



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (October 2017)
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)

Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

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DATE: July 07, 2025

TIME: 7:52 AM

WSR 25-15-014

Agency: Department of Health

Subject of possible rule making: Office of Drinking Water program fees. The Department of Health (department) is considering amending fees for the Office of Drinking Water programs to cover operating costs. This may include updating or restructuring existing fees, making editorial updates, repealing obsolete fees, or creating new fees for the following:

- WAC 246-290-990 for Water system evaluation and project review and approval fees
- WAC 246-292-995 for Certified operator and public water system certification fees
- WAC 246-294-070 for Operating permit fees

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 43.70.250, RCW 43.70.110, RCW 43.20B.020, RCW 70A.100.130, RCW 70A.120.150, RCW 70A.120.160, RCW 70A.125.100, RCW 70A.125.070

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: The department is considering amending fees for all programs within the Office of Drinking Water to ensure program costs are adequately covered. The department has completed an initial assessment and determined the current fees are not generating sufficient revenue to cover the operating costs over the biennium. This is necessary to address existing program deficits, reductions in funding from General Fund State (GFS) and Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) accounts, and cost-of-living adjustments made in the 2025-2027 state budget (ESSB 5167). RCW 43.70.110 and 43.70.250 authorize the Secretary of Health to establish various fees associated with licensing and regulation of professions, occupations, or businesses. These fees must be set at a level that covers the costs of administering each program or license.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: None

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- ☐ Negotiated rule making
- ☐ Pilot rule making
- ☐ Agency study
- ☒ Other (describe) Collaborative

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:

Name: Zehra Siddiqui
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(If necessary)
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Other:

Additional comments: The department will use a collaborative rule making approach by keeping interested parties informed of the rule development through email and posting information on the department's rulemaking websites.

Interested parties will have the opportunity to provide comments throughout the rulemaking process and at the public hearing. Please contact Zehra Siddiqui at zehra.siddiqui@doh.wa.gov to be added to the applicable interested parties list.

Date: 7/2/2025

Name: Kristin Peterson, JD for Jessica Todorovich, MS

Title: Chief of Policy for Acting Secretary of Health

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin Peterson", written over a light gray background.