

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1972

C 15 L 24
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Increasing the licensure fees that support the Washington physicians health program.

Sponsors: Representatives Simmons, Harris, Reed, Ormsby and Riccelli.

House Committee on Health Care & Wellness
House Committee on Appropriations
Senate Committee on Health & Long Term Care

Background:

Washington Physicians Health Program.

If a disciplining authority determines that unprofessional conduct by a licensee may be the result of an applicable impairing or potentially impairing health condition, the disciplining authority may refer the licensee to a physician health program or a voluntary substance use disorder monitoring program approved by the disciplining authority in lieu of disciplinary action. If the licensee does not consent to the referral or fails to meet the requirements of the program, the disciplining authority may take formal disciplinary action against the licensee.

The Washington Medical Commission, the Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, the Dental Quality Assurance Commission, the Podiatric Medical Board, and the State Veterinary Board of Governors all contract with the Washington Physicians Health Program (WPHP) to implement their physician health program. The entity does not itself provide treatment but provides services such as referring practitioners to treatment programs and monitoring compliance.

Costs and Fees.

Costs of the WPHP are financed primarily by surcharges on license issuances and renewals. For physicians, osteopathic physicians, podiatric physicians, dentists, and physician assistants, the fee is \$50. For veterinarians, the fee is \$25.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary:

The license surcharge limit for the Washington Physicians Health Program is increased to \$70 for physicians, osteopathic physicians, podiatric physicians, dentists, and physician assistants. The surcharge limit for veterinarians is increased to \$35.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 97 0

Senate 48 0

Effective: June 6, 2024

January 1, 2026 (Section 6)