PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (June 2024)
(Implements RCW 34.05.320)
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: July 06, 2026
TIME: 9:43 AM

WSR 26-15-014

Agency: Department of Health

☒ **Original Notice**
☐ **Supplemental Notice to WSR**
☐ **Continuance of WSR**

☒ **Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR** 26-08-008**; or**
☐ **Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR _____; or**
☐ **Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1); or**
☐ **Proposal is exempt under RCW _____.**

Title of rule and other identifying information: Veterinarian, veterinary technician, veterinary medication clerk, and humane society licensing fees.

The Department of Health (department), in consultation with the Veterinary Board of Governors (board), is proposing amendments to WAC 246-933-590, 246-933-990, 246-935-990, and 246-937-990. The proposed amendments include removing the jurisprudence (JP) exam fee for veterinarians and veterinary technicians, adding the Washington Physicians Health Program (WPHP) impaired practitioner surcharge to initial licensure for veterinarians, updating licensing fees to cover program's operating costs, and correcting language and formatting for uniformity.

Hearing location(s):

Date:	**Time:**	**Location:** (be specific)	**Comment:**
08/25/2026	10:00 a.m.	Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RZRft7WTSJCVu1bnYgmFBw After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.	The Department of Health will be offering a virtual webinar hearing only. Individuals may attend virtually or submit comments in writing.

Date of intended adoption: 08/28/2026 (Note: This is **NOT** the **effective** date)

Submit written comments to:		**Assistance for persons with disabilities:**	
Name	Poppy Budrow	Contact	Poppy Budrow
Address	PO Box 47852, Olympia, WA 98504-7852	Phone	564-669-0026
Email	HSQAFeeRules@doh.wa.gov	Fax	NA
Fax	NA	TTY	711
Other	https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/policyreview/	Email	poppy.budrow@doh.wa.gov
Beginning (date and time)	Date and time of this filing	Other	veterinary@doh.wa.gov
By (date and time)	08/25/2026 at 11:59 p.m.	By (date)	08/11/26

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The proposed amendments are necessary for the following reasons:

Elimination of JP exam fee:

In June 2025, in response to Second Substitute House Bill 1724 (chapter 425, Laws of 2023), the board adopted amendments to WAC 246-933-250 and 246-935-070 removing the JP exam as a requirement for initial licensure for veterinarians and veterinary technicians. To align with the board's recent rule changes, the department is proposing to remove the JP exam fee in WAC 246-933-990 and 246-935-990.

Impaired practitioner surcharge:
As required by RCW 18.92.047, the board contracts with WPHP to implement and operate an impaired practitioner program. Contracts with WPHP are financed by a surcharge applied to the veterinarian's license. Currently, WAC 246-933-990 only provides for collection of the WPHP surcharge on license renewal. To adequately fund the board's contract with WPHP, the department is proposing to add the surcharge to initial licensure as allowed by RCW 18.92.047.

Licensing fees:
RCW 43.70.250 requires that licensing fees cover regulatory program expenses which necessitates the program to be self-funding. An update to licensing fees is needed to adequately fund the program's operating expenses.

In addition to the fee changes, language and formatting have also been corrected for uniformity among the rules.

Reasons supporting proposal: RCW 43.70.250 authorizes the department to establish fees associated with the licensing and regulation of professions. The purpose of amendments are to align the fees with the boards recent rule changes related to the veterinary and veterinary technician JP exam requirements; update the licensing fees to adequately fund the program's operating expenses; as part of veterinarian initial licensure, establish the impaired practitioner fee to adequately fund the board's contract with WPHP; and correct language and formatting for uniformity.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 18.92.047, 43.70.110, 43.70.250, and 43.70.280

Statute being implemented: RCW 18.92.047, 43.70.110, 43.70.250, and 43.70.280

Is rule necessary because of a:

Federal Law?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Federal Court Decision?	☐ Yes	☒ No
State Court Decision?	☐ Yes	☒ No

If yes, CITATION:

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters: None

Name of proponent: (person or organization) Department of Health
Type of proponent: ☐ Private. ☐ Public. ☒ Governmental.

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting	Poppy Budrow	111 Israel Road, S.E. Tumwater, WA 98501	564-669-0026
Implementation	Poppy Budrow	111 Israel Road, S.E. Tumwater, WA 98501	564-669-0026
Enforcement	Poppy Budrow	111 Israel Road, S.E. Tumwater, WA 98501	564-669-0026

Is a school district fiscal impact statement required under RCW 28A.305.135? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the school district fiscal impact statement by contacting:
Name
Address
Phone
Fax
TTY
Email
Other

Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?

☐ Yes: A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:
Name
Address
Phone

Fax
TTY
Email
Other

☒ No: Please explain: This rule is exempt from analysis according to RCW 34.05.328 (5)(b)(iv) and (vi) because it clarifies language without changing its effect and sets or adjusts fees pursuant to legislative standards.

Regulatory Fairness Act and Small Business Economic Impact Statement
Note: The Governor's Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance (ORIA) provides support in completing this part.

