

HB 1667.E - DIGEST

(AS OF HOUSE 2ND READING 3/14/2007)

Requires fairness and equity in health professions licensing fees.

Provides that, for all credentials issued after January 1, 2008, in addition to the credentialing fee, the secretary shall impose an annual surcharge of one dollar and fifty cents on all credentialed health professionals operating under the health professions account created under RCW 43.70.320. The surcharge shall be placed in the health professions account and used to reduce the fee when the annual base renewal fee for any credentialed health profession exceeds five hundred dollars per year to conduct core credentialing and disciplinary activities. Annual base renewal fees do not include special surcharges that may also be collected at the time of the credential renewal. This provision does not apply to regulated business entities whose funds reside with the health professions account.

Directs the department of health to review the effectiveness of the equity surcharge established in RCW 43.70.250 with respect to eliminating inequities in the level of credentialing fees paid by health care providers regulated by the department of health. The review shall specifically consider the effect of the surcharge in reducing credentialing fees for professions with high fees and increasing the number of health care providers in those professions. The review shall provide any recommendations that would increase administrative efficiency and provide greater equity in credentialing fee amounts. The department of health shall submit its report to the legislature by November 15, 2010.