

Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 5523 SB	Title: Addressing forensic pathologist shortage
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Estimated Cash Receipts

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Office of State Treasurer	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Student Achievement Council	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Total \$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Agency Name	2023-25		2025-27		2027-29	
	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total
Local Gov. Courts						
Loc School dist-SPI						
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.					
Local Gov. Total						

Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25				2025-27				2027-29			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Office of State Treasurer	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Forensic Investigations Council	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Department of Health	.7	222,000	222,000	222,000	.1	30,000	30,000	30,000	.1	30,000	30,000	30,000
Student Achievement Council	1.2	403,000	403,000	403,000	.7	236,000	236,000	236,000	.7	236,000	236,000	236,000
Student Achievement Council	In addition to the estimate above, there are additional indeterminate costs and/or savings. Please see individual fiscal note.											
Total \$	1.9	625,000	625,000	625,000	0.8	266,000	266,000	266,000	0.8	266,000	266,000	266,000

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
Office of State Treasurer	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Forensic Investigations Council	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Department of Health	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Student Achievement Council	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Total \$	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

NONE

Prepared by: Ramona Nabors, OFM	Phone: (360) 742-8948	Date Published: Final 2/13/2023
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Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5523 SB	Title: Addressing forensic pathologist shortage	Agency: 090-Office of State Treasurer
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Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Alicia Kinne-Clawson	Phone: 360-786-7407	Date: 01/23/2023
Agency Preparation: Dan Mason	Phone: (360) 902-8990	Date: 01/25/2023
Agency Approval: Dan Mason	Phone: (360) 902-8990	Date: 01/25/2023
OFM Review: Amy Hatfield	Phone: (360) 280-7584	Date: 01/26/2023

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

SB 5523 creates the forensic pathologist loan repayment account and allows the account to retain its earnings from investments.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Projected cash flows are currently unavailable; therefore, estimated earnings from investments are indeterminable.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5523 SB	Title: Addressing forensic pathologist shortage	Agency: 167-Forensic Investigations Council
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Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Alicia Kinne-Clawson	Phone: 360-786-7407	Date: 01/23/2023
Agency Preparation: Bret Skipworth	Phone: 3608906657	Date: 01/26/2023
Agency Approval: Bret Skipworth	Phone: 3608906657	Date: 01/26/2023
OFM Review: Tiffany West	Phone: (360) 890-2653	Date: 01/26/2023

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

Sec 3

The Forensic Investigations Council (FIC) will help the Office of Student Financial Assistance select board-certified forensic pathology participants, adopt rules and develop guidelines to administer program, collect and manage repayments from participants who do not meet service obligations, publicize the program, solicit and accept grants and donations from the public and private resources, and develop criteria for a contract of service in lieu of the service obligation.

Sec 4

Department of Health (DOH) in consultation with the FIC and other stakeholders may provide technical assistance to counties desiring to become sponsoring communities for the purpose of identification of prospective students, assisting students to apply to an eligible education and training program, making formal agreements with prospective students to provide services as a board-certified forensic pathologist, forming agreements between rural and underserved counties in a service area to share credentialed forensic pathology professionals and fulfilling matching requirements.

Sec 5

The Office of Student Financial Assistance will establish a planning committee to assist in developing criteria for the selection of participants into the loan repayment program. The planning committee will include representatives of the DOH, FIC, and other appropriate public and private agencies and organizations.

Sec 6

The DOH and FIC with the Office of Student Financial Assistance shall establish annual loan repayment amount for each eligible board-certified forensic pathologist from the funds appropriated, based on an assessment of reasonable eligible expenses involved in training and education up to \$25,000 annually. The awards shall not be paid for more than a total of 4 years for each participant.

The FIC does not expect a fiscal impact in their role from the implementation of this bill. The FIC expects there will be additional meetings or communications with the other agencies addressed in order to implement the bill. Any potential travel costs are believed to be absorbable within the current budget, but if meetings are held virtually, there should be no additional cost to the FIC. If in person meetings are required, the cost for travel could vary depending on the number of council members to attend meetings, and the chosen council representative for the planning committee, as the council members are located throughout Washington.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5523 SB	Title: Addressing forensic pathologist shortage	Agency: 303-Department of Health
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Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.1
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	131,000	91,000	222,000	30,000	30,000
Total \$	131,000	91,000	222,000	30,000	30,000

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Alicia Kinne-Clawson	Phone: 360-786-7407	Date: 01/23/2023
Agency Preparation: Donna Compton	Phone: 360-236-4538	Date: 01/30/2023
Agency Approval: Kristin Bettridge	Phone: 3607911657	Date: 01/30/2023
OFM Review: Breann Boggs	Phone: (360) 485-5716	Date: 02/08/2023

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

Section 4(1): States the department may provide technical assistance to counties interested in becoming sponsoring communities.

