



February 2024

Behavioral Health Support Specialist Fee Narrative



Assumptions

The department assumes that the implementation of SSB 5189 and the establishment of the profession will cost

- \$125,000 in FY 2024
- \$134,000 in FY 2025
- \$95,000+ in subsequent years



Current assumptions are based on an effective date of January 1, 2025.

All projections are approximate and subject to change.

The Department of Health (department) works to protect and improve the health of all people in Washington State. We accomplish this work, in part, through regulation of health care providers and facilities.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5189 establishes the Behavioral Health Support Specialist credential under RCW 18.227, creating a bachelor level profession that provides brief, evidence-based interventions under the supervision of a qualified provider.

This bill places this new credential under the Uniform Disciplinary Act (chapter 18.130 RCW) and requires the department to adopt rules to establish competency-based certification requirements, continuing education, and certification and renewal fees to regulate this new profession.

To implement SSB 5189, the department is establishing a fee that would fund the certification and regulation of the profession in the state of Washington.

Funding the Profession

[RCW 43.70.250](#) requires that the cost of each profession, occupation, or business be borne by the members of that profession, occupation, or business through fees.

Fees charged at initial application and annual renewal generate revenue for this profession. To set fees appropriately, the department considers the financial forecast of the profession and sets a fee amount designed to align revenue with the cost of licensing and regulating the profession.

Based on community input and program expertise, the department assumes the program will receive 50 applications in FY 2025. The program is anticipated to grow to around 425 licensees by FY 2028 while maintaining a 98.5% renewal rate. In subsequent years, license counts are projected to stabilize with minimal growth.

The department estimates program costs to total \$125,000 in FY24, \$134,000 in FY25 and \$95,000+ in subsequent years. During the implementation stage (FY24-FY25), costs are heightened to reflect the additional staffing hours involved in initial rulemaking and IT configuration. The table below details the breakout of costs:

License	2024	2025	2026+
Rulemaking	\$53,000	\$29,000	\$0
Technology	\$0	\$30,000	\$3,000
Program Administration	\$70,000	\$41,000	\$41,000
Licensing	\$2,000	\$11,000	\$18,000
Discipline	\$0	\$23,000	\$33,000
Total	\$125,000	\$134,000	\$95,000

Fee Proposal

Based on the aforementioned assumptions, the department has determined that a fee of \$285 is what is necessary to cover the anticipated costs of regulating the behavioral health support specialist program.

License	Proposed Fee
Behavioral Health Support Specialist	App: \$285 Ren: \$285

In addition to these fees, the department will set auxiliary fees in line with current policy. These include fees for late renewals, expired license reissuances, duplicate licenses, and license certifications.

The department will continue to monitor the financial health of the program and propose fee adjustments as needed to comply with statutory requirements.

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