



Washington State Society of Anesthesiologists Legislative Report

The legislative session is now more than halfway over, and lawmakers passed a major deadline this week. Wednesday, March 12th was the chamber of origin cutoff, which is when any legislation must be passed from the entire body in which it was introduced in order to remain viable. There are exceptions, of course, including revenue proposals or other bills considered “necessary to implement the budget” (NTIB). Legislation considered NTIB is not subject to the deadlines in a session, and bills are viable until the final days. There is no official list of NTIB bills, which is why no bill is ever truly dead as long as lawmakers are in Olympia.

The House of Representatives worked until late night/early morning several days during the first half of March, including the final cutoff day when they adjourned past 2 a.m. Last Saturday night, they debated a bill about communicable disease until 1:30 a.m. The Senate conducted its work between 10-5 most days and often adjourned early.

Legislation to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for physicians (HB 1392) was not advanced from the House but is NTIB and not subject to Wednesday’s deadline. Legislation regulating the corporate practice of Medicine died in the Senate and another bill about creating a health care registry was turned into a study. The PEBB/SEBB rate cap bill is still very much alive, but it does not apply to professional services in hospitals.

One of the more contentious bills still viable this session is HB 1430, which proposes to require commercial health plans to reimburse PAs and APRNs the same rate as physicians. Before it passed out of the House on a party-line vote last week, the bill was narrowed to apply only to APPs working in behavioral health and primary care. CRNAs, who testified in favor of the bill earlier this session, were carved out. The bill has not yet been scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee.

Next week, the Economic & Revenue Forecast Council will provide the quarterly economic and revenue forecast. The following week (March 24), the House and Senate are both expected to release their proposed operating budgets. Both budgets are expected to rely on some form of new revenue, which means the various tax proposals being considered will likely be scheduled for public hearings following the budget releases.

The next cutoff date for the session is April 2nd, when bills must advance from committee in the opposite chamber to remain viable.

Upcoming Events

Health & Long-Term Care (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 3/18 @ 10:30am

- [E2SHB 1686](#) - Public Hearing - Creating a health care entity registry.

Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 3/19 @ 1:30pm

- [SSB 5118](#) - Exec Session - Updating the requirements for the clinical experience license for international medical graduates.

Health & Long-Term Care (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 3/20 @ 8:00am

- [ESHB 1718](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning well-being programs for certain health care professionals.
- [SHB 1546](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning general supervision of diagnostic radiologic technologists, therapeutic radiologic technologists, and magnetic resonance imaging technologists by licensed physicians.

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
SHB 1123 (E2SSB 5083)	Health carrier reimbursement Ensuring access to primary care, behavioral health, and affordable hospital services. PEBB/SEBB Reimbursement Rate Cap	H Rules R Macri
SHB 1155 (SB 5437)	Noncompetition agreements Prohibiting noncompetition agreements and clarifying nonsolicitation agreements.	H 2nd Reading (Dead) Berry
HB 1319	Wealth tax Enacting a wealth tax on the ownership of stocks, bonds, and other financial intangible property.	H Finance Street
HB 1320	Business & occupation tax Modifying business and occupation tax rates to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians.	H Finance Street
SHB 1392 (SB 5372)	Medicaid access program Creating the medicaid access program.	H 2nd Reading NTIB Macri
ESHB 1430	APRN & PA reimbursement Concerning advanced practice registered nurse and physician assistant reimbursement.	S Health & Long-T Simmons

<u>HB 1433</u> (SB 5201)	Psychedelic substances Concerning access to psychedelic substances.	H HC/Wellness (Dead)	Macri
<u>HB 1445</u> (SB 5233)	Washington health trust Developing the Washington health trust.	H HC/Wellness (Dead)	Parshley
<u>HB 1507</u>	Health care nondisclosure Limiting health care nondisclosure agreements.	H Civil R & Judi (Dead)	Scott
<u>HB 1527</u>	Health care claims mediation Concerning settlement demands or offers made prior to mandatory mediation of health care claims.	H Civil R & Judi (Dead)	Bergquist
<u>SHB 1546</u>	Radiologic technologists Concerning general supervision of diagnostic radiologic technologists, therapeutic radiologic technologists, and magnetic resonance imaging technologists by licensed physicians.	S Health & Long-T	Parshley
<u>HB 1560</u> (SB 5638)	Hospital exec. excise tax Funding health care access by imposing an excise tax on the annual compensation paid to certain highly compensated hospital employees.	H Finance	Reed
<u>HB 1567</u>	Health care administrators Concerning licensure of health care administrators.	H HC/Wellness (Dead)	Stonier
<u>HB 1675</u> (2SSB 5387)	Corp. practice of medicine Concerning the corporate practice of medicine.	H HC/Wellness (Dead)	Thai
<u>E2SHB 1686</u> (SB 5561)	Health care entity registry Creating a health care entity registry.	S Health & Long-T	Bronoske
<u>ESHB 1718</u>	Health care prof. well-being Concerning well-being programs for certain health care professionals.	S Health & Long-T	Thai
<u>HB 1780</u>	Doctor title/health provider Promoting accurate communications between patients and health care providers.	H HC/Wellness (Dead)	Marshall