Section 4(2): States the department, from the amounts appropriated to the department, shall enter into a two-year marketing plan with the Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (WACME) with the sole purpose of marketing forensic pathologists and must include a focus on rural and underserved counties.

Section 5: States the department shall provide representation on the planning committee established by the Office of student financial assistance (office).

Section 6: States the department and the counsel, with the office, shall establish the annual loan repayment amount for each eligible board-certified forensic pathologist from the funds appropriated.

Section 9: States the department shall contract with WACME to conduct a study of the critical shortage of board-certified forensic pathologists and recommend to the legislature next steps. The findings and recommendations are due to the governor and the legislature by October 1, 2024.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

None

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

COMMITTEE

Section 4 & 5: The department may provide technical assistance to counties desiring to become sponsoring communities. The department estimates the technical assistance to the communities to include outreach, forming agreements with rural counties, and assistance identifying candidates. The department estimates 36 hours per month during FY 2024 and FY 2025. Additionally, the department will provide representation on a planning committee and assist in developing criteria for the selection of participants. The department estimates the committee will meet once a month and each meeting will consist of prep time and follow up work for a total of 16 hours per meeting per month starting in FY 2024.

FY 2024 costs will be 0.50 FTE and \$59,000 (GF-S)

FY 2025 costs will be 0.50 FTE and \$59,000 (GF-S)

FY 2026 and ongoing costs will be 0.10 FTE and \$15,000 (GF-S)

LOAN REPAYMENT

Section 6: The department will consult with the council and the office to establish loan repayment amounts. This would require regular meetings and collaboration during the first year of the program. The department estimates this work to take

20 hours per month during FY 2024.

FY 2024 costs will be 0.20 FTE and \$22,000 (GF-S)

CONTRACTS

Section 4 & 9: The department will contract with WACME for a two-year marketing plan, with the sole purpose of marketing forensic pathologists, and must include a focus on rural and underserved counties. Based on initial conversations with WACME, the department expects the marketing plan to cost \$20k, split evenly between FY 2024 and FY 2025. Additionally, the department will contract with WACME to conduct a study of the critical shortage and report recommendations to the legislature by October 1, 2024. Based on initial conversations with WACME, the department estimates the contract of \$30k will last 15 months and cost \$26,000 in FY 2024 and \$4,000 in FY 2025. The department will have staff time to develop and manage both contracts.

FY 2024 costs will be 0.10 FTE and \$50,000 (GF-S)

FY 2025 costs will be 0.10 FTE and \$32,000 (GF-S)

TOTAL COSTS TO IMPLEMENT THIS BILL:

FY 2024: 0.80 FTE and \$131,000 (GF-S)

FY 2025: 0.60 FTE and \$91,000 (GF-S)

FY 2026 and ongoing: 0.10 FTE and \$15,000 (GF-S)

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
001-1	General Fund	State	131,000	91,000	222,000	30,000	30,000
Total \$			131,000	91,000	222,000	30,000	30,000

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.1
A-Salaries and Wages	63,000	49,000	112,000	22,000	22,000
B-Employee Benefits	22,000	17,000	39,000	6,000	6,000
C-Professional Service Contracts	34,000	16,000	50,000		
E-Goods and Other Services	5,000	5,000	10,000		
J-Capital Outlays	2,000		2,000		
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements	5,000	4,000	9,000	2,000	2,000
Total \$	131,000	91,000	222,000	30,000	30,000

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
Fiscal Analyst 2	53,000	0.1	0.1	0.1		
HEALTH SERVICES CONSULTAN 4	82,896	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.1
Health Svcs Conslt 1	53,000	0.1	0.1	0.1		
Total FTEs		0.8	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.1

