



## Legislative Update Washington State Society of Anesthesiologists

### Week Three – 2024 Legislative Session

This is the final full week for policy committees to hear and pass bills before the cutoff January 31<sup>st</sup>, when all bills must have advanced in order to remain viable for the session (excepting bills with a fiscal impact).

[Senate Bill 5184](#), which authorizes the licensure of Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants, was voted out of the Senate health committee on Thursday, January 18th. Committee members who voiced concerns about the legislation were limited and pertained to the concerns lawmakers were hearing from nurses.

The bill now goes to Senate Rules and then before the full Senate for its consideration. Throughout the legislative session, there are a variety of deadlines that must be met for a bill to remain “alive.” The Senate has until February 13th at 5 p.m. to consider the bill. If the Senate votes in support of the legislation, the bill then goes to the House of Representatives for its consideration.

[Senate Bill 6286](#), a bill seeking to address anesthesia workforce issues, was introduced last week and is scheduled for a public hearing Friday in the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee. The bill, which was introduced in response to concerns raised by CRNAs in stakeholder meetings about CAA licensure, proposes to create a CRNA preceptorship grant program at the Board of Nursing, and commission a study on barriers to entry into the anesthesia workforce. It is unclear whether the CRNAs will support the proposal.

[House Bill 2073](#), legislation directing the Department of Ecology to study and develop guidelines for anesthetic gases to reduce their impact on Greenhouse Gas emissions, is scheduled for a vote this coming week in the House Environment and Energy Committee. The Committee, has proposed a striking amendment that incorporates feedback from WSSA that was mentioned during public testimony. If the amendment is adopted, the bill will required the Department to allow flexibility for extenuating clinical circumstances when a medical professional believes unrestricted use of anesthetic gases is necessary for patient safety and comfort. The deadlines for compliance with the guidelines are also pushed out to 2027 in the proposed amendment.

### Upcoming Events

**Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - HHR D and Virtual JLOB - 1/23 @ 10:30am**

- [HB 2061](#) - Public Hearing - Defining an employee of a health care facility for purposes of mandatory overtime provisions.

**Environment & Energy (House) - HHR C and Virtual JLOB - 1/23 @ 4:00pm**

- [HB 2073](#) - Exec Session - Concerning emissions of greenhouse gases from sources other than methane and carbon dioxide.

**Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 1/23 @ 4:00pm**

- [SB 5660](#) - Public Hearing - Establishing a mental health advance directive effective implementation work group; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

**Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/24 @ 1:30pm**

- [HB 2122](#) - Exec Session - Concerning wellness programs for certain health care professionals. (Support)
- [HB 2102](#) - Exec Session - Establishing requirements for the disclosure of health care information for qualifying persons to receive paid family and medical leave benefits. (Concerns)

**Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/24 @ 4:00pm**

- [HB 1972](#) - Public Hearing - Increasing the licensure fees that support the Washington physicians health program. (Remote Testimony Available). (Support)

**Health & Long Term Care (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 1/26 @ 8:00am**

- [SB 6258](#) - Public Hearing - Phasing in the requirement that only standardized health plans may be offered on the health benefit exchange.
- [SB 6286](#) - Public Hearing - Addressing the anesthesia workforce shortage by reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to increase the supply of certified registered nurse anesthetists in Washington.

**Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/26 @ 8:00am**

- [HB 2361](#) - Exec Session - Phasing in the requirement that only standardized health plans may be offered on the health benefit exchange.

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<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
<a href="#">HB 1038</a> (SB 5184)	Anesthesiologist assistants Concerning licensure of anesthesiologist assistants.	H HC/Wellness Taylor

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<a href="#"><u>HB 1495</u></a> (SB 5373)	<b>ARNP, PA, &amp; MD reimbursement</b> Requiring equal reimbursement for advanced registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians.	H HC/Wellness	Simmons
<a href="#"><u>HB 1972</u></a> (SB 5822)	<b>Physicians health prg. fees</b> Increasing the licensure fees that support the Washington physicians health program.  Increases the licensure surcharge to support the Washington Physicians Health Program, with physician and physician assistant fees increasing from \$50 to \$70 annually.	H Approps	Simmons
<a href="#"><u>HB 2041</u></a>	<b>Physician assistant practice</b> Concerning physician assistant collaborative practice.  Modifies physician assistant practice. For the administration of general and intrathecal anesthesia, the requirement for a PA to have CAA accreditation and therefore require the supervision of a physician anesthesiologist is retained in this proposal.	H Exec Action	Riccelli
<a href="#"><u>HB 2047</u></a>	<b>Cannabis use/SUD employees</b> Allowing employers to screen candidates for cannabis use when hiring for certain positions involving services to persons with substance use disorder.	H Labor & Workpl	Dent
<a href="#"><u>HB 2061</u></a>	<b>Health employees/overtime</b> Defining an employee of a health care facility for purposes of mandatory overtime provisions.	H Labor & Workpl	Bronoske
<a href="#"><u>HB 2066</u></a> (SB 5948)	<b>Health provider contracting</b> Addressing affordability through health care provider contracting.  Prohibits hospitals and health care providers (including physician groups) from engaging in certain contracting tactics. Prohibits hospitals and health care providers (including physician groups) from making a public statement or releasing notices to patients about potential or planned terminations of contracts with insurance carriers prior to 30 days before the contract termination date. Violations of the law are enforced by the Attorney General under the consumer protection act, authorizing treble damages in the event of violations.	H HC/Wellness	Riccelli
<a href="#"><u>HB 2073</u></a>	<b>Greenhouse gas other sources</b> Concerning emissions of greenhouse gases from sources other than methane and carbon dioxide.  Directs the Department of Ecology to commission a study on greenhouse gases with a high global warming potential that are used for anesthetic purposes and develop and publish a guidance document intended to reduce emissions. DOE must consult with the Department of Health and others (including professional associations) in developing the guidance.	H Env & Energy	Slatter
<a href="#"><u>HB 2102</u></a> (SB 6177)	<b>PFML benefits/health info.</b> Establishing requirements for the disclosure of health care information for qualifying persons to receive paid family and medical leave benefits.	H HC/Wellness	Berry

