

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of ESHB 1589

Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future (2023 Legislative Session)

Evidence indicates that [ESHB 1589](#) would likely result in a large gas company not providing gas service to any new residential or commercial locations and may result in the company limiting service for some existing customers in the future, which may decrease the use of natural gas and increase the use of electricity among some residential and commercial buildings, which would likely result in improved health outcomes. There is unclear evidence how provisions may impact equity.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsors: House Environment & Energy (originally sponsored by Representatives Doglio, Fitzgibbon, Berry, Alvarado, Bateman, Ramel, Peterson, Lekanoff, Hackney, Macri, and Kloba)

Summary of Bill:

Full details about the provisions of this bill can be found in the bill text linked above. Given the provisions analyzed, the summary below only highlights bill sections relevant to this Health Impact Review.

- Prohibits a large gas company^a from furnishing or supplying gas service, instrumentalities, and facilities to any commercial or residential location that did not receive gas service or did not file applications for gas service as of June 30, 2023.
- Exempts certain manufacturing facilities from the prohibition on the extension of gas service.
- Exempts other types of facilities that are required to have redundant emergency backup power generation systems, including medical, correctional, and military, until January 1, 2040.
- Removes a large gas company's^a obligation to serve natural gas by excluding it from requirements in [RCW 80.28.110](#).

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence for relevant provisions in ESHB 1589:

- **Informed assumption** that prohibiting a large gas company from extending natural gas service to any commercial or residential location that did not receive gas service or did not apply for gas service as of June 30, 2023, (with specific exemptions) would likely result in a large gas company not providing gas service to any new commercial or residential location. This assumption is based on proposed changes to current law and information from key informants.
- **Informed assumption** that removing a large gas company's obligation to serve may result in a large gas company limiting service for some existing gas customers. This assumption is based on proposed changes to current law and information from key informants.

^a Specified as serving more than 500,000 retail natural gas customers in Washington State on June 30, 2023.

For more information:
Phone: (360) 819-0750
Email: hir@sboh.wa.gov
sboh.wa.gov/hir

WASHINGTON STATE
BOARD OF HEALTH

HEALTH EQUITY
Governor's Interagency Council
on Health Disparities

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of ESHB 1589

Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future (2023 Legislative Session)

- **Informed assumption** that a large gas company not providing natural gas service to new commercial or residential locations and limiting service for some existing gas customers may decrease use of natural gas and increase use of electricity among some residential and commercial buildings. This assumption is based on Washington State energy policies and information from key informants.
- **Strong evidence** that decreasing use of natural gas among residential and commercial buildings would likely result in improved health outcomes.
- **Unclear evidence** how improving health outcomes related to decreased exposure to natural gas emissions may impact equity.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full Health Impact Review at

<https://www.sboh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/HIR-2024-04-ESHB%201589.pdf>

For more information:
Phone: (360) 819-0750
Email: hir@sboh.wa.gov
sboh.wa.gov/hir

WASHINGTON STATE 
BOARD OF HEALTH

 **HEALTH
EQUITY**
Governor's Interagency Council
on Health Disparities