

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEWS (HIRS)

RCW 43.20.285

A Health Impact Review (HIR) is an objective, non-partisan, evidence-based analysis that provides the Governor and Legislators with information about how proposed legislation or budget provisos may impact health and equity in Washington State.



The State Board of Health conducts HIRs in collaboration with the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities. Staff complete HIRs on a first-come, first-served basis.

HIR staff:

- Work to understand the potential effects of a legislative or budgetary proposal.
- Conduct a review of published literature to determine how the proposal may impact health and equity.
- Apply objective criteria to evaluate the evidence.
- Talk to key informants to understand how the proposal may impact people in Washington State.
- Provide a final report.
- Testify on HIR findings upon request.

Requesters use HIR findings to:

- Understand the evidence to refine a policy direction.
- Determine if a proposal will have the intended impact.
- Understand potential unintended consequences of a proposal.
- Talk with colleagues about a proposal.

Previous requesters have stated that HIRs are an important tool to inform legislative decision-making, provide credible evidence about a proposal's potential impacts, and present unbiased data and information.

HIR staff have completed 130 HIRs at the request of 62 different Legislators since 2014.

EXAMPLE HIR REQUEST TOPICS FROM THE 2023-24 BIENNIUM

- Concerning alcohol concentration (SB 5002)
- Concerning birth doulas (SB 6172)
- Requiring and funding the purchase of zero emissions school buses (SHB 1368)
- Concerning the jurisdiction of juvenile court (HB 1440)
- Testing individuals who provide language access to state services (SB 5304)

MAKE A REQUEST TODAY

ONLINE REQUEST FORM



hir@sboh.wa.gov

360-628-7342



To request this document in an alternate format, please contact the Washington State Board of Health by email at wsboh@sboh.wa.gov or at 360-236-4110 | TTY users can dial 711