

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEWS

RCW 43.20.285

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

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

- 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 and equity.
- Apply objective criteria to evaluate the evidence.
- Talk to key informants to understand how the bill may impact people in Washington state.
- Provide a final report.
- Testify on HIR findings upon request.

Requesters use HIR findings to:

- Understand the evidence to refine a policy direction.
- Determine if a bill will have the intended impact.
- Understand potential unintended consequences of a bill.
- Talk with colleagues about a bill.

Previous requesters have stated that HIRs are an important tool to inform legislative decision-making, provide credible evidence about a bill's potential impacts, and present unbiased data and information

Staff have completed 107 HIRs at the request of 56 different Legislators since 2013.

EXAMPLES OF HEALTH IMPACT REVIEWS

- Improving maternal health outcomes by extending coverage during the postpartum period (SB 5068)- Senator Randall
 - Providing a sales and use tax exemption for adult and baby diapers (SB 5309)- Senator Rivers
 - Requiring coverage for hearing instruments for children and adolescents (HB 1047)- Representative Wicks
 - Concerning solitary confinement (HB 1312)- Representative Peterson
 - Requiring the option of in-person learning unless prohibited by the governor, secretary of health, or a local health officer (SB 5464)- Senator L. Wilson
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MAKE A REQUEST TODAY

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