



### BACKGROUND

In 2019, HB 2052 authorized the transition of private cannabis lab accreditation from the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB) to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) effective July 1, 2024. Ecology's Lab Accreditation Program was given rulemaking authority and the initial funding needed to complete the scientific work required for accreditation. In 2022, HB 1859 organized the Interagency Coordination Team – Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), Department of Health (DOH), and WSLCB – led by WSDA. This team was tasked with establishing and maintaining laboratory standards for private cannabis laboratories. WSDA recommends using this interagency science team to conduct lab accreditation rather than funding a new team at Ecology.

### PROPOSAL

WSDA proposes to transition private cannabis lab accreditation from WSLCB to WSDA rather than from WSLCB to Ecology as required by RCW 69.50.348. This proposal would streamline the cannabis science work conducted by the three main agencies in this space (WSDA, DOH, WSLCB). It would also reduce the costs for the program incurred by both the State as well as private cannabis labs. The State Legislature has already funded WSDA to complete the lab standards work, and adding accreditation would limit additional expenses by the State while maximizing efficiency and uniformity for the private labs regulated under the program.



### BILL HIGHLIGHTS

- Maintains interagency team that has been working to develop standards.
- Reduces the need to rehire for highly technical positions.
- Reduces costs to the State by streamlining hiring processes and utilizing trained staff with highly specialized knowledge to continue work on cannabis lab accreditation.
- Maintains staffing at WSDA to keep laboratory standards rules up to date as standards or methods evolve or change.
- Provides time for WSDA and WSLCB to work together through challenges related to proficiency testing.
- Allows for labs to receive full accreditation, rather than qualified accreditation from Ecology.
- Reduces cost to the laboratories by removing the previously proposed fee-for-service model, acknowledging the public health necessity of maintaining the current laboratory system by funding the team to perform accreditation.

### CONTACT

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