(1) Identification of exemptions:
This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, **may be exempt** from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act (see chapter 19.85 RCW). For additional information on exemptions, consult the exemption guide published by ORIA. Please check the box for any applicable exemption(s):

☐ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.061 because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Please cite the specific federal statute or regulation this rule is being adopted to conform or comply with, and describe the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted.
Citation and description:

☐ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt because the agency has completed the pilot rule process defined by RCW 34.05.313 before filing the notice of this proposed rule.

☐ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under the provisions of RCW 15.65.570(2) because it was adopted by a referendum.

☒ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(3). Check all that apply:

- ☐ RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b) (Internal government operations)
- ☐ RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c) (Incorporation by reference)
- ☒ RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d) (Correct or clarify language)
- ☐ RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e) (Dictated by statute)
- ☒ RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f) (Set or adjust fees)
- ☐ RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g) ((i) Relating to agency hearings; or (ii) process requirements for applying to an agency for a license or permit)

☐ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(4). (Does not affect small businesses).

☐ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW _____.

Explanation of how the above exemption(s) applies to the proposed rule: The proposed amendments corrects language and formatting for uniformity among the fee rules under RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d), and sets and adjusts fees for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and veterinary medication clerks under RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f).

(2) Scope of exemptions: *Check one.*

☒ The rule proposal: Is fully exempt. *(Skip section 3.)* Exemptions identified above apply to all portions of the rule proposal.

☐ The rule proposal: Is partially exempt. *(Complete section 3.)* The exemptions identified above apply to portions of the rule proposal, but less than the entire rule proposal. Provide details here (consider using this template from ORIA):

☐ The rule proposal: Is not exempt. *(Complete section 3.)* No exemptions were identified above.

(3) Small business economic impact statement: *Complete this section if any portion is not exempt.*

If any portion of the proposed rule is **not exempt**, does it impose more-than-minor costs (as defined by RCW 19.85.020(2)) on businesses?

☐ No Briefly summarize the agency's minor cost analysis and how the agency determined the proposed rule did not impose more-than-minor costs.

☐ Yes Calculations show the rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses and a small business economic impact statement is required. Insert the required small business economic impact statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the small business economic impact statement or the detailed cost calculations by contacting:

Name
Address
Phone
Fax

TTY
Email
Other

Date: July 6, 2026 **Name:** Todd Mountin, PMP for Dennis E. Worsham **Title:** Deputy Chief of Policy for Secretary of Health	**Signature:**

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 11-20-092, filed 10/4/11, effective 12/1/11)

WAC 246-933-590 Humane society and animal care and control agency (entity) fees and renewal cycle. (1) Registrations must be renewed every year on August 1 as provided in ((~~chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 3~~)) WAC 246-12-060 through 246-12-080.

(2) The following nonrefundable fees ((~~are~~)) will be charged:

Title of Fee	Fee
Entity registration	$120.00
Entity renewal	100.00
Late renewal penalty	80.00
Expired registration reissuance	80.00

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

WAC 246-933-990 Veterinarian fees and renewal cycle. (1) Licenses must be renewed every year on the practitioner's birthday as provided in ((~~chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2~~)) WAC 246-12-020 through 246-12-051.

(2) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged:

Title of Fee	Fee
Initial state license	
((~~State jurisprudence examination (initial or retake)~~	~~$210.00~~))
Application	((~~145.00~~)) $230.00
Impaired veterinarian assessment	35.00
UW online access surcharge (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Initial specialty license	
Application	((~~140.00~~)) 230.00
Impaired veterinarian assessment	35.00
UW online access surcharge (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Temporary permit	((~~215.00~~)) 230.00
State or specialty license renewal	
Renewal	((~~160.00~~)) 255.00
Impaired veterinarian assessment	35.00
UW online access surcharge (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Late renewal penalty	((~~80.00~~)) 125.00
Expired license reissuance	((~~90.00~~)) 125.00
Retired active license and renewal	

Title of Fee	Fee
Renewal	((~~70.00~~)) 110.00
Impaired veterinarian assessment	35.00
UW online access surcharge (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Late renewal penalty	((~~50.00~~)) 55.00
Duplicate license	10.00
Verification of license	25.00

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-08-066, filed 3/26/20, effective 7/1/20)

WAC 246-935-990 Veterinary technician fees and renewal cycle. (1) Licenses must be renewed every year on the practitioner's birthday as provided in ((~~chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2~~)) WAC 246-12-020 through 246-12-051.

(2) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged:

Title of Fee	Fee
Initial state license	
((~~State jurisprudence examination (initial or retake)~~	~~$160.00~~))
Application	((~~110.00~~)) $100.00
UW online access surcharge (HEAL-WA)	16.00
License renewal	
Renewal	((~~75.00~~)) 85.00
UW online access surcharge (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Late renewal penalty	((~~80.00~~)) 50.00
Expired license reissuance	((~~80.00~~)) 50.00
Duplicate license	10.00
Verification of license	25.00

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 11-20-092, filed 10/4/11, effective 12/1/11)

WAC 246-937-990 Veterinary medication clerk fees and renewal cycle. (1) Registrations must be renewed every year on the practitioner's birthday as provided in ((~~chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2~~)) WAC 246-12-020 through 246-12-051.

(2) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged:

Title of Fee	Fee
Initial registration	((~~$65.00~~)) $55.00
Renewal	55.00
Late renewal penalty	55.00
Expired registration reissuance	60.00
Duplicate registration	30.00