

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 or budget provisions 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 potential effects of a legislative or budgetary proposal.
- Conduct a review of published literature to determine how the bill or proviso 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 120 HIRs at the request of 59 different Legislators since 2014.

EXAMPLES OF HEALTH IMPACT REVIEWS

- Concerning alcohol concentration (SB 5002) – Senator Lovick
- Concerning legal financial obligations (HB 1169) - Representative Simmons
- Providing a sales and use tax exemption for adult and baby diapers (SB 5309) - Senator Rivers
- Requiring and funding the purchase of zero emission school buses (HB 1368) – Representative Senn
- Concerning public health and fluoridation of drinking water (HB 1684) – Representative Harris

MAKE A REQUEST TODAY

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WASHINGTON STATE 
BOARD OF HEALTH

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

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TTY users can dial 711