

Chapter 302 Three-Year Regulatory Fee and Program Cost Analysis Report

Safe Drinking Water

August 13, 2025





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Department of
Environmental Protection

Regulatory Requirements

- Chapter 302, Administration of the Water and Wastewater Systems Operators' Certification Program, was published as a final-form rulemaking on September 18, 2010.
- 25 Pa. Code § 302.202: *"The Department will review the adequacy of the fees established in this section at least once **every 3 years** and provide a written report to the EQB..."*



Historical Fee Reviews

- **1st Review:**
 - October 2013: Certification Board reviewed and commented
 - November 2013: DEP presented recommendation to the EQB – *fees remained unchanged.*
- **2nd Review:**
 - December 2016: Certification Board reviewed and commented
 - June 2017: DEP presented recommendation to the EQB – *fees remained unchanged.*
- **3rd Review:**
 - August 2020: Certification Board reviewed and commented
 - March 2021: DEP presented recommendation to the EQB – *fees remained unchanged.*

Fee-Related Program Activities and Costs

1. Delivery of Certification Exams
2. Initial Certification, Certification Upgrade, Reciprocity, Certificate Renewal
3. Technical Support
4. Training and Continuing Education
5. Course Development and Delivery



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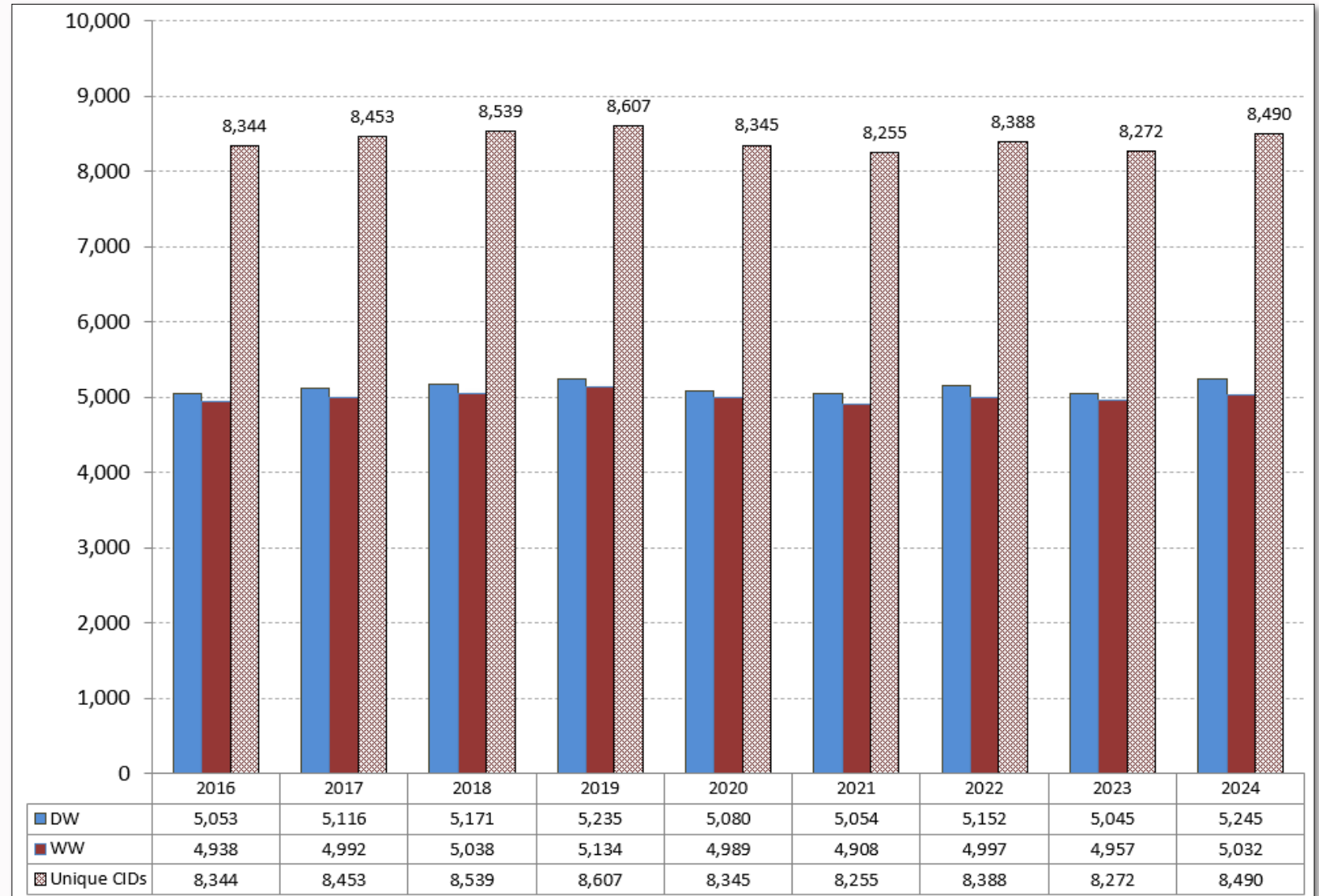
Program Implementation: Personnel

