WSR 26-16-043
PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[Filed July 30, 2026, 8:47 a.m.]

Subject of Possible Rule Making: Allopathic physician and surgeon fees in WAC 246-919-990 and physician assistants fees in WAC 246-918-990. The department of health (department), in consultation with the Washington medical commission (commission), is considering amending existing fees to appropriate levels for the commission's operating costs and reserve levels. The department is also considering adding a new fee(s) to implement SSB 5185 (chapter 154, Laws of 2026) regarding international medical graduates (IMG).

Statutes Authorizing the Agency to Adopt Rules on this Subject: RCW 43.70.110, 43.70.250, 43.70.280, and SSB 5185 (chapter 154, Laws of 2026), codified in chapter 18.71 RCW.

Reasons Why Rules on this Subject may be Needed and What They Might Accomplish: 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 set at appropriate levels to support regulated activities and maintain sufficient reserve levels without generating a surplus.

SSB 5185, codified under chapter 18.71 RCW, directs the commission to establish a pilot program and a limited license for IMG. While the statute establishes the framework for the program, it does not provide the detailed standards needed for implementation without additional rule making.

As a result of SSB 5185, the commission filed a separate preproposal statement under WSR 26-14-046, to consider new sections to chapter 246-919 WAC that establish a limited license for international medical graduates and a pilot program to allow supervised practice as a pathway to full licensure. As part of implementing SSB 5185, the department will also consider establishing a new fee for the new limited license to be in conjunction with the commission's current rule project.

Other Federal and State Agencies that Regulate this Subject and the Process Coordinating the Rule with These Agencies: None.

Process for Developing New Rule: Collaborative rule making.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting Heather Cantrell, P.O. Box 47850, Olympia, WA 98504-7850, TTY 711, email HSQAfeerules@doh.wa.gov, website doh.wa.gov or https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOH/subscriber/new.

Additional comments: The department, in consultation with the commission, will notify interested parties by posting information to the department and commission websites and by use of email communication lists. To join the commission's rules interested parties email list, please visit https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAMC/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAMC_2.

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