

**Board of Plumbing Examiners
Summary of Budget Recommendations - Senate**

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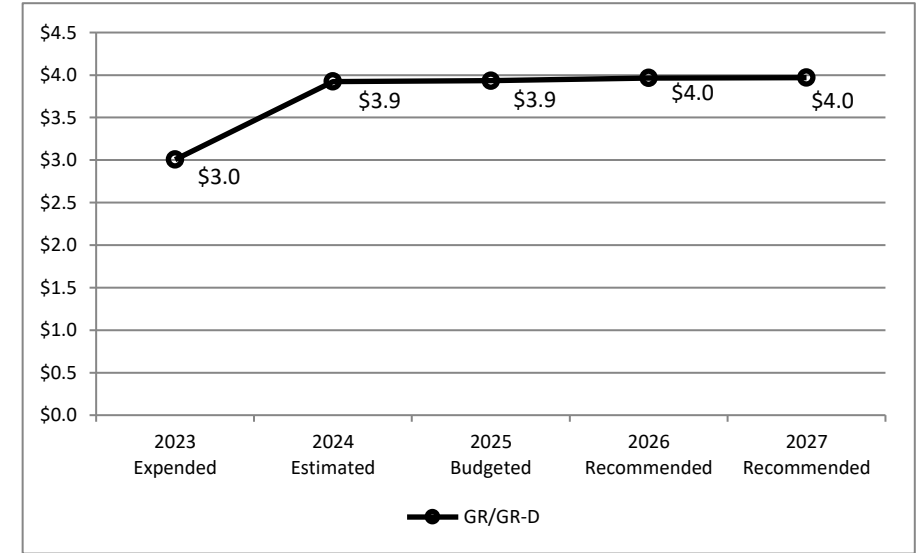
Lisa Hill, Executive Director

Kelsey Sims, LBB Analyst

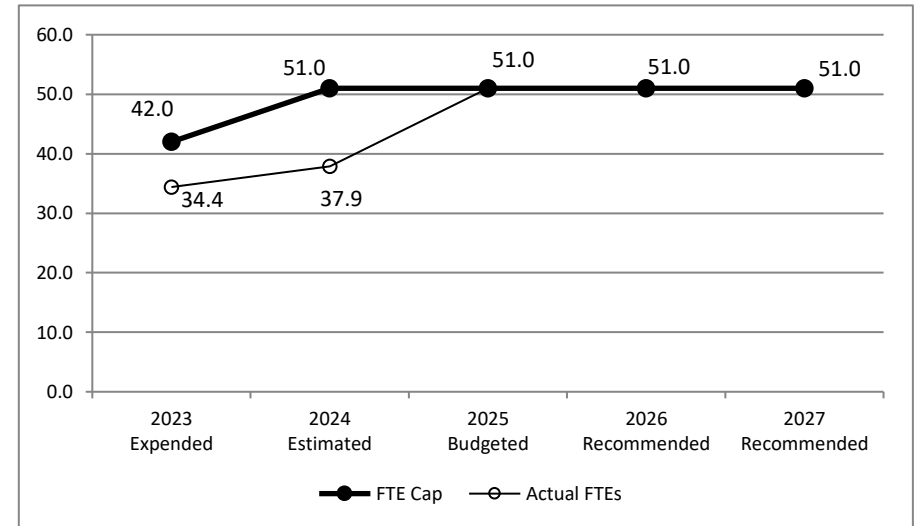
Method of Financing	2024-25 Base	2026-27 Recommended	Biennial Change (\$)	Biennial Change (%)
General Revenue Funds	\$7,856,166	\$7,934,878	\$78,712	1.0%
GR Dedicated Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
<i>Total GR-Related Funds</i>	<i>\$7,856,166</i>	<i>\$7,934,878</i>	<i>\$78,712</i>	<i>1.0%</i>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Other	\$84,010	\$50,000	(\$34,010)	(40.5%)
All Funds	\$7,940,176	\$7,984,878	\$44,702	0.6%

	FY 2025 Budgeted	FY 2027 Recommended	Biennial Change	Percent Change
FTEs	51.0	51.0	0.0	0.0%

Historical Funding Levels (Millions)



Historical Full-Time-Equivalent Employees (FTEs)



The bill pattern for this agency (2026-27 Recommended) represents an estimated 100.0% of the agency's estimated total available funds for the 2026-27 biennium.

Board of Plumbing Examiners
Summary of Funding Changes and Recommendations - Senate

Funding Changes and Recommendations for the 2026-27 Biennium compared to the 2024-25 Base Spending Level	General Revenue	GR-Dedicated	Federal Funds	Other Funds	All Funds	Strategy in Appendix A
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<i>OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations (these issues are not addressed in Section 3 but details are provided in Appendix A):</i>

A)	Increase in funding to biennialize the statewide salary adjustments included in the 2024-25 appropriations	\$123,611	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$123,611	Several strategies
B)	Increase for Health Professions Council vendor cost increases related to the shared regulatory database	\$53,101	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$53,101	B.1.1
C)	Removal of one-time funding for a vehicle purchase	(\$48,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$48,000)	A.1.3
D)	Removal of one-time funding for licensing system upgrade	(\$50,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$50,000)	A.1.4
E)	Removal of one-time Appropriated Receipts for sale of scrap metal in excess of appropriated amount	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$34,010)	(\$34,010)	Several strategies

TOTAL SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations	\$78,712	\$0	\$0	(\$34,010)	\$44,702	As Listed
<i>SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Increases</i>	\$176,712	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$176,712	As Listed
<i>SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Decreases</i>	(\$98,000)	\$0	\$0	(\$34,010)	(\$132,010)	As Listed

NOTE: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

**Board of Plumbing Examiners
Selected Fiscal and Policy Issues - Senate**

1. **Lease Renewal or Agency Relocation and New Buildout.** Recommendations maintain \$274,805 in General Revenue funding for increased lease costs for the agency's Austin headquarters. In August 2023, the agency's long-term lease expired, and the agency was faced with a steep rent increase. The agency negotiated a shorter-term (two-year) renewal in order to consider the possibility of moving. The current lease expires in August 2025 and its annual rent of \$353,000 represents a 50% increase over the previous lease.

Recommendations do not include two exceptional item requests related to this issue:

1. Exceptional item #1 is a request for General Revenue funding to relocate the agency. The agency estimates a minimum of \$675,000 in one-time funding for the move but is currently waiting for an estimate from the Texas Facilities Commission for any further funding needs.
2. Exceptional Item #2 is a request for \$88,325 in General Revenue funding to renew the current lease. This amount represents an estimate, assuming a 10% increase in Fiscal Year 2026 and fifteen percent for Fiscal Year 2027.

These two exceptional items are mutually exclusive, and the agency would only move forward with one.

The Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSBPE) has unique needs for its physical space. The agency requires not only offices for its administrators but also warehouse space in which it offers practical exams to plumbing licensees. The exams require a large amount of physical space, and some of them involve braising using acetylene gas and oxygen. Adequate ventilation and safe storage are consequently a concern. Aspiring plumbers come from all over the state to take the exam, and the agency serves 200 to 250 examinees a month. So parking is also a concern, and the agency would prefer secure parking for agency vehicles and trailers in a secure space.

The Texas Facilities Commission has identified an ideal facility in Austin. The estimate for the physical move is \$125,000. Work on the new facility would also be necessary for it to meet the needs of TSBPE. As of this date the build-out numbers are not available from the Texas Facilities Commission, but the TSBPE estimates \$550,000.

2. **Statewide Exam Centers.** Recommendations maintain \$331,000 in General Revenue funding and 2.0 FTEs from the 2024-25 biennium to design and build a testing facility in Harlingen, in partnership with Texas State Technical College, as well as another mobile testing center. The agency currently operates one testing facility in Waco, also through a partnership with Texas State Technical College. That exam facility began operations in fiscal year 2023. The agency credits this site as one of the primary reasons for the significant increase in the number of examinations since Fiscal Year 2022. Construction is currently underway at the Harlingen testing facility location, and the agency anticipates the site being operational in Fiscal Year 2027. The mobile unit is in the bid process and the agency hopes for it to be in operation during Fiscal Year 2026.

Recommendations do not include a request for \$300,000 in General Revenue funding for tools, materials, and build-outs necessary to complete the project in Harlingen and the acquisition of a truck and trailer for the mobile testing center.

3. **Staff Salaries and Turnover.** Recommendations maintain \$391,905 in General Revenue funding provided to the agency in the 2024-25 biennium for the statewide salary increase and salary increases for staff making \$40,000 or less. According to the agency, challenges remain with staff retention. The average annual salary in Fiscal Year 2024 for the agency's classified regular full-time staff was \$55,080, in contrast with the statewide average of \$60,986. The agency's turnover rate for Fiscal Year 2023 was 29.9% and data for the first three quarters of Fiscal Year 2024 suggests a similar figure for the more recent year.

Recommendations do not include a request for \$650,092 which includes funding to provide competitive salaries and to retain current staff.

**Board of Plumbing Examiners
Items Not Included in Recommendations - Senate**

	2026-27 Biennial Total			Information Technology Involved?	Contracting Involved?	Estimated Continued Cost 2028-29
	GR & GR-D	All Funds	FTEs			

Agency Exceptional Items Not Included (in agency priority order)

1)	General Revenue funding to support agency headquarters relocation to a new facility due to lease increases at current location. The item would be withdrawn if the agency remains in its current location (see Item #2).	\$675,000	\$675,000	0.0	No	Yes	\$0
2)	General Revenue funding to cover cost of increased lease should the agency remain in its current location.	\$ 88,325	\$ 88,325	0.0	No	Yes	\$123,000
3)	General Revenue funding to provide for salary increase of approximately 10% in order to maintain competitive market wages with private businesses and state agencies.	\$ 650,092	\$ 650,092	0.0	No	No	\$631,862
4)	General Revenue funding with authority for an additional 7.0 FTEs to fund additional positions in Licensing, Enforcement, Legal Support, and Administration program areas made necessary by plumber population growth.	\$ 869,692	\$ 869,692	7.0	No	No	\$869,692
5)	General Revenue funding to increase the Executive Director position's salary from \$129,377 to \$152,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$167,000 in fiscal year 2027. This includes a request to increase the position's salary cap from \$129,377 in Group 3 to \$171,699 in Group 4.	\$ 60,246	\$ 60,246	0.0	No	No	\$86,909
6)	General Revenue funding to promote the plumbing profession as a career option through community events at primary, secondary and post-secondary educational institutions; municipal building and inspection departments; and trade associations.	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	0.0	No	No	\$100,000
7)	General Revenue funding for one-time appropriations to conduct a financial audit of the agency in order to ensure compliance with accounting rules and standards.	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	0.0	No	No	\$0
8)	General Revenue funding for transfer via Interagency Contract to the Health Professions Council to enhance and improve the license database (VERSA) and to improve electronic communication capabilities with licensees, registrants and the public.	\$ 167,000	\$ 167,000	0.0	No	No	\$0

**Board of Plumbing Examiners
Items Not Included in Recommendations - Senate**

		2026-27 Biennial Total			Information Technology Involved?	Contracting Involved?	Estimated Continued Cost 2028-29
		GR & GR-D	All Funds	FTEs			
9)	General Revenue funding to replace older high-mileage vehicles that have exceeded their useful life.	\$ 116,500	\$ 116,500	0.0	No	No	\$0
10)	General Revenue funding for improvements to the examination facility in Harlingen and the design and building of a mobile testing unit.	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	0.0	No	Yes	\$30,000
TOTAL Items Not Included in Recommendations		\$3,211,855	\$3,211,855	7.0			\$1,841,463

**Board of Plumbing Examiners
Appendices - Senate**

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* Appendix is not included - no significant information to report

**Board of Plumbing Examiners
Funding Changes and Recommendations by Strategy - Senate -- ALL FUNDS**

Strategy/Goal	2024-25 Base	2026-27 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change	Comments
EXAMINE AND LICENSE PLUMBERS A.1.1	\$3,498,217	\$3,509,377	\$11,160	0.3%	
TEXAS.GOV A.1.2	\$310,000	\$310,000	\$0	0.0%	
INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT A.1.3	\$2,777,700	\$2,665,000	(\$112,700)	(4.1%)	Recommendations include a decrease of \$109,748 in General Revenue and \$2,952 in Appropriated Receipts due to the following: a) a reduction of \$165,000 for one-time vehicle purchases, examination center materials and other operating expenses; and b) an increase of \$52,000 in salaries and wages to maintain salary levels at the fiscal year 2019 level.
CONSUMER EDUCATION/PUBLIC AWARENESS A.1.4	\$442,073	\$540,200	\$98,127	22.2%	Recommendations include: a) an increase of \$129,295 in General Revenue due primarily to the 2024-25 statewide salary adjustment and reallocations from other strategies to support staff salaries; and b) a decrease of \$31,168 in Appropriated Receipts for one-time sales of scrap metal in the 2024-25 biennium not anticipated to continue.
Total, Goal A, ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY/PLUMBING	\$7,027,990	\$7,024,577	(\$3,413)	(0.0%)	
INDIRECT ADMIN B.1.1	\$912,186	\$960,301	\$48,115	5.3%	Recommendations include an increase of \$48,230 in General Revenue for Health Profession Council vendor cost increases for the shared regulatory database offset by a slight decrease of \$115 in Appropriated Receipts.
Total, Goal B, INDIRECT ADMINISTRATION	\$912,186	\$960,301	\$48,115	5.3%	
Grand Total, All Strategies	\$7,940,176	\$7,984,878	\$44,702	0.6%	

**Board of Plumbing Examiners
FTE Highlights - Senate**

Full-Time-Equivalent Positions	Expended 2023	Estimated 2024	Budgeted 2025	Recommended 2026	Recommended 2027
Cap	42.0	51.0	51.0	51.0	51.0
Actual/Budgeted	34.4	37.9	51.0	NA	NA
Schedule of Exempt Positions (Cap)					
Executive Director, Group 3	\$120,586	\$124,982	\$129,377	\$129,377	\$129,377