Requires physicians to complete PFML paperwork within 5 days and prohibits the charging of fees to do so.

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<a href="#"><u>HB 2104</u></a> (SB 5950)	<b>Operating budget, supp.</b> Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby
<a href="#"><u>HB 2122</u></a> (SB 6165)	<b>Physician wellness programs</b> Concerning wellness programs for certain health care professionals. Establishes confidentiality protections for physician wellness programs to promote their utilization and support retention of workforce.	H HC/Wellness	Thai
<a href="#"><u>HB 2281</u></a> (SB 5977)	<b>Psilocybin services</b> Concerning psilocybin services.	H HC/Wellness	Macri
<a href="#"><u>HB 2361</u></a> (SB 6258)	<b>Standardized health plans</b> Phasing in the requirement that only standardized health plans may be offered on the health benefit exchange.	H HC/Wellness	Riccelli
<a href="#"><u>HB 2378</u></a>	<b>Health care facility fees</b> Concerning facility fees charged by certain affiliated health care providers.	H HC/Wellness	Tharinger
<a href="#"><u>HB 2449</u></a>	<b>Cannabis revenue/health care</b> Concerning use of cannabis tax revenue for professional health care services.		Hutchins
<a href="#"><u>SB 5059</u></a>	<b>Prejudgment interest</b> Concerning prejudgment interest.	S Ways & Means	Kuderer
<a href="#"><u>SB 5184</u></a> (HB 1038)	<b>Anesthesiologist assistants</b> Concerning licensure of anesthesiologist assistants. Creates licensure for certified anesthesiologist assistants in Washington.	S HLTCDP	Rivers
<a href="#"><u>SB 5373</u></a> (HB 1495)	<b>ARNP, PA, &amp; MD reimbursement</b> Requiring equal reimbursement for advanced registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians.	S Ways & Means	Randall
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5660</u></a>	<b>Mental health adv directives</b> Establishing a mental health advance directive effective implementation work group.	S Ways & Means	Boehnke

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<a href="#"><u>SB 5822</u></a> (HB 1972)	<b>Physicians health prg. fees</b>	S Health & Long	Muzzall
Increasing the licensure fees that support the Washington physicians health program.			
Increases the licensure surcharge to support the Washington Physicians Health Program, with physician and physician assistant fees increasing from \$50 to \$70 annually.			
<a href="#"><u>SB 5950</u></a> (HB 2104)	<b>Operating budget, supp.</b>	S Ways & Means	Robinson
Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.			
<a href="#"><u>SB 5977</u></a> (HB 2281)	<b>Psilocybin services</b>	S Health & Long T	Salomon
Concerning psilocybin services.			
Establishes circumstances under which nonprofit organizations can lawfully purchase, cultivate, and deliver psilocybin, and for participants to consume psilocybin. Requirements are imposed related to a screening process which must be provided by a licensed medical or mental health provider for participants to receive psilocybin services. The Department of Health is granted rulemaking authority to establish guidelines for evidence-based or research-based additional screening exclusions. Prohibits psilocybin organizations from making claims that psilocybin products and services have curative or therapeutic effects or make other health care claims that are not supported by the totality of publicly available scientific evidence			
<a href="#"><u>SB 6161</u></a>	<b>Provider contract comp.</b>	S Health & Long	Cleveland
Concerning provider contract compensation.			
<a href="#"><u>SB 6165</u></a> (HB 2122)	<b>Physician wellness programs</b>	S Health & Long	Cleveland
Concerning wellness programs for certain health care professionals.			
<a href="#"><u>SB 6258</u></a> (HB 2361)	<b>Standardized health plans</b>	S Health & Long	Cleveland
Phasing in the requirement that only standardized health plans may be offered on the health benefit exchange.			
<a href="#"><u>SB 6286</u></a>	<b>Nurse anesthetist workforce</b>		
Addressing the anesthesia workforce shortage by reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to increase the supply of certified registered nurse anesthetists in Washington.			