
Appropriations Committee

ESSB 5294

Brief Description: Transferring dedicated accounts for certain professional licenses to the business and professions account.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Business, Financial Services & Trade (originally sponsored by Senators Gildon, Stanford, Dozier and Nobles; by request of Department of Licensing).

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill

- Repeals six accounts administered by the Department of Licensing and adds the related businesses and professions to the list of professions for which all receipts from licenses and other fees must be deposited into the Business and Professions Account.
- Transfers fund balances from the six repealed accounts to the Business and Professions Account.
- Requires the Department of Licensing to report annually on expenditures and revenues for each of the professions that use the Business and Professions Account.

Hearing Date: 3/17/25

Staff: Xianyu Li (786-7094).

Background:

The Department of Licensing (DOL) regulates and issues licenses for a number of businesses and professions, including architects, landscape architects, embalmers, funeral directors, the Funeral and Cemetery Board, certified real estate appraisers, geologists, and appraisal management companies. The receipts from licenses, registrations, certifications, and other fees for these professions are currently collected under the following six accounts administered by the

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DOL:

- the Architects' License Account;
- the Landscape Architects' License Account;
- the Funeral and Cemetery Account;
- the Real Estate Appraiser Commission Account;
- the Geologists' Account; and
- the Appraisal Management Company Account.

The Business and Professions Account (Account) is also administrated by the DOL. It is used only for expenses incurred in carrying out certain business and professions licensing activities of the DOL. Receipts from business or professional licenses, registrations, certifications, renewals, examinations, or civil penalties assessed and collected by the DOL are deposited into the Account. The following professions are required to use the Account:

- auctioneers;
- cosmetologists, barbers, and manicurists;
- court reporters;
- private investigators;
- security guards;
- bail bond agents;
- home inspectors;
- collection agencies;
- employment agencies;
- camping resorts;
- sellers of travel;
- notaries public;
- timeshares;
- boxing, martial arts, and wrestling;
- body art, body piercing, and tattooing;
- whitewater river outfitters;
- commercial telephone solicitation; and
- scrap metal businesses.

Summary of Bill:

The six accounts administrated by the DOL are repealed and their existing fund balances are transferred to the Business and Professions Account. The related businesses and professions are added to the list of professions for which all receipts from licenses and other fees must be deposited into the Business and Professions Account. The Department of Licensing is directed to report annually on expenditures and revenues for each of the professions that use the Business and Professions Account. The first report is due on September 30, 2026.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on January 1, 2026.