

Budget Savings Options 2025

Dollars in Thousands

Agency: Public Disclosure Commission

Agency Priority H, M, L	Impact 1-5	Program/Activity	GF-S					Other Funds					FTE Change					Brief Description and Rationale	Effective Date (MM/YY)	Impacts of Reductions and Other Considerations	Law/Reg. Change Required (cite)
			FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29				
M	1	Reduction of in-person Commission meetings (from 11 to 6)	4.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0											Commission currently holds many enforcement hearings and some regular meetings remotely. This proposal would increase the frequency of remote meetings to save commissioner travel and meeting costs.	2/25	Some members of the public and respondents in enforcement cases prefer to appear in person, and the Commission has tried to be responsive to that preference when possible. More virtual meetings could lead to more respondents struggling with technology or feeling they did not get a fair hearing.	
H	2	Elimination of Commission outreach to communities outside Olympia						15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0						In the 2023-25 biennium, Legislature appropriated \$30,000 for the Commission to make regional visits to improve its outreach to communities outside the Olympia area. This proposal would cancel a planned trip to Central Washington this year and put future visits on hold until other funds could be identified.	2/25	Commission outreach is currently one of the PDC's five strategic goals. The program is successful, having generated strong engagement and feedback from Commission meetings in Spokane and Vancouver to date.	
H	2	Reduce staff travel for training of regulated communities		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0						Regulated communities often invite PDC filer assistance and compliance staff to give presentations about reporting and other disclosure requirements. This proposal would limit the number of invites to in-person events that PDC staff could accept.	7/25	Training is one of the best ways to improve compliance and reduce the state resources needed for enforcement activity. Unfortunately, many conferences held by organizations representing members of the regulated community don't offer options for presenters to join virtually.	
M	1	Subscriptions and licenses	3.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0											Cancellation of software licenses and subscriptions that help enable the agency to provide public access to information and improve compliance among filers.	6/25	Nearly 75 percent of this proposed cut is for a service that detects usability and accessibility issues on the agency's website that represents the public's portal to millions of disclosure records. Without that service, the agency risks reduced service levels to the public and potentially not meeting the new Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.	
M	1	Staff vacancy savings	80.0															Agency currently has one vacancy (a Program Specialist 3) and proposes to hold this position open through the end of the fiscal year.	6/25	This position is responsible for the PDC's training program for candidates, political committees, financial affairs disclosure filers, lobbyists and lobbyist employers, and public agencies. Without it, trainers would spend more time planning training, reducing their focus on educating the regulated community to enhance transparency and compliance.	
H	4	Reduction of service contracts		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	24.0	250.0	250.0	250.0	250.0						PDC currently contracts for creation of its annual report, website development, and accessibility improvements for filing applications used by regulated entities. It proposes to eliminate or significantly reduce these service contracts.	6/25	Reductions would mean that upgrades to the agency's website and filing applications will take longer, to the detriment of public access and at the risk of possible non-compliance with federal accessibility standards.	

Priority:
 L = Low priority agency activity or program
 M = Medium priority agency activity or program
 H = High priority agency activity or program

Impact:
 1 = Allows continuation of the program/activity at a reduced level
 2 = Eliminates the ability to perform program objectives
 3 = Eliminates agency function
 4 = Long term implications (moves the problem to next biennium)
 5 = Short term (reduction to one time increase)