

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEWS (HIRS)

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 or budget provisos 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-served basis.

HIR staff:

- Work to understand the potential effects of a legislative or budgetary proposal.
- Conduct a review of published literature to determine how the proposal may impact health and equity.
- Apply objective criteria to evaluate the evidence.
- Talk to key informants to understand how the proposal 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 proposal will have the intended impact.
- Understand potential unintended consequences of a proposal.
- Talk with colleagues about a proposal.

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

HIR staff have completed 137 HIRs at the request of 64 different Legislators since 2014.

EXAMPLE HIR REQUEST TOPICS FROM THE 2025-26 BIENNIUM

- Prohibiting the sale of certain tobacco and nicotine products (SB 5183 / HB 1203)
- Providing judicial discretion to modify sentences in the interest of justice (HB 1125)
- Concerning industrial insurance coverage for posttraumatic stress disorders affecting correctional facility workers (SSB 5043)
- Concerning fair treatment of municipal solid waste systems (SSB 5703)

MAKE A REQUEST TODAY

[ONLINE REQUEST FORM](#)

WASHINGTON STATE 
BOARD OF HEALTH

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 **HEALTH
EQUITY**
Governor's Interagency Council
on Health Disparities

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