Chapter 8 FEE INFORMATION

Fees

New or increased fees

As required by <u>RCW 43.135.055</u>, unless otherwise exempted, fees may only be imposed or increased if approved by the Legislature. Legislation authorizing new or increased fees should be submitted through the agency request legislation process. New fees, extensions of existing fees, and all fee increases, whether or not legislation is required, must be part of the biennial budget submittal using OFM's Request for New or Increased Fees form. Regardless of fee increases contained in individual DPs, agencies must complete the Excel fee request form summarizing all fee increases proposed in the 2025–27 biennium. The fee request form must be an ABS attachment at submittal.

Include a 5-year fee history as part of the agency budget request

Pursuant to RCW 43.88.585, OFM must collect a 5-year history of agency fees, which OFM collects annually as part of agency budget submittals to update the fee database that historically has been maintained at https://fiscal.wa.gov/Revenue/StateImposedFees. Data from past agency submittals has been imported into ABS. All agency-imposed fees must now be entered into the new fee inventory section in ABS as part of an agency budget submittal.

Fee changes in decision packages

Provide justification for any new, extended, or increased fee proposed for the 2025–27 biennium. Include the justification in the decision package (DP) related to the expenditure increase or create a separate DP if not submitting an expenditure increase request. The DP should include the following information:

- 1. Fee name
- 2. Current fee rate (FY 2025)
- 3. Proposed fee rate
 - » FY 2025
 - » FY 2026
- 4. Incremental rate change for each year
 - » FY 2025
 - » FY 2026
- 5. Expected implementation date
- 6. Estimated additional revenue generated by the increase
 - » FY 2025
 - » FY 2026
- 7. Justification for the increase and discussion of consequences of not increasing the fee
- 8. Indication of any changes in who pays
- 9. Indication of any changes in methodology for determining the fee
- 10. Recommendation Summary (RecSum) code for the related expenditure request, if tied to a budget request
- 11. Alternatives considered to an increase
- 12. Indication of whether the fee increase requires a statutory change, i.e., legislation. If yes, submit a proposal as part of the agency request legislation process.