- Administrative Staff
- Information Technology Staff
- Water Program Specialists and Group Manager
- Compliance Assistance Specialists
- DEP Proctors
- Water Professional Exam Proctors - wage payroll
- Public Services Institute Instructors - wage payroll



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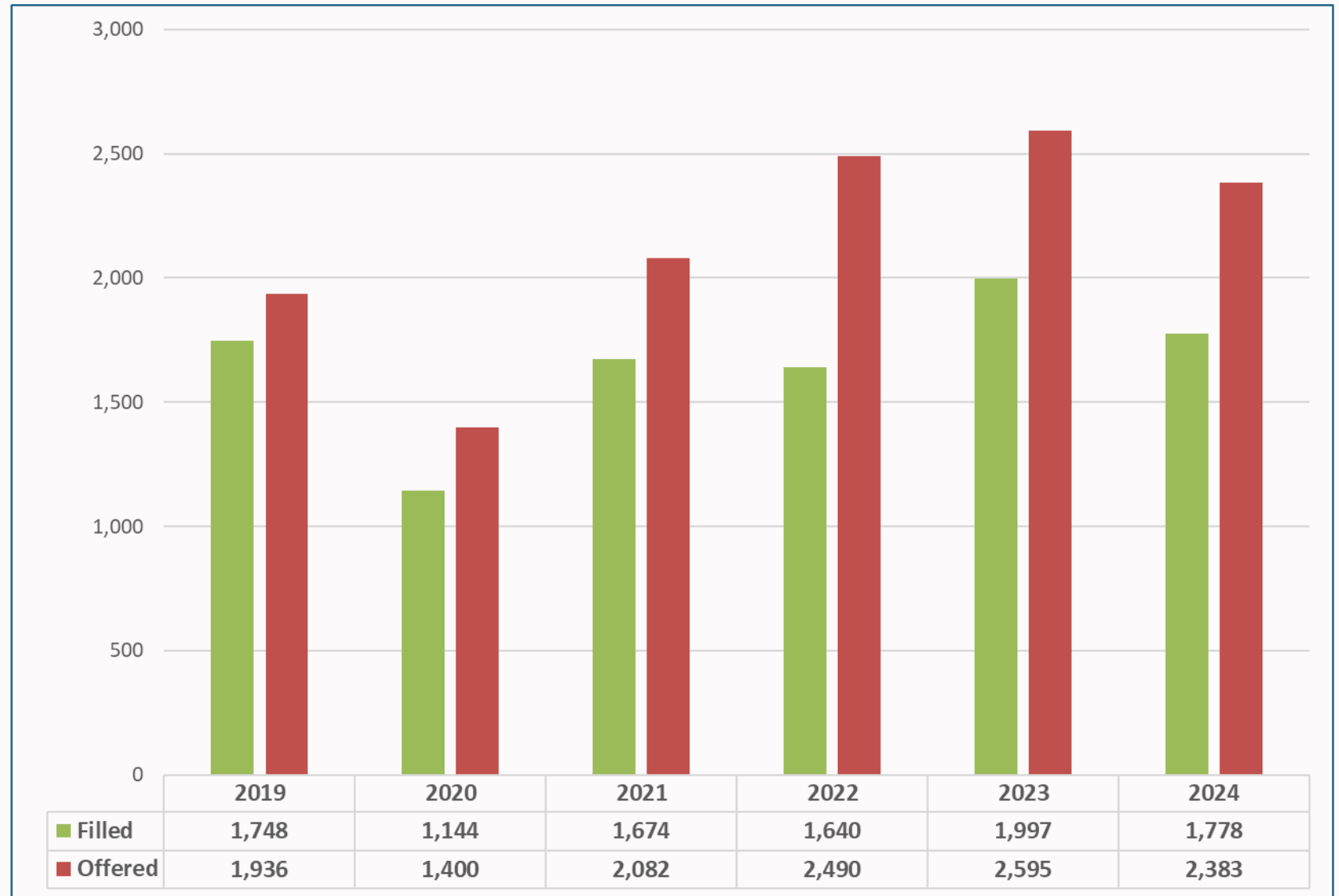
Licensed Operator Data 2016-2024