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

None

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5523 SB	Title: Addressing forensic pathologist shortage	Agency: 340-Student Achievement Council
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Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	1.6	0.7	1.2	0.7	0.7
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	285,000	118,000	403,000	236,000	236,000
Total \$	285,000	118,000	403,000	236,000	236,000

In addition to the estimates above, there are additional indeterminate costs and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Alicia Kinne-Clawson	Phone: 360-786-7407	Date: 01/23/2023
Agency Preparation: Becky Thompson	Phone: 360-485-1301	Date: 01/31/2023
Agency Approval: Brian Richardson	Phone: 360-485-1124	Date: 01/31/2023
OFM Review: Ramona Nabors	Phone: (360) 742-8948	Date: 02/01/2023

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

SB 5523 creates a loan repayment program for forensic pathologists serving counties in shortage areas.

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) would administer the program, working with the Washington State Forensic Investigations Council (FIC). WSAC would establish a planning committee to develop awarding criteria. Department of Health (DOH) and FIC with WSAC would establish annual awards, not to exceed \$25,000 in loan repayment annually for up to 4 years of receipt. (Sections 3, 5, and 6)

This bill establishes the forensic pathologist loan repayment account, with WSAC authorizing any expenditures from the account. (Section 8)

This fiscal note describes administrative expenses that would be incurred by the Washington Student Achievement Council to administer a loan repayment program for 250 recipients. If the program grows, staffing levels would need to scale up accordingly.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

SB 5523 would establish the forensic pathologist loan repayment account, per Section 8.

Cash receipts are indeterminate as they are dependent on the level of appropriations for the program and the number of contract breaches.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Expenditures are indeterminate, as they are dependent on appropriations, educational debt of awardees and number of contract breaches.

The Washington Student Achievement Council would draw on experience and infrastructure from existing loan repayment programs, but SB 5523 requires separate infrastructure and planning committee, which is outlined below.

The following describes WSAC's responsibilities and administrative expenses.

ONGOING ADMINISTRATION

WSAC would:

- Establish a planning committee to develop selection criteria (Section 5)
- Establish, with DOH and FIC, award amounts
- Promote the availability of the program
- Award, fund and monitor service requirements for recipients
- Collect, in the case of contract breaches
- Establish an appeal process
- Fund management
- Establish administrative rules

- Solicit and accept donations for the program

STAFFING

FY24: \$285,000 for 0.50 Program Manager, 0.50 Associate Director, 0.50 Software Developer, 0.10 Communications Specialist.

FY25 and beyond: \$118,000 annually for 0.50 Program Manager and 0.20 Associate Director.

Costs reflect one in person meeting per year.

The staffing and resources reflected in this analysis would accommodate a loan repayment program serving up to 250 loan recipients per year.

Staff time estimates are rounded to the nearest 0.1 FTE and staff-related and other costs are rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
001-1	General Fund	State	285,000	118,000	403,000	236,000	236,000
Total \$			285,000	118,000	403,000	236,000	236,000

In addition to the estimates above, there are additional indeterminate costs and/or savings. Please see discussion.

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	1.6	0.7	1.2	0.7	0.7
A-Salaries and Wages	143,000	54,000	197,000	108,000	108,000
B-Employee Benefits	59,000	26,000	85,000	52,000	52,000
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services	81,000	37,000	118,000	74,000	74,000
G-Travel	2,000	1,000	3,000	2,000	2,000
J-Capital Outlays					
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements					
9-					
Total \$	285,000	118,000	403,000	236,000	236,000

In addition to the estimates above, there are additional indeterminate costs and/or savings. Please see discussion.

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
Associate Director	101,000	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2
Communications Specialist	79,000	0.1		0.1		
IT - Software Developer	101,000	0.5		0.3		
Program Manager B	67,000	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total FTEs		1.6	0.7	1.2	0.7	0.7

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

Program	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
Financial Aid & Grants (030)	285,000	118,000	403,000	236,000	236,000
Total \$	285,000	118,000	403,000	236,000	236,000

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

The Washington Student Achievement Council, with the Washington State Forensic Investigations Council, will need to adopt administrative rules per Section 3(2)(b).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

Bill Number: 5523 SB

Title: Addressing forensic pathologist shortage

Part I: Jurisdiction-Location, type or status of political subdivision defines range of fiscal impacts.

