



Washington State Society of Anesthesiologists Legislative Report

The Washington State Legislature adjourned yesterday after updating spending in the operating, capital and transportation budgets. The Governor now has 20 days to finalize action on the budgets and all bills passed by the Legislature. The Governor can sign, veto-in whole or part, or take no action and allow a bill to become law without his signature.

SB 5184, legislation to license Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants in Washington, was passed by the Legislature this session and awaits action by the Governor. The bill was approved with a 40-9 final vote in the Senate following a vote of 82-14 in the House. Another bill about the anesthesia workforce, SB 6286, was also passed and is headed to the Governor's desk. It requires the University of Washington to conduct a study about barriers to entry into the profession of nurse anesthesia and report back to the Legislature in 2025. Recommendations to address workforce issues in anesthesia are due to the Legislature in 2029.

INITIATIVES

In January, the Secretary of State certified six initiatives for the ballot in November 2024. The Legislature was given an opportunity to either approve the initiatives, propose alternatives to the initiatives that would be placed on the ballot in November, or do nothing and allow the initiatives to proceed forward to a public vote. The six initiatives repeal some the majority's most significant legislative achievements. During the final week of the session, the House and Senate approved three of the initiatives (banning state income tax, providing broad parental access to student records at public schools, and rolling back all limitations on police pursuit of suspects). Majority Democrats chose to allow the remaining three initiatives to move to the November ballot. These initiatives repeal limits on greenhouse gas emissions, repeal the state capital gains tax, and allow workers to opt out of a payroll tax to fund a state-run long term care insurance program.

LEGISLATOR DEPARTURES

The end of the legislative session always brings announcements of departures. More announcements are expected prior to the May deadline for candidates to file for office. However, the current list of departing legislators reflects the changing of the guard for legislative leaders. The following have indicated they will not return to Olympia next session:

- Sen. Andy Billig-D (Spokane), Majority Leader
- Sen. Karen Keiser-D (Des Moines), President Pro Tem and Chair of the Labor & Commerce Committee
- Sen. Lynda Wilson-R (Vancouver), Ranking Member of Ways & Means
- Sen. Sam Hunt-D (Olympia), one of the longest serving members
- Rep. JT Wilcox-R (Yelm), former House Republican Leader
- Rep. Joel Kretz-R (Wauconda), former House Deputy Republican Leader

- Rep. Jacquelin Maycumber-R (Republic) (running for Congress)
- Rep. Kelly Chambers-R (Puyallup) (running for Pierce County Executive)
- Sen. Mark Mullet-D (Issaquah) (running for Governor)
- Sen. Kevin Van de Wege-D (Sequim) (running for Commissioner of Public Lands)
- Rep. Spencer Hutchins-R (Gig Harbor)
- Rep. Marcus Riccelli-D (Spokane) (running for Senate)
- Rep. Bill Ramos-D (Issaquah) (running for Senate)
- Rep. Mike Chapman-D (Port Angeles) (running for Senate)
- Rep. Jessica Bateman – D (Olympia) (running for Senate)
- Rep. Paul Harris – R (Vancouver) (running for Senate)

Additionally, Senators (who serve 4-year terms) whose seats are not up for election in 2024 are seeking other offices with the ability to fall back to their current positions if they are unsuccessful. These include:

- Sen. Manka Dhingra-D (Redmond) (running for Attorney General)
- Sen. Patty Kuderer-D (Bellevue) (running for Insurance Commissioner)
- Sen. Rebecca Saldaña-D (Seattle) (running for Commissioner of Public Lands)
- Sen. Emily Randall-D (Port Orchard) (running for Congress)
- Sen. Drew MacEwen-R (Shelton) (running for Congress)

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Position</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>	C 15 L 24	Simmons		Support
<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>	Del to Gov	Riccelli		Neutral
<p>Cannabis use/SUD employees</p> <p>HB 2047 (Dead)</p> <p>Allowing employers to screen candidates for cannabis use when hiring for certain positions involving services to persons with substance use disorder.</p>	H Labor & Workpl	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>	Del to Gov	Bronoske		
<p>Health provider contracting</p>	H HC/Wellness	Riccelli		Oppose

[HB 2066](#) Addressing affordability through health care provider contracting.
(Dead)
(SB 5948) Prohibits hospitals and health care providers (including physician groups) from engaging in certain contracting tactics.

Greenhouse gas other sources H Rules X Slatter
 Concerning emissions of greenhouse gases from sources other than methane and carbon dioxide.
[2SHB 2073](#)
(Dead) 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.

PFML benefits/health info. Del to Gov Berry Concerns
 Establishing requirements for the disclosure of health care information for qualifying persons to receive paid family and medical leave benefits.
[SHB 2102](#)
(SB 6177) Requires physicians to complete PFML paperwork within 5 days and prohibits the charging of fees to do so.

[SHB 2104](#) **Operating budget, supp.** H Rules R Ormsby
(ESSB 5950) Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.

Physician wellness programs H Rules X Thai Support
 Concerning wellness programs for certain health care professionals.
[HB 2122](#)
(Dead)
(SB 6165) Establishes confidentiality protections for physician wellness programs to promote their utilization and support retention of workforce.

[HB 2281](#) **Psilocybin services** H HC/Wellness Macri
(Dead)
(SB 5977) Concerning psilocybin services.

[ESHB 2361](#) **Standardized health plans** S 2nd Reading Riccelli
(Dead) Phasing in the requirement that only standardized health plans may be offered on the health benefit exchange.

[HB 2378](#) **Health care facility fees** H HC/Wellness Tharinger
(Dead) Concerning facility fees charged by certain affiliated health care providers.

[HB 2449](#) **Cannabis revenue/health care** H Approps Hutchins
(Dead) Concerning use of cannabis tax revenue for professional health care services.

<u>SB 5059</u> (Dead)	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.	H Spkr Signed	Rivers	Support
<u>SB 5373</u> (Dead)	ARNP, PA, & MD reimbursement Requiring equal reimbursement for advanced registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians.	S Ways & Means	Randall	
<u>2SSB</u> <u>5660</u>	Mental health adv directives Establishing a mental health advance directive effective implementation work group.	H Spkr Signed	Boehnke	
<u>SB 5822</u> (Dead) (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	Support
<u>ESSB</u> <u>5950</u> (SHB 2104)	Operating budget, supp. Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	H Spkr Signed	Robinson	
<u>SB 5977</u> (Dead)	Psilocybin services Concerning psilocybin services.	S Health & Long T	Salomon	
<u>SB 6161</u> (Dead)	Provider contract comp. Concerning provider contract compensation.	S Health & Long	Cleveland	
<u>SB 6165</u> (Dead) (HB 2122)	Physician wellness programs Concerning wellness programs for certain health care professionals.	S Health & Long	Cleveland	
<u>SB 6258</u> (Dead) (ESHB 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	

[ESSB
6286](#) (HB
2462)

Nurse anesthetist workforce

H Spkr Signed

Rivers

Addressing the anesthesia workforce shortage by reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to increase the supply of certified registered nurse anesthetists in Washington.
