

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH FEES

BODY ART PROGRAM

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (EH), is proposing changes to the Los Angeles County Code, Title 8 – Consumer Protection, Business, and Wage Regulations; Division 1 – Public Health Licenses. These changes impact permit, plan check, and service fees that are collected under the authority of State and County Codes to carry out duties that protect public health and safety.

Overview of Program

EH is responsible for enforcing the Safe Body Art Act, a California state law codified in California Health and Safety Code, starting at §119300. The primary purpose is to set minimum standards for the operation of body art practices and facilities, aiming to prevent infections and bloodborne disease transmission (like hepatitis or HIV) and to control cross-contamination during body art procedures.

This program is intended to protect both the practitioner and client from transmission of infectious diseases through the application of proper body art procedures and the control of cross-contamination of instruments and supplies.

Body Art includes the activities of tattooing, piercing, branding, and applying permanent makeup, such as microblading and micropigmentation. Each body art practitioner is required to register with EH.

Why are the fees changing now?

Fees were last increased in 2018. While fees have remained the same, operational costs have increased annually due to negotiated employee salaries and benefits, along with inflation. From FY 19/20 through FY 25/26, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by about 25%, and cost-of-living increases approved for County workers totaled 20.5%. Yet fees have remained at 2018 levels despite these cost increases.

A comprehensive fee study was conducted along with an evaluation of current operational costs and the fee levels required to cover those costs. The study reviewed direct and indirect costs associated with program administration, inspection, oversight and enforcement. The fee analysis structure was validated by the LA County Auditor-Controller. The last comprehensive fee study for EH programs was conducted in 2011.

What are the fee changes?

A summary of the proposed fees is listed below. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the new fees will go into effect December 15, 2026. Existing permitted businesses will receive a supplemental invoice for any increases in annual health permit fees for Fiscal Year 26/27, and existing businesses where annual permit fee decreased will receive a credit during the FY27/28 annual health permit billing.

To minimize the impact of future increases, starting in FY 27/28, fees will be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with no fee exceeding the reasonable cost of providing services.

SUMMARY OF BODY ART PROGRAM FEES

PERMIT TYPES	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
BODY ART FACILITY 1-3 WORK-STATIONS (SINGLE USE INSTRUMENTS): Permanent and Mobile operation that involves body piercing, tattooing, branding and application of permanent cosmetics	\$423	\$500
BODY ART FACILITY 4+ WORK-STATIONS (SINGLE USE INSTRUMENTS)	\$440	\$562
BODY ART FACILITY 1-3 WORK-STATIONS (STERILIZER): Permanent and Mobile Tattoo Shop with multi-use needles and equipment that must be sterilized	\$423	\$575
BODY ART FACILITY 4+ WORK-STATIONS (STERILIZER)	\$440	\$639

PLAN CHECK FEES	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
BODY ART FACILITY - SINGLE USE ONLY: Facility that uses disposable needles and equipment	\$568	\$956
BODY ART FACILITY - WITH STERILIZER: Facility that sterilizes multi-use needles and equipment	\$568	\$1,057
BODY ART FACILITY – REMODEL	\$343	NO CHANGE

SERVICE FEES	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
BODY ART PRACTITIONER - BODY ART REGISTRATION: Tattoo artists are required to be registered with Public Health	\$54	\$171
BODY ART FACILITY - BODY ART TEMPORARY EVENT, SPONSOR: An organizer of a tattoo event responsible for infrastructure	\$1,640	\$1,585
BODY ART FACILITY, TEMPORARY A temporary body art facility as part of approved event	\$150	\$277

BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE CONTROL TRAINING: Fee for providers of Bloodborne Pathogen training	\$499	\$613
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FEE COMPARSION BY COUNTY

The proposed fees are consistent with those of comparable jurisdictions when accounting for differences in scale and scope. Given Los Angeles County's large population and extensive inspection and service responsibilities, the proposed fees are appropriately aligned with comparable jurisdictions.

PERMIT FEES	LOS ANGELES PROPOSED NEW FEE	PASADENA	LONG BEACH	VENTURA	SAN DIEGO	RIVERSIDE	SAN BERNARDINO
BODY ART FACILITY 1-3 PRACTITIONERS (STERILIZER)	\$575	\$573	\$405	\$588	\$469	\$273	\$458
BODY ART FACILITY 1-3 PRACTITIONERS (SINGLE-USE INSTRUMENTS)	\$500	\$573	\$405	\$588	\$469	\$273	\$458
BODY ART PRACTITIONER-BODY ART REGISTRATION	\$171	\$108	\$85 - \$128	\$98 - \$195.99	\$179	\$70	\$140 - \$165
BODY ART FACILITY, TEMPORARY	\$277	\$300	\$53 - \$101	\$98	\$95 - \$289	\$35	\$166
PLAN CHECK: BODY ART FACILITY - SINGLE USE ONLY	\$956	\$739	\$549	\$588 - \$1,176	\$648	\$796	\$575 - \$602

Visit our website to learn more about [Body Art](#).

How to provide feedback

Questions and comments can be submitted to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EHfees> or scan the QR code.