Legislation Impacts:

- Cities:
- Counties: Counties with a shortage of board-certified forensic pathologists.
- Special Districts:
- Specific jurisdictions only:
- Variance occurs due to:

Part II: Estimates

- No fiscal impacts.
- Expenditures represent one-time costs:
- Legislation provides local option:
- Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time: The number of participants who choose to apply to the program; loan amount per participant; autopsy transportation costs

Estimated revenue impacts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Estimated expenditure impacts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Kristine Williams	Phone: (564) 669-3002	Date: 01/30/2023
Leg. Committee Contact: Alicia Kinne-Clawson	Phone: 360-786-7407	Date: 01/23/2023
Agency Approval: Alice Zillah	Phone: 360-725-5035	Date: 01/30/2023
OFM Review: Ramona Nabors	Phone: (360) 742-8948	Date: 02/01/2023

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

Description of the bill with an emphasis on how it impacts local government.

This bill would amend RCW 68.50.104; reenacting and amending RCW 43.79A.010; add a new chapter to Title 28B RCW; creating a new section. This legislation would establish a student loan repayment program for board-certified forensic pathologists providing services in counties with identified professional shortages.

Sec. 2 adds a new section that includes definitions.

Sec. 3 adds a new section that describes the state forensic investigations council's and the office of student financial assistance's responsibilities in managing the student loan repayment program.

Sec. 4 adds a new section that states counties may become sponsoring communities for the purposes of attracting and selecting participants for the student loan repayment program, negotiating agreements with prospective students, forming partnerships with rural and underserved counties to share forensic pathology professionals, and fulfilling any matching requirements.

Sec. 5 adds a new section to establish a planning committee.

Sec. 6 adds a new section to set a limit of \$25,000 for annual student loan repayments for a total of four years and for 26 participants. These funds shall be taken from any funds appropriated by the state.

Sec. 7 adds a new section describing repayment terms and service requirements for participants in the forensic pathologist loan repayment program. The interest rate and appeals process will be established by rule.

Sec. 8 adds a new section that states that the fund account for the program will be created in the state treasury.

Sec. 9 adds a new section directs the department of health to conduct a study on the shortage of board-certified forensic pathologist for the legislature. This study must include recommendations on how to create two new forensic pathology fellow slots with the University of Washington and Washington State University. This report is due by October 1, 2024.

Sec. 10 reenacts amends RCW 43.79A.04 to describe how repayment loan funds are administered and invested in the treasurer's trust fund.

Sec. 11 amends RCW 68.50.104 are amended to allow counties to receive reimbursement up to 40 percent of the cost of transporting remains to and from accredited facilities for the purpose of conducting autopsy services.

Sec. 12 adds a new section to create a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

B. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IMPACTS

Expenditure impacts of the legislation on local governments with the expenditure provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of expenditures. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

This bill would have an indeterminate expenditure impact on local governments. It is unknown how many qualified forensic pathologists would choose to participate in the loan repayment program, the amount of student loan debt to be reimbursed, or the impact on current caseloads.

The Skagit County coroner's office reports that the cost per autopsy has increased significantly and has result in higher reimbursement rates by the state and more cost to the county contracting with pathologists. Specifically, Skagit County has contracts with two forensic pathologists. From 2016-2021, the cost per autopsy was \$1600. In 2022, that amount increased to \$1700 and for 2023, one pathologist's rate went up to \$1800 and other pathologist increased her rate to \$2100 per case. This does not include additional costs for infant cases and homicides. Since there are no other pathologists available to contract with, Skagit County has no choice but to accept these charges.

C. SUMMARY OF REVENUE IMPACTS

Revenue impacts of the legislation on local governments, with the revenue provisions identified by section number, and when appropriate, the detail of revenue sources. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

This bill would result in an indeterminate revenue impact for local governments.

The state currently reimburses counties up to 40% of costs to contract autopsy services and 30% of the salary costs for

autopsies being done by county medical examiners or staff. There is no data available to estimate how these reimbursements will be impacted by this legislation. The bill does add provisions for counties to be reimbursed for the transportation of remains but there is no information available on the current number or amounts by county.

SOURCES

Washington Association of County Officials (WACO)

Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (WACME)

Skagit County Coroner's Office