<u>HB 1812</u>	Anesthesia services Concerning patient-centered equitable access to anesthesia services and reimbursement.	H HC/Wellness (Dead)	Rule
<u>HB 1881</u> (SB 5704)	Health care marketplace Concerning material changes to the operations and governance structure of participants in the health care marketplace.	H Civil R & Judi (Dead)	Taylor
<u>HB 1888</u>	Naturopathic physician scope Concerning naturopathic physician scope of practice.	H HC/Wellness (Dead)	Berg
<u>HB 1998</u> (SB 5774)	Investment income/B&O tax Clarifying the scope of the investment income business and occupation tax deduction.	H Finance	Walen
<u>HB 2023</u>	Investment income taxation Establishing a work group to study the taxation of investment income under RCW 82.04.4281.	H Finance	Berg
<u>E2SSB 5083</u> (SHB 1123)	Health carrier reimbursement Ensuring access to primary care, behavioral health, and affordable hospital services. PEBB/SEBB Reimbursement rate cap	H Approps	Robinson
<u>SSB 5118</u>	International medical grads Updating the requirements for the clinical experience license for international medical graduates.	H HC/Wellness	Valdez
<u>SB 5185</u> (HB 1306)	International med. pathways Establishing preceptorship and hardship pathways to medical practice for international medical graduates.	S Health & Long- (Dead)	Saldana
<u>SB 5201</u> (HB 1433)	Psychedelic substances Concerning access to psychedelic substances.	S Labor & Comm (Dead)	Salomon
<u>SB 5233</u> (HB 1445)	Washington health trust Developing the Washington health trust.	S Health & Long- (Dead)	Hasegawa
<u>SSB 5236</u>	Anesthetics/greenhouse gases	S Ways & Means	Slatter

Concerning emissions of greenhouse gases used for anesthetic purposes.

<u>SB 5242</u>	Behavioral health resources Establishing an interactive screening program to improve access to behavioral health resources for health care providers.	S Health & Long- (Dead)	Orwall
<u>SSB 5254</u> (HB 1496)	Health care information Strengthening patients' rights regarding their health care information.	S Ways & Means	Orwall
<u>SB 5372</u> (SHB 1392)	Medicaid access program Creating the medicaid access program.	S Health & Long-	Riccelli
<u>2SSB 5387</u> (HB 1675)	Corp practice of health care Concerning the corporate practice of medicine.	S Rules 2 (Dead)	Robinson
<u>SB 5424</u>	UW health sciences campus Establishing a health sciences campus of the University of Washington.	S Higher Ed & Wo (Dead)	Braun
<u>SB 5437</u> (SHB 1155)	Noncompetition agreements Prohibiting noncompetition agreements and clarifying nonsolicitation agreements.	S Labor & Comm (Dead)	Stanford
<u>SSB 5493</u>	Hospital price transparency Concerning hospital price transparency.	H HC/Wellness	Riccelli
<u>SB 5561</u> (E2SHB 1686)	Health care entity registry Creating a health care entity registry.	S Health & Long-	Cleveland
<u>SSB 5579</u>	Health/contract terminations Prohibiting health carriers, facilities, and providers from making any public statements of any potential or planned contract terminations unless it satisfies a legal obligation.	H HC/Wellness	Cleveland
<u>SB 5588</u> (E2SHB 1589)	Health carriers & providers Concerning the relationships between health carriers and contracting providers.	S Health & Long-T (Dead)	Cleveland
	Hospital exec. excise tax	S Ways & Means	Saldana

SB 5638
(HB
1560)

Funding health care access by imposing an excise tax on the annual compensation paid to certain highly compensated hospital employees.

SSB 5683

Health carrier payment times

S Ways & Means
(Dead)

Slatter

Concerning health carrier transparency of payment timeliness of claims submitted by health care providers and health care facilities.