WSR 26-16-025
PROPOSED RULES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
[Filed July 28, 2026, 8:07 a.m.]

Original Notice.

Preproposal statement of inquiry was filed as WSR 26-04-087.

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: Updating the osteopathic physician and surgeon fees in WAC 246-853-990.

The department of health (department), in consultation with the board of osteopathic medicine and surgery (board), is proposing amendments to WAC 246-853-990 to remove the Washington osteopathic principals and practices (OP&P) exam and reexam fee, add the Washington physicians health program (WPHP) impaired practitioner surcharge to initial licensure for osteopathic physicians, and to decrease fees to appropriate levels for the program's operating costs and reserve levels.

Hearing Location(s): On September 8, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Register in advance for this webinar at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YkF5ubj_T8i8-USo9ObqkA. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Date of Intended Adoption: September 15, 2026.

Submit Written Comments to: Heather Cantrell, P.O. Box 47850, Olympia, WA 98504-7850, email HSQAfeerules@doh.wa.gov, web https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/policyreview, beginning the date and time of filing, by September 8, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.

Assistance for Persons with Disabilities: Contact Heather Cantrell, TTY 711, email HSQAfeerules@doh.wa.gov, by August 25, 2026.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: OP&P exam fee: On January 7, 2025, the board adopted amendments to the osteopathic physician examination requirements listed under WAC 246-853-020. The purpose of this rule project was to simplify the examination requirements for out-of-state applicants entering the Washington workforce. As a result, the board removed the OP&P exam as a requirement for licensure. In response to this update, the department is proposing an amendment that removes the OP&P exam and reexam fee from rule.

Impaired practitioner WPHP surcharge: As required by RCW 18.57.015, the board contracts with WPHP to implement and operate an impaired practitioner program. Contracts with WPHP are financed by a surcharge applied to the osteopathic physician license. Currently, WAC 246-853-990 only provides for collection of WPHP surcharge on license renewal. To adequately fund the board's contract with WPHP, the department is proposing an amendment that adds the surcharge to initial licensure as authorized by RCW 18.57.015.

Osteopathic licensing fees: RCW 43.70.250 requires that licensing fees cover regulatory program expenses which necessitates the program to be self-funding. Limited fee adjustments may be made to ensure revenue is adequate to support regulated activities and maintain sufficient reserve levels without generating a surplus.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: RCW 43.70.250 authorizes the department to establish fees associated with the licensing and regulation of professions. The purposes of these amendments are to align the fees with the board's recent rule changes related to the osteopathic state exam requirements; update the licensing fees to adequately fund the program's operating expenses; and establish the impaired practitioner

fee to the initial licensure requirements to adequately fund the board's contract with WPHP.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 18.57.015, 43.70.110, 43.70.250, and 43.70.280.

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 18.57.015.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Department of health, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Heather Cantrell, 111 Israel Road S.E., Tumwater, WA 98501; Implementation: Becky Cornwall, 111 Israel Road S.E., Tumwater, WA 98501, 360-236-4766; and Enforcement: James Chaney, 111 Israel Road S.E., Tumwater, WA 98501, 360-236-2831.

A school district fiscal impact statement is not required under RCW 28A.305.135.

A cost-benefit analysis is not required under RCW 34.05.328. The proposed rule is exempt from an analysis under RCW 34.05.328 (5)(b)(vi): Rules that set or adjust fees.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act because the proposal:

Is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(3) as the rules set or adjust fees under the authority of RCW 19.02.075 or that set or adjust fees or rates pursuant to legislative standards, including fees set or adjusted under the authority of RCW 19.80.045.

Is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(4).

Explanation of exemptions: The proposed rule is exempt from an analysis under RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f): Rules that set or adjust fees. The proposed rule impacts individual license holders and not small businesses.

Scope of exemption for rule proposal:

Is fully exempt.

July 27, 2026
Kristin Peterson, JD
Chief of Policy
for Dennis E. Worsham
Secretary of Health

RDS-7287.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 25-07-080, filed 3/17/25, effective 4/17/25)

WAC 246-853-990 Osteopathic fees and renewal cycle. (1) Licenses must be renewed every year on the physician's birthday as provided in chapter 246-12 WAC, except postgraduate training limited licenses.

(2) Postgraduate training limited licenses must be renewed every year to correspond to program dates.

(3) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged for osteopathic physicians:

Title of Fee	Fee
Original application	

Title of Fee	Fee
Endorsement application	((~~$375.00~~)) $300.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Substance use disorder monitoring surcharge	70.00
Active license renewal	
Renewal	((~~375.00~~)) 300.00
Late renewal penalty	((~~190.00~~)) 150.00
Expired license reissuance	((~~250.00~~)) 150.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Substance use disorder monitoring surcharge	70.00
Inactive license renewal	
Renewal	((~~310.00~~)) 240.00
Expired license reissuance	((~~225.00~~)) 120.00
Late renewal penalty	((~~155.00~~)) 120.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Substance use disorder monitoring surcharge	70.00
Retired active license renewal	
Renewal	((~~195.00~~)) 120.00
Late renewal penalty	((~~100.00~~)) 60.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Substance use disorder monitoring surcharge	70.00
Expired reissuance	60.00
((~~**Endorsement/state exam application**~~	~~500.00~~
~~**Reexam**~~	~~100.00~~))
Verification of license	50.00
Limited license	
Application	((~~285.00~~)) 210.00
Renewal	265.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Substance use disorder monitoring surcharge	70.00
Temporary permit application	70.00
Duplicate certificate	20.00