



## Legislative Update Washington State Society of Anesthesiologists

### Week Eight – 2024 Legislative Session

Last week the Senate and House each introduced, heard and passed their respective supplemental budget proposals. The Senate budget was voted off the Senate floor Friday with strong bipartisan support. The House debated and passed their budget Saturday on a party-line vote. Both budgets consider slowing state revenue and the prospect of six initiatives that may appear on the ballot in November, some with major budget implications. Final negotiations to reconcile differences between the two budgets will be a main focus for lawmakers as they head into the final days of the 2024 session.

[Senate Bill 5184](#), which authorizes licensure for certified anesthesiologist assistants, passed the House Health Care & Wellness Committee by a vote of 11-6 on Wednesday. It was pulled from the Rules Committee on Saturday, and now awaits a vote by the entire House of Representatives.

[Legislative leaders announced](#) last week they would hold hearings on three of the six initiatives before the Legislature this year. The three initiatives that will be heard are:

- [Initiative 2113](#) which proposes to roll back restrictions on police pursuits and allow law enforcement to chase suspects if they believe there is reasonable suspicion a person has violated the law. It would also allow pursuits if a person poses a threat to the safety of others.
- [Initiative 2111](#) which proposes to ban state and local jurisdictions from taxing personal income.
- [Initiative 2081](#) which proposes to give parents the right to examine their child's textbooks and curriculum; receive their child's school records, including medical and disciplinary records, within 10 days; and receive notification when medical services are offered or arranged, among other things.

The following initiatives to the Legislature will go straight to voters and will not be debated by the Legislature:

- [Initiative 2124](#) would allow people who are employed to opt out of WA Cares, which is the state's long-term care insurance program. If it passes, Democratic leaders said it would effectively end the program.
- [Initiative 2117](#) would prohibit agencies from imposing programs like cap and invest, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by capping carbon emissions and allowing businesses to obtain allowances equal to their emissions. Critics have claimed it led to higher gas prices.

- [Initiative 2109](#) would repeal the state’s tax on top investment earners. The capital gains tax is a 7% tax on the sale of stocks, bonds and other high-end assets in excess of \$250,000 for both individuals and couples.

## Upcoming Events

### Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/26 @ 10:30am

- [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.

### Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/27 @ 8:30am

Work Session – Network Adequacy Overview

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
<p><b>Physicians health prg. fees</b></p> <p><a href="#">HB 1972</a> (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 Passed 3rd	Simmons
<p><b>Physician assistant practice</b></p> <p><a href="#">ESHB 2041</a></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 2nd Reading	Riccelli
<p><b>Health employees/overtime</b></p> <p><a href="#">SHB 2061</a></p> <p>Defining an employee of a health care facility for purposes of mandatory overtime provisions.</p>	S 2nd Reading	Bronoske
<p><b>Greenhouse gas other sources</b></p> <p><a href="#">2SHB 2073</a> (Dead)</p> <p>Concerning emissions of greenhouse gases from sources other than methane and carbon dioxide.</p>	H Rules X	Slatter
<p><b>PFML benefits/health info.</b></p> <p><a href="#">SHB 2102</a> (SB 6177)</p> <p>Establishing requirements for the disclosure of health care information for qualifying persons to receive paid family and medical leave benefits.</p>	S Rules 2	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>SHB 2104</u></a> (ESSB 5950)	<b>Operating budget, supp.</b> Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	H Rules R	Ormsby
<a href="#"><u>HB 2122</u></a> (Dead)	<b>Physician wellness programs</b> Concerning wellness programs for certain health care professionals.	H Rules X	Thai
<a href="#"><u>ESHB 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.	S Rules 2	Riccelli
<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.	H 2nd Reading	Rivers
<a href="#"><u>2SSB 5660</u></a>	<b>Mental health adv directives</b> Establishing a mental health advance directive effective implementation work group.	H Approps	Boehnke
<a href="#"><u>ESSB 5950</u></a> (SHB 2104)	<b>Operating budget, supp.</b> Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	H Passed	Robinson
<a href="#"><u>ESSB 6286</u></a> (HB 2462)	<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.	H Approps	Rivers

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