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SENATE BILL 5538

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Becker, Mullet, Miloscia, O'Ban, Bailey, Keiser, and Cleveland

1 AN ACT Relating to health profession licensure fees; amending RCW  
2 43.70.250; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The state auditor's office must  
5 conduct a performance audit of the department of health focused on  
6 the fee setting for each health profession licensed by the  
7 department. The performance audit must include, but is not limited  
8 to:

9 (a) A review of each health profession's process for setting  
10 application, licensure, renewal, examination, and indirect fees;

11 (b) A review of the costs of running each health profession  
12 program or board;

13 (c) An analysis of how any moneys collected as indirect charges  
14 levied on a health profession are used by the department; and

15 (d) A review of any department policies or procedures that have  
16 been adopted in an attempt to reduce the fee levels of any of the  
17 health professions.

18 (2) A final report of the performance audit must be submitted to  
19 the appropriate legislative policy and fiscal committees by December  
20 31, 2018.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.70.250 and 2016 c 146 s 1 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) It shall be the policy of the state of Washington that the  
4 cost of each professional, occupational, or business licensing  
5 program be fully borne by the members of that profession, occupation,  
6 or business.

7       (2) The secretary shall from time to time establish the amount of  
8 all application fees, license fees, registration fees, examination  
9 fees, permit fees, renewal fees, and any other fee associated with  
10 licensing or regulation of professions, occupations, or businesses  
11 administered by the department. In fixing said fees, the secretary  
12 shall set the fees for each program at a sufficient level to defray  
13 the costs of administering that program and the cost of regulating  
14 licensed volunteer medical workers in accordance with RCW 18.130.360,  
15 except as provided in RCW 18.79.202. In no case may the secretary  
16 increase a licensing fee for an ambulatory surgical facility licensed  
17 under chapter 70.230 RCW prior to July 1, 2018, nor may he or she  
18 commence the adoption of rules to increase a licensing fee prior to  
19 July 1, 2018. In no case may the secretary assess any denturist or  
20 denturist applicant a fee or part of a fee that is allocated to the  
21 indirect cost pool or to a different health profession that exceeds  
22 two hundred twenty dollars.

23       (3) All such fees shall be fixed by rule adopted by the secretary  
24 in accordance with the provisions of the administrative procedure  
25 act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

26       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires July 1, 2019.

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