



Legislative Update Washington State Society of Anesthesiologists

Week Seven – 2024 Legislative Session

State revenue forecast:

A [state revenue forecast](#) was released Wednesday. Washington's economy is projected to generate \$67 billion for the two-year budget cycle that began July 1, up \$122 million from the last forecast in November. Overall, collections are now up \$1.3 billion since lawmakers adopted the budget in the 2023 session.

Proposed budgets:

The Senate is expected to release its proposed supplemental budget Sunday afternoon. The House will release its budget proposal Monday morning. Both budgets will be heard in their respective fiscal committees on Monday afternoon.

Policy updates:

Tuesday, February 13th marked the chamber of origin deadline for the 2024 legislative session. For a bill to remain alive this year, it must have been approved by the chamber in which it was introduced. The number of bills still moving following the first cut off was 1259 – that number fell to 532 after the house of origin cut-off.

Policy bills must next be approved by their opposite chamber committee by Wednesday, February 21st to remain viable this session.

[Senate Bill 5184](#), which authorizes the licensure of certified anesthesiologist assistants (CAAs), was heard by the House Health Care & Wellness Committee on Wednesday, February 14. WSSA President Dr. Tim Clement testified in support of the legislation, and anesthesiologist assistants who are Washington residents but work out of state also testified in support. Opposition came exclusively from CRNAs. The Washington Medical Commission also offered strong testimony; they refuted many of the CRNAs claims including their claims that this bill would have a negative impact on access to health care. The bill is scheduled for a vote to move out of committee on Tuesday.

[Senate Bill 6286](#) was also heard by the House Health Care & Wellness Committee on February 14th. WSSA took no action during the bill hearing.

[House Bill 2073](#) failed to meet the February 13th House of Origin cut-off and is now dead. The bill had required the Department of Ecology to complete a study and develop and implement recommendations on addressing a variety of greenhouse gases with global warming impacts – including aesthetic gases. The sponsor, Rep. Vandana Slatter, is working to include some of the provisions of the bill into a budget proviso.

Upcoming Events

Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 2/19 @ 10:30am

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

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/19 @ 4:00pm

- [HB 2104](#) - Public Hearing - Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations. (Hearing is on the proposed substitute bill.)

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 2/19 @ 4:00pm

- [SB 5950](#) - Public Hearing - Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations. (Hearing is on the Proposed Substitute.)

Health & Long Term Care (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 2/20 @ 8:00am

- [ESHB 2361](#) - Public Hearing - Phasing in the requirement that only standardized health plans may be offered on the health benefit exchange.
- [ESHB 2041](#) - Exec Session - Concerning physician assistant collaborative practice. (Neutral)
- [SHB 2102](#) - Exec Session - Establishing requirements for the disclosure of health care information for qualifying persons to receive paid family and medical leave benefits. (Concerns)
- [ESHB 2361](#) - Exec Session - Phasing in the requirement that only standardized health plans may be offered on the health benefit exchange.

Civil Rights & Judiciary (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/20 @ 10:30am

- [2SSB 5660](#) - Public Hearing - Establishing a mental health advance directive effective implementation work group.

Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/20 @ 1:30pm

- [SB 5184](#) - Exec Session - Concerning licensure of anesthesiologist assistants. (Support)

- [ESSB 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.

Civil Rights & Judiciary (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/21 @ 8:00am

- [2SSB 5660](#) - Exec Session - Establishing a mental health advance directive effective implementation work group.

Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/21 @ 1:30pm

- [SB 5184](#) - Exec Session - Concerning licensure of anesthesiologist assistants. (Support)
- [ESSB 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.

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 2/21 @ 3:00pm

- [SB 5950](#) - Exec Session - Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/21 @ 4:00pm

- [HB 2104](#) - Exec Session - Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.

<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>	S HLTCDP	Simmons
<p>Physician assistant practice</p> <p>ESHB 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>	S Health & Long	Riccelli
<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>	S Labor & Comm	Bronoske

<u>2SHB</u> <u>2073</u>	Greenhouse gas other sources Concerning emissions of greenhouse gases from sources other than methane and carbon dioxide. 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.	H 2nd Reading	Slatter
<u>SHB</u> <u>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.	S Health & Long T	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> (Dead)	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 2nd Reading	Thai
<u>ESHB</u> <u>2361</u> (SB 6258)	Standardized health plans Phasing in the requirement that only standardized health plans may be offered on the health benefit exchange.	S Health & Long	Riccelli
<u>SB 5184</u> (HB 1038)	Anesthesiologist assistants Concerning licensure of anesthesiologist assistants. Creates licensure for certified anesthesiologist assistants in Washington.	H HC/Wellness	Rivers
<u>2SSB</u> <u>5660</u>	Mental health adv directives Establishing a mental health advance directive effective implementation work group.	H Civil R & Judi	Boehnke
<u>SB 5950</u> (HB 2104)	Operating budget, supp. Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson
<u>ESSB</u> <u>6286</u>	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	Rivers