



Legislative Update

Washington State Society of Anesthesiologists

This week the first cutoff of the 2024 legislative session occurs on Wednesday, and any bills that remain in their policy committee of origin are considered “dead” for the year. Following the cutoff, legislators will spend less than a week in fiscal committees hearing and advancing bills with ties to the budget, which have to move forward by Monday February 5th to remain viable.

[Senate Bill 5184](#), which authorizes the licensure of Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants in Washington, was pulled out of the Rules Committee last week. This means the bill now awaits a vote by the entire Senate. To continue moving through the legislative session, the Senate has until February 13th to approve the legislation, after which, it will then be taken up the House of Representatives.

The Senate Health Care & Wellness Committee heard [Senate Bill 6286](#) on Friday, January 26. The bill, introduced to address concerns raised by the CRNAs as part of the CAA negotiations, would develop a grant program to precept nurse anesthesia residents. It also directs the Health Workforce Council to study Washington’s anesthesia workforce shortages. WSSA and WAAA testified in support of the bill. The WA Association of Nurse Anesthetists signed in “other” (rather than pro or con) and testified about the challenges CRNAs face in Washington. The bill is scheduled for a vote out of Committee this coming week.

Finally, [House Bill 2073](#) was approved by the House Committee on Environment & Energy – with an amendment requested by WSSA. The bill requires the Department of Ecology to complete a study and develop recommendations on addressing a variety of greenhouse gases with global warming impacts – including aesthetic gases. Following the study, the Department must develop a guidance document about reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the use of anesthetic gases and requires facilities to use the guidelines beginning July 1, 2026. At WSSA’s request, the bill was amended to allow for “flexibility for extenuating clinical circumstances when a medical professional is of the opinion that unrestricted use of anesthetic gases is needed for patient safety and comfort.” The bill now moves to the House Appropriations Committee for consideration, and a public hearing is scheduled for Saturday 2/3.

Upcoming Events

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/29 @ 4:00pm

- [HB 1972](#) - Exec Session - Increasing the licensure fees that support the Washington physicians health program. (Support)

Health & Long Term Care (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 1/30 @ 8:00am

- [SB 6161](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning provider contract compensation.
- [SB 6286](#) - Exec Session - Addressing the anesthesia workforce shortage by reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to increase the supply of certified registered nurse anesthetists in Washington.

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

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

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

- [HB 2066](#) - Exec Session - Addressing affordability through health care provider contracting. (Oppose)
- [HB 2361](#) - Exec Session - Phasing in the requirement that only standardized health plans may be offered on the health benefit exchange.

Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - HHR D and Virtual JLOB - 1/31 @ 8:00am

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

Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/31 @ 1:30pm

- [HB 2378](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning facility fees charged by certain affiliated health care providers.

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/1 @ 10:30am

- [SHB 2073](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning emissions of greenhouse gases from sources other than methane and carbon dioxide. (Concerns)

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 2/2 @ 1:30pm

- [SSB 5660](#) - Exec Session - Establishing a mental health advance directive effective implementation work group.

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/3 @ 9:00am

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

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
<p>Physicians health prg. fees</p> <p><u>HB 1972</u> (SB 5822)</p>	H Approps	Simmons
<p>Increasing the licensure fees that support the Washington physicians health program.</p> <p>Increases the licensure surcharge to support the Washington Physicians Health Program, with physician and physician assistant fees increasing from \$50 to \$70 annually.</p>		
<p>Physician assistant practice</p> <p><u>SHB 2041</u></p>	H Rules R	Riccelli
<p>Concerning physician assistant collaborative practice.</p> <p>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.</p>		
<p>Cannabis use/SUD employees</p> <p><u>HB 2047</u></p>	H Labor & Workpl	Dent
<p>Allowing employers to screen candidates for cannabis use when hiring for certain positions involving services to persons with substance use disorder.</p>		
<p>Health employees/overtime</p> <p><u>HB 2061</u></p>	H Labor & Workpl	Bronoske
<p>Defining an employee of a health care facility for purposes of mandatory overtime provisions.</p>		
<p>Health provider contracting</p> <p><u>HB 2066</u> (SB 5948)</p>	H HC/Wellness	Riccelli
<p>Addressing affordability through health care provider contracting.</p> <p>Prohibits hospitals and health care providers (including physician groups) from engaging in the following contracting tactics: All-or-nothing clauses by which a carrier would be forced to contract with multiple hospitals or affiliates of hospitals. Anti-steering clauses by which carriers are restricted from encouraging enrollees to obtain health care services from a competitor of a hospital. Anti-tiering clauses by which carriers must place hospitals or affiliate in a certain cost-sharing tier. 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.</p>		
<p>Greenhouse gas other sources</p> <p><u>SHB 2073</u></p>	H Approps	Slatter
<p>Concerning emissions of greenhouse gases from sources other than methane and carbon dioxide.</p> <p>Directs the Department of Ecology to commission a study on 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.</p>		

<u>SHB 2102</u> (SB 6177)	PFML benefits/health info. Establishing requirements for the disclosure of health care information for qualifying persons to receive paid family and medical leave benefits. Requires physicians to complete PFML paperwork within 5 days and prohibits the charging of fees to do so.	H HCWDPS	Berry
<u>HB 2104</u> (SB 5950)	Operating budget, supp. Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby
<u>HB 2122</u> (SB 6165)	Physician wellness programs 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 Rules R	Thai
<u>HB 2281</u> (SB 5977)	Psilocybin services Concerning psilocybin services.	H HC/Wellness	Macri
<u>HB 2361</u> (SB 6258)	Standardized health plans Phasing in the requirement that only standardized health plans may be offered on the health benefit exchange.	H HC/Wellness	Riccelli
<u>HB 2378</u>	Health care facility fees Concerning facility fees charged by certain affiliated health care providers.	H HC/Wellness	Tharinger
<u>HB 2449</u>	Cannabis revenue/health care Concerning use of cannabis tax revenue for professional health care services.	H Approps	Hutchins
<u>HB 2462</u> (SB 6286)	Nurse anesthetist workforce Addressing the anesthesia workforce shortage by reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to increase the supply of certified registered nurse anesthetists in Washington.	H HC/Wellness	Taylor
<u>SB 5059</u>	Prejudgment interest Concerning prejudgment interest.	S Ways & Means	Kuderer
<u>SB 5184</u> (HB 1038)	Anesthesiologist assistants Concerning licensure of anesthesiologist assistants. Creates licensure for certified anesthesiologist assistants in Washington.	S 2nd Reading	Rivers
<u>SSB 5660</u>	Mental health adv directives	S Ways & Means	Boehnke

Establishing a mental health advance directive effective implementation work group.

<u>SB 5822</u> (HB 1972)	Physicians health prg. fees 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.	S Health & Long	Muzzall
<u>SB 5950</u> (HB 2104)	Operating budget, supp. Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson
<u>SB 5977</u> (HB 2281)	Psilocybin services 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. Conditions that must be screened for are outlined in the bill, and in some cases participants would be barred from receiving psilocybin services based on their answers, and in other cases would be encouraged to consult a health care provider regarding the risk of consuming psilocybin. 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.	S Health & Long T	Salomon
<u>SB 6161</u>	Provider contract comp. Concerning provider contract compensation.	S Health & Long	Cleveland
<u>SB 6165</u> (HB 2122)	Physician wellness programs Concerning wellness programs for certain health care professionals.	S Health & Long	Cleveland
<u>SB 6258</u> (HB 2361)	Standardized health plans Phasing in the requirement that only standardized health plans may be offered on the health benefit exchange.	S Health & Long	Cleveland
<u>SB 6286</u> (HB 2462)	Nurse anesthetist workforce Addressing the anesthesia workforce shortage by reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to increase the supply of certified registered nurse anesthetists in Washington.	S Health & Long	Rivers
