



Washington State Society of Anesthesiologists Legislative Report

General Overview

As the Legislature heads into the final month of the 2025 session, here's a brief update on key issues:

- SHB 1392, legislation to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for physicians (and PAs and APRNs) via a federal waiver, is being heard Thursday in Senate Ways & Means.
- SHB 1430, legislation requiring commercial health plans to reimburse PAs and APRNs the same as physicians, passed out of the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee last week and is being heard Friday in Senate Ways & Means. The bill in its current form has been narrowed to apply only to primary care and behavioral health, but other professions (including CRNAs) continue to seek to open the bill back up to include them. The Washington State Medical Association, The Washington Academy of Family Physicians, and the Psychiatric Association all oppose the bill.
- Bills regarding title transparency, expanding the scope of practice for naturopaths, pharmacists and optometrists, and limiting the use of anesthetic gases are all technically dead for this year. Legislation prohibiting health insurers from using time limits for anesthesia care is also dead. And a bill modifying the general supervision requirements for radiologic technologists appears to be dead, after having failed to pass out of the Senate Committee before the Chair canceled the rest of their meetings. All of these bills will be automatically re-introduced in the next session.
- The Senate and House will hear their various revenue proposals this week, including a Seattle-style payroll tax, a wealth tax, B&O tax increases and others. Expect other tax proposals to materialize over the next few weeks, as lawmakers determine which ideas have the most votes. Legislation to increase and expand Washington's tobacco tax was just introduced today.

Budgets

Last week, four of the six budget proposals were introduced by lawmakers. On Monday morning, the Senate Operating Budget was released, and presented by Senate Ways and Means Chair Senator June Robinson (D-Everett), and Vice-Chairs Senator Derek Stanford

(D-Bothell), and Senator Noel Frame (D-Greenwood). The Senate's \$78.5 billion 2025-2027 operating budget proposal assumes \$3 billion in cuts and \$6.2 billion in new revenue in the upcoming biennium. \$1.6 billion will be drawn from the Budget Stabilization Account (aka The Rainy-Day Fund), used in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, and paid back in FY 2027 with new revenue collected in the second year of the biennium.

The House Operating Budget was released a couple of hours after the Senate. The House Operating Budget was presented by House Appropriations Chair Representative Timm Ormsby (D-Spokane), Majority Leader Joe Fitzgibbons D-Seattle, and Appropriations Vice Chairs Mia Gregerson (D-SeaTac) and Nicole Macri (D-Seattle), and Finance Chair April Berg (D-Everett). The House's \$77.8 billion 2025-27 operating budget proposal assumes \$5.2 billion in new revenue and \$3 billion in cuts.

Both operating budget proposals were heard in their respective fiscal committees (House Appropriations and Senate Ways & Means) on Tuesday, March 25th. Hundreds of people testified in each hearing, and testimony in House Appropriations lasted late into the night. Both budgets were then voted out of those respective committees on Thursday, March 27th. The Senate passed their budget off the Senate floor on Saturday, March 29th. The House is anticipated to pass their budget off the House floor today (Monday, March 31st).

The transportation budgets were heard in their respective committees on Tuesday and passed out on Thursday. The Senate passed their transportation budget off the Senate floor on Saturday, March 29th. And the House is anticipated to vote their transportation budget off the House floor early this week.

Both House and Senate Capital Budget proposals are expected to be released today, March 31st.

Cutoff Dates

Wednesday, April 2nd is the last day for bills to be passed out of their opposite house policy committees. There is a quick turnaround of less than one week between opposite house policy cutoff and opposite house fiscal cutoff on April 8th. With few days leading up to fiscal cutoff, the House Appropriations and Senate Ways & Means committees are scheduled to meet this Saturday, April 5th.

Upcoming Events

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 3/31 @ 4:00pm

- [SB 5796](#) - Public Hearing - Enacting an excise tax on large employers on the amount of payroll expenses above the social security wage threshold to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians.

Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 4/1 @ 1:30pm

- [SSB 5493](#) - Exec Session - Concerning hospital price transparency.
- [SSB 5579](#) - Exec Session - Prohibiting health carriers, facilities, and providers from making any public statements of any potential or planned contract terminations unless it satisfies a legal obligation.

Finance (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 4