



Department of Health  
2021-23 First Supplemental Budget Session  
Policy Level - QB - Increase Sunrise Review Capacity

### Agency Recommendation Summary

The Department of Health (DOH) makes recommendations to the legislature on health profession credentialing proposals and proposals to add new insurance mandates. The process is called a "sunrise review". Requirements for health profession reviews are contained in chapter 18.120 RCW (Regulation of Health Professions). This process is directed by the legislature's health care committees rather than by policy bill or budget proviso. This request is for ongoing funding to resource the sunrise review process.

### Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2022	2023	2021-23	2024	2025	2023-25
<b>Staffing</b>						
FTEs	0.3	1.3	0.8	1.3	1.3	1.3
<b>Operating Expenditures</b>						
Fund 001 - 1	\$41	\$157	\$198	\$157	\$157	\$314
Total Expenditures	\$41	\$157	\$198	\$157	\$157	\$314

### Decision Package Description

The Department of Health (DOH) makes recommendations to the legislature on health profession credentialing proposals and proposals to add new insurance mandates. The process is called a "sunrise review." Requirements for health profession reviews are contained in chapter 18.120 RCW (Regulation of Health Professions). Requirements for mandated benefit reviews are listed in chapter 48.47 RCW (Mandated Health Benefits).

Unlike typical legislatively mandated reports, requests for DOH to complete a sunrise review do not go through the same legislative process. Normally, the legislature will direct a report via a policy bill or budget proviso. Both mechanisms provide an opportunity for the department to provide input to the legislature before the reporting requirement is enacted. Sunrise reviews are different. They are done at the request of the respective health committee chairs, with proponent applications submitted to DOH after the regular legislative session. The reports are due to the legislature prior to the next legislative session.

Since sunrise reviews are directed after the legislative session, the department does not have the opportunity to present the fiscal impact to the legislature. Moreover, since the reviews are due prior to the next legislative session, the department does not have the opportunity for a supplemental funding request. As a result, the department must absorb this work within existing resources. This requires the department to reprioritize staff away from their current responsibilities to complete the sunrise review.

In recent years, the demand for sunrise reviews has increased. In 2021, DOH received five sunrise review applications. A sixth proposal was discussed but no application was submitted. The department was able to conduct four of the five sunrise reviews. The fifth review was not able to be completed due to limited department capacity as well as application deficiencies.

This proposal requests a dedicated position (1.0 FTE Regulatory Analyst 3) to provide technical support for applicants and to manage the completion of the sunrise review process. Specific duties include: assisting individuals with the application process; providing tools and templates for divisions tasked with completing a sunrise review; project management support for divisions; supporting divisions with logistics or report writing when needed; tracking progress and status at the agency level; reviewing and approving the final sunrise review reports. Other projects as capacity allows include, but are not limited to, establishing a consistent and centralized stakeholder input process and training.

The management provided by the sunrise review position would decrease the need to reallocate existing staff from their existing duties to complete the sunrise reviews by reducing the burden on divisions. These existing duties include drafting and review of legislative reports, policy development for following session, timely response to legislative inquiries, and support for high priority policy agenda projects. Additionally, the ability to provide technical assistance would potentially make the sunrise review process more accessible to individuals and groups who don't utilize lobbyists or have staff that can navigate the complexities of the application process.

## Assumptions and Calculations

### **Expansion, Reduction, Elimination or Alteration of a current program or service:**

This proposal assumes 1.0 FTE regulatory analyst 3, including associated administrative costs. See [ENCa1](#) for detailed fiscal calculations. This would be an enhancement to the current Sunrise Review process at the Department of Health.

### **Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:**

It is estimated that 1.0 FTE regulatory analyst 3 (prorated for four months in fiscal year 2022) could provide technical support for applicants and to manage the completion of the sunrise review process. This position would: assist individuals with the application process; provide tools and templates for divisions tasked with completing a sunrise review; assume project management support for divisions; support divisions with logistics or report writing when needed; track progress and status at the agency level, and review and approve the final sunrise review reports.

### **Workforce Assumptions:**

The annual cost by object for 1.0 FTE Regulatory Analyst includes:

Object A (Salaries): \$91,000

Object B (Benefits): \$31,000

Other E (Goods/Services): \$2,000

Other Objects (Misc./Admin): \$33,000

### **How is your proposal impacting equity in the state?**

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In recent years, the demand for sunrise reviews has increased. In 2021, DOH received five sunrise review applications. A sixth proposal was discussed but no application was submitted. The department was able to conduct four of the five sunrise reviews. The fifth review was not able to be completed due to limited department capacity as well as application deficiencies.

## Strategic and Performance Outcomes

### **Strategic Framework:**

This proposal aligns with the goal of Efficient, Effective, and Accountable Government because of its ability to efficiently and effectively complete its legislative mandates while allowing existing staff to focus on its core responsibilities.

### **Performance Outcomes:**

Implementation of this request would result in DOH successfully completing requested sunrise reviews (e.g., not needing to decline or postpone a sunrise review where a completed application has been submitted to the department).

## Other Collateral Connections

### **Puget Sound Recovery:**

This request is not related to Puget Sound recovery efforts.

### **State Workforce Impacts:**

This request does not impact existing collective bargaining agreements.

### **Intergovernmental:**

DOH does not anticipate any opposition to this request, as it would provide any prospective applicant additional technical assistance through the process.

### **Legal or Administrative Mandates:**

This request is not a response to legal or administrative mandates.

### **Stakeholder Response:**

DOH does not anticipate any opposition to this request, as it would provide any prospective applicant additional technical assistance through the process.

### **Changes from Current Law:**

This request does not require any changes to statutes or rules.

### **State Facilities Impacts:**

This request does not impact facilities or workplace needs.

## IT Addendum

### **Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?**

No

## Objects of Expenditure

Objects of Expenditure <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2022	2023	2021-23	2024	2025	2023-25
Obj. A	\$26	\$104	<b>\$130</b>	\$104	\$104	<b>\$208</b>
Obj. B	\$9	\$37	<b>\$46</b>	\$37	\$37	<b>\$74</b>
Obj. E	\$6	\$16	<b>\$22</b>	\$16	\$16	<b>\$32</b>

## Agency Contact Information

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