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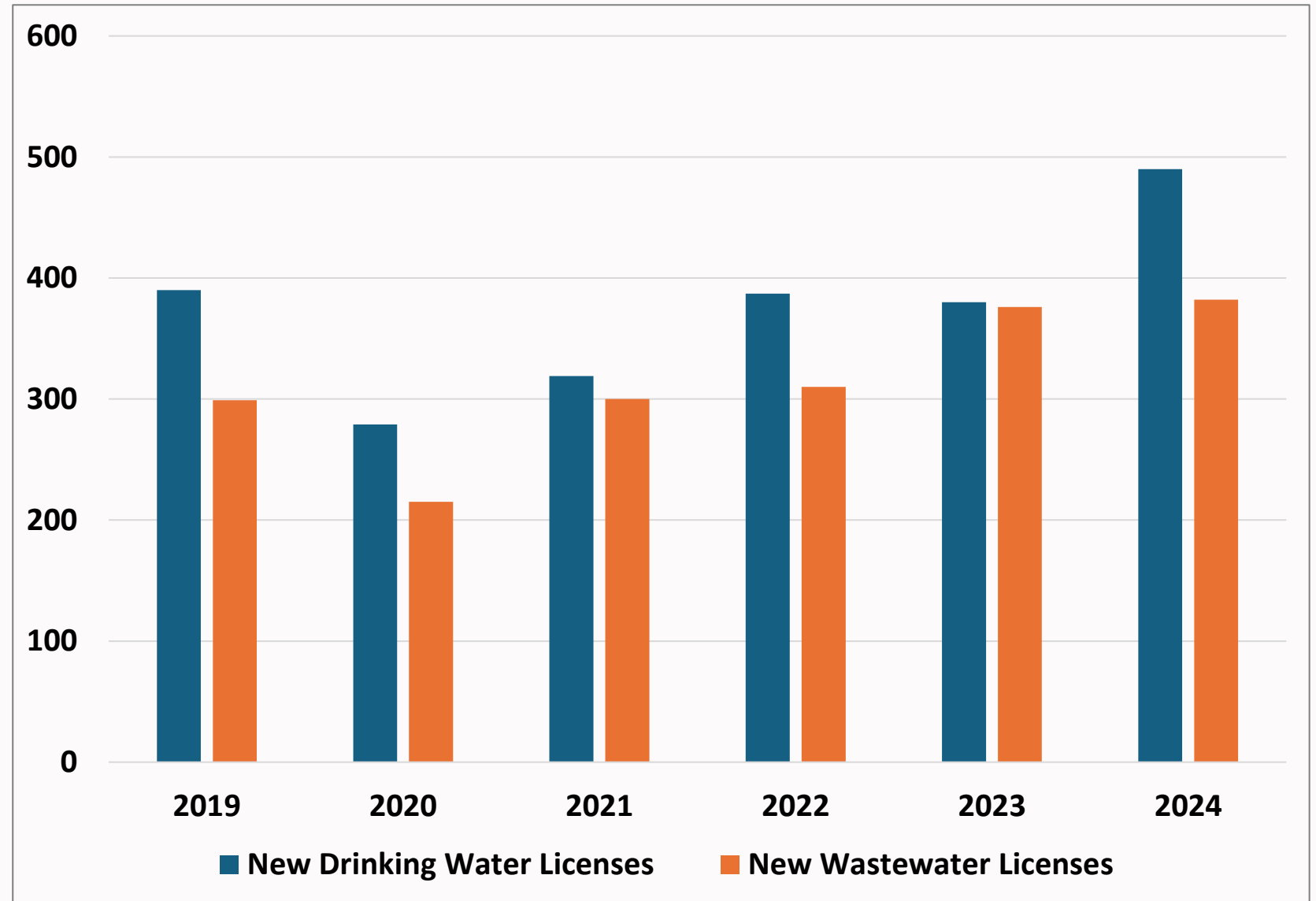
Examinees (Seats Filled and Offered) 2019 to 2024





