morgan
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MAKE A REQUEST TODAY

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To request this document in an alternate format please contact Kellie Kahler, Washington State Board of Health Communication Manager, at 360-236-4102 or by email at kellie.kahler@sboh.wa.gov TTY users can dial 711.