



Legislative Update Washington State Society of Anesthesiologists

Week Five – 2024 Legislative Session

Monday, February 5th is the next legislative deadline. If a bill has not been approved by its assigned fiscal committee, it is considered “dead” for the remainder of the session. The Legislature will spend the next week on the floor debating and voting on bills as they work toward the next deadline: House of Origin cut-off. House of Origin Cut-off is 5 p.m. on February 13th – at which point for a bill to remain “alive,” it must have been approved by the chamber that it was introduced in.

[Senate Bill 5184](#), legislation to create licensure for Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants in Washington, has been pulled to the Senate floor calendar and is awaiting a vote by the full chamber. WSSA members are encouraged to contact Senators and ask for their support of the bill.

[Senate Bill 6286](#) was heard by the Senate Ways & Means Committee over the weekend. WSSA testified in support of the legislation, and the bill has been scheduled for a committee vote on Monday. Introduced to address concerns raised by the CRNAs, the bill develops a nurse anesthesia preceptor incentive program and directs state agencies to study the CRNA workforce shortage.

[House Bill 2073](#) was approved by the House Appropriations Committee with additional protections for medical professionals. 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. The bill, as amended by committee, now specifies that the guidance document does not require a practitioner or facility to provide medical care in a manner that increases medical procedure or professional liability risks.

Upcoming Events

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 2/5 @ 10:00am

- [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.

- [SB 5373](#) - Exec Session - Requiring equal reimbursement for advanced registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians.

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
<p>Physicians health prg. fees</p> <p>HB 1972 (SB 5822)</p> <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>	H 2nd Reading	Simmons
<p>Physician assistant practice</p> <p>SHB 2041</p> <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>	H Rules R	Riccelli
<p>Cannabis use/SUD employees</p> <p>HB 2047</p> <p>Allowing employers to screen candidates for cannabis use when hiring for certain positions involving services to persons with substance use disorder.</p>	Dead	Dent
<p>Health employees/overtime</p> <p>SHB 2061</p> <p>Defining an employee of a health care facility for purposes of mandatory overtime provisions.</p>	H Rules R	Bronoske
<p>Health provider contracting</p> <p>HB 2066 (SB 5948)</p> <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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>	Dead	Riccelli
<p>Greenhouse gas other sources</p> <p>SHB 2073</p> <p>Concerning emissions of greenhouse gases from sources other than methane and carbon dioxide.</p>	H Rules	Slatter

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.

SHB 2102 (SB 6177)	PFML benefits/health info.	H Rules R	Berry
	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.		
HB 2104 (SB 5950)	Operating budget, supp.	H Approps	Ormsby
	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.		
HB 2122 (SB 6165)	Physician wellness programs	H Rules R	Thai
	Concerning wellness programs for certain health care professionals.		
	Establishes confidentiality protections for physician wellness programs to promote their utilization and support retention of workforce.		
HB 2281 (SB 5977)	Psilocybin services	Dead	Macri
	Concerning psilocybin services.		
SHB 2361 (SB 6258)	Standardized health plans	H Rules R	Riccelli
	Phasing in the requirement that only standardized health plans may be offered on the health benefit exchange.		
HB 2378	Health care facility fees	Dead	Tharinger
	Concerning facility fees charged by certain affiliated health care providers.		
HB 2449	Cannabis revenue/health care	H Approps	Hutchins
	Concerning use of cannabis tax revenue for professional health care services.		
HB 2462 (SB 6286)	Nurse anesthetist workforce	H HC/Wellness	Taylor
	Addressing the anesthesia workforce shortage by reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to increase the supply of certified registered nurse anesthetists in Washington.		
SB 5059	Prejudgment interest	S Ways & Means	Kuderer
	Concerning prejudgment interest.		
	Anesthesiologist assistants	S 2nd Reading	Rivers

SB 5184 (HB 1038)	Concerning licensure of anesthesiologist assistants. Creates licensure for certified anesthesiologist assistants in Washington.		
SB 5373 (HB 1495)	ARNP, PA, & MD reimbursement Requiring equal reimbursement for advanced registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians.	S Ways & Means	Randall
SSB 5660	Mental health adv directives Establishing a mental health advance directive effective implementation work group.	S Ways & Means	Boehnke
SB 5822 (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
SB 5950 (HB 2104)	Operating budget, supp. Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SB 5977 (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.	Dead	Salomon
SB 6161	Provider contract comp. Concerning provider contract compensation.	Dead	Cleveland
SB 6165 (HB 2122)	Physician wellness programs Concerning wellness programs for certain health care professionals.	S Health & Long	Cleveland
SB 6258 (SHB 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
SB 6286 (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 Ways & Means	Rivers