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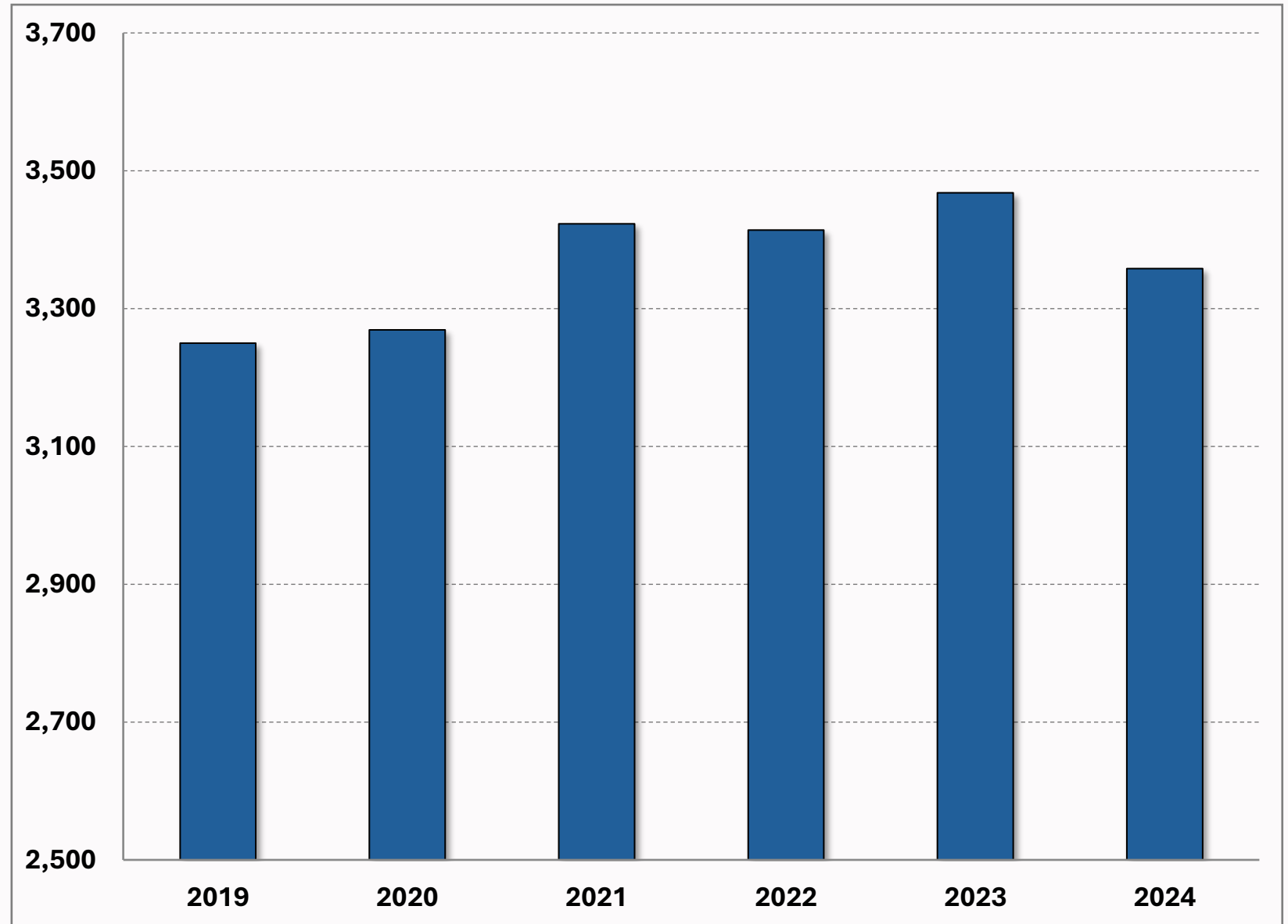
New Certifications 2019-2024





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Cumulative Approved Courses for Continuing Education 2019-2024





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Revenues

	Actual			Projected		
Revenue Source	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27
Certification Fees	\$307,480	\$297,217	\$328,116	\$310,938	\$310,938	\$310,938
Training Fees	\$62,770	\$51,358	\$58,863	\$57,664	\$57,664	\$57,664
System Annual Service Fees	\$496,387	\$501,084	\$492,474	\$496,648	\$496,648	\$496,648
Total	\$866,637	\$849,659	\$879,453	\$865,250	\$865,250	\$865,250



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Expenses

	Actual			Projected		
Expense	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27
Personnel	\$704,334	\$682,490	\$767,379	\$748,909	\$782,989	\$816,618
Operating	\$19,295	\$18,221	\$27,137	\$22,198	\$22,863	\$23,549
IT	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Total	\$753,629	\$730,711	\$824,516	\$801,106	\$835,852	\$870,167



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Revenue/Expense Ratios

	Actual			Projected		
	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27
Total Revenues	\$866,637	\$849,659	\$879,453	\$865,250	\$865,250	\$865,250
Total Expenses	\$753,629	\$730,711	\$824,516	\$801,106	\$835,852	\$870,167
Revenue/ Expense Ratio	1.15	1.16	1.07	1.08	1.04	0.99

DEP Recommendation

- After careful consideration of available information, DEP intends to recommend that the EQB retains the current fees in Chapter 302.
- Seeking Certification Board review and comment today



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Get In Touch

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The Department of Environmental Protection's mission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water resources and to provide for the health and safety of its residents and visitors, consistent with the rights and duties established under the Environmental Rights Amendment (Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution).