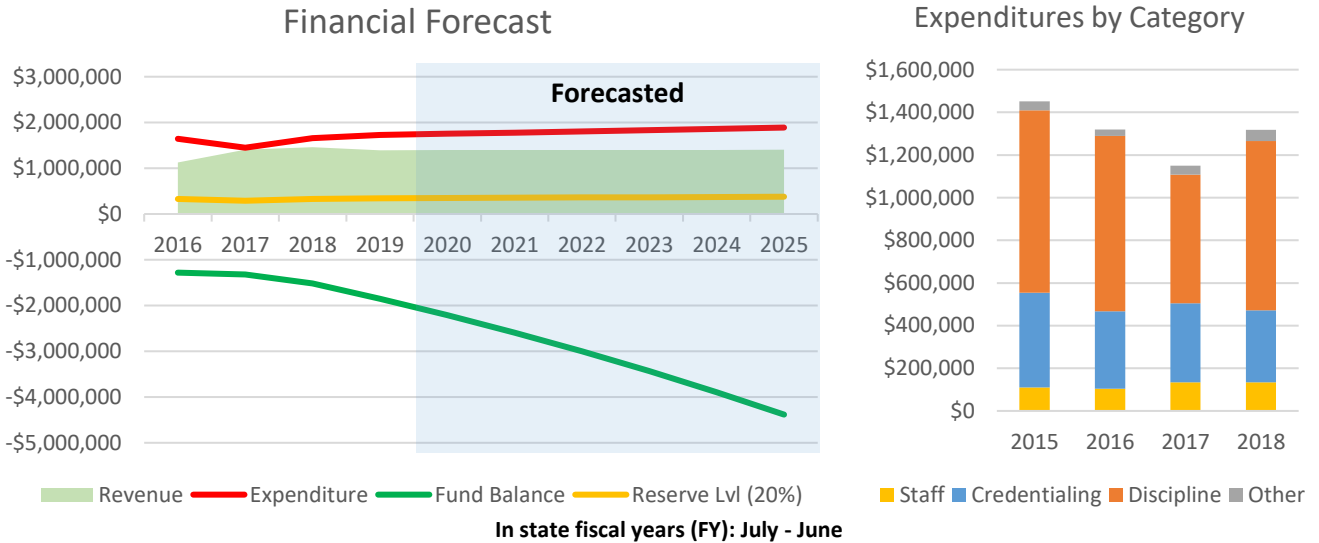


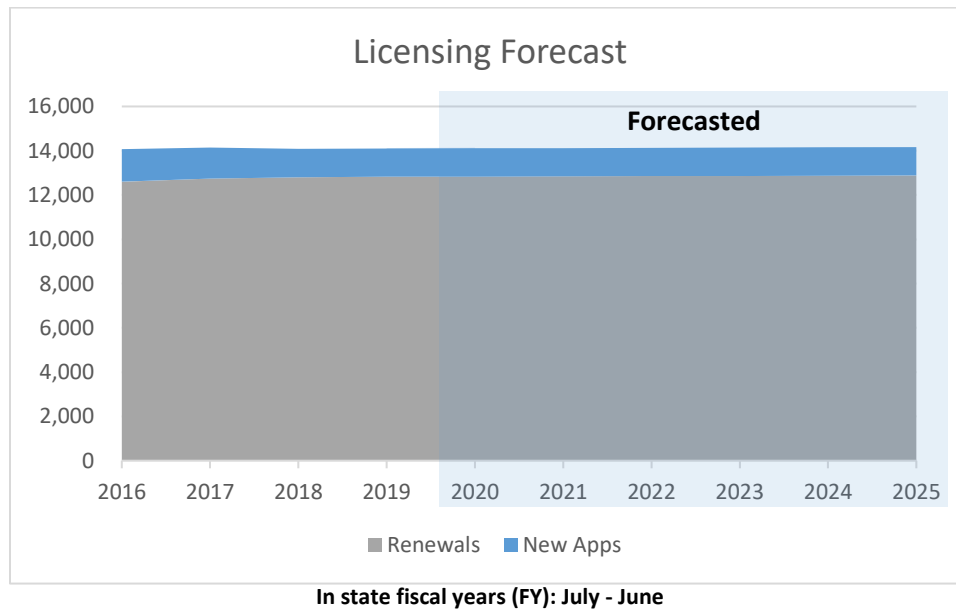
## Massage Therapist Program - FY 2018

The Massage Therapist profession is projected to have a funding deficit<sup>1</sup> of **-\$2.2 million** by June 2019 and forecasted to be approximately **-\$4.8 million** by June 2025. Per RCW 43.70.250, the Department of Health is obligated to have each profession's program budget be self-sustaining and borne by the profession. The department has a policy that each profession should be self-sustaining within 6 years to be compliant with the law. A fee increase will be necessary to correct this trend. The primary factor contributing to this scenario is higher disciplinary costs than most other professions. The profession's fund balance has been at a deficit level since 2013.



### LICENSING

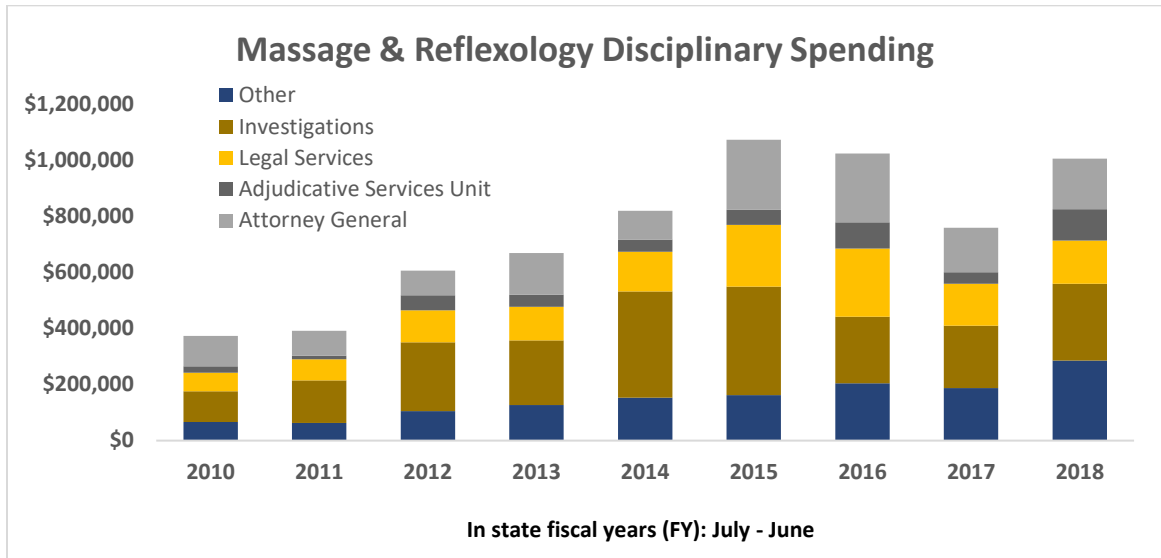
The licensing trend is stable with only negligible growth forecasted at 0.1%. In 2018 the total licensee count was slightly lower than in 2011 and the trend is expected to continue staying around 14,000.



<sup>1</sup> The funding deficit amount includes the fund balance and the recommended reserve.

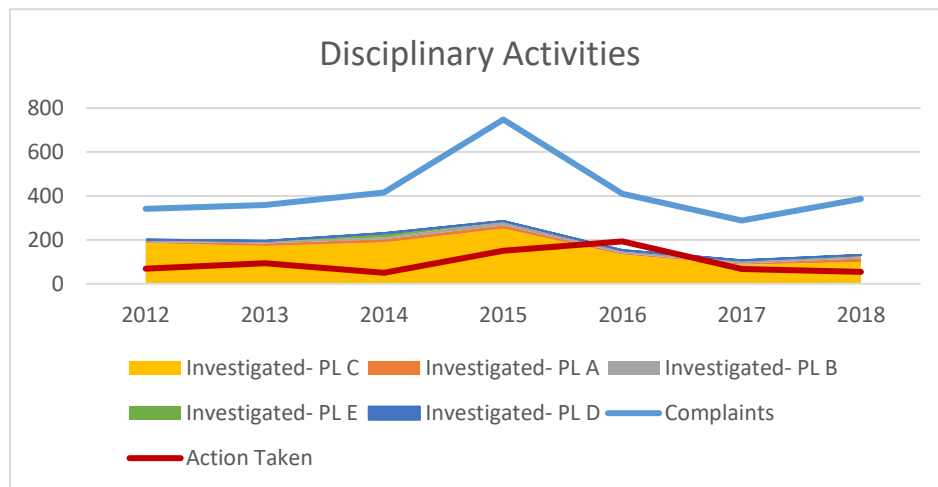
## DISCIPLINARY

Total disciplinary spending increased at a rate of 12.6% from FY2010 to FY2018. The biggest drivers of cost are investigation, legal, and attorney general spending which currently account for around 61% of all disciplinary spending. This is in spite of the fact that the complaint rates since 2010 has averaged 2.7%, which is less than that of other professions.



The key cost drivers for the last few years are:

- 24.4% of complaints involved unlicensed practice – much higher than other professions which averaged just 4% in 2018 and made up 25% of the billable hours to the profession.
- 5% - 15% of complaints involved Sexual Misconduct – much higher than other professions and accounts for 33% of the billable hours to the profession.
- The bulk of the complaints were classified as priority level (PL) C – Moderate Risk
- The number of higher priority cases peaked in 2015 and has decreased over time. The increase and subsequent decrease in complaints can be attributed to SB 6103, which became effective in FY14 and authorized inspections of businesses offering massage services.



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