

Effort to Amend the HEAL Act Briefing

June 2026

Background

Last session, Representative Reeves introduced [HB 2682](#), Ensuring consistent application of environmental justice principles, which would have made narrow amendments to the HEAL Act to expand the definition of a covered agency to include the Forest Practices Board and the Board of Natural Resources. The bill specified that any rules considered by the Board of Natural Resources would be considered significant agency actions. The bill also included provisions specific to rulemaking by the Forest Practices Board and Board of Natural Resources. In addition, Representative Reeves held a [HEAL Work Session](#) in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. During that work session, Committee Members asked questions about what actions are subject to Environmental Justice Assessments, where the Environmental Justice Council is administratively located and its membership, and if an audit of HEAL is needed.

Current Efforts

During this interim, Representative Reeves has initiated a broader effort to bring partners together to take a close look at how HEAL implementation has been going and to discuss and propose if there are needed amendments to the Act. Representative Reeves convened a group of partners for the first time on May 14th and asked everyone in attendance to help document HEAL successes, challenges, and policy solutions, and to come to the table with creative ideas to improve the law by making it more effective, efficient, and sustainable. Representative Reeves said she did not want to use any previously introduced legislation (such as HB 2682) as a starting place. Rather, she asked everyone to come to the table with creative ideas to improve the law. The Environmental Justice Council Co-Chairs and staff were invited to this meeting. Representative Reeves will convene partners monthly throughout the interim for these discussions.

How to Engage on Potential Amendments to HEAL

The Council is currently considering how best to serve as a forum for Tribes and communities and is beginning discussions with its membership and partnerships as it considers if and how to engage. As an initial step, the Council is prioritizing informing Tribes, Communities, the

public, and partners and will be holding public meetings and forums on this topic. As they are scheduled, you can find information about upcoming Council meetings and forums on the Council [meetings page](#). You can also [sign up](#) to receive email announcements about upcoming meetings. We encourage you to engage with the Council through these forums or by reaching out to Council staff (contact information below).

Contact

Please contact Sierra Rotakhina, EJ Council Manager in any language at sierra.rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov if you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting.

You can also reach out directly to Representative Reeves' office by emailing Kristine.Reeves@leg.wa.gov and her legislative assistant Thalia.Corona@leg.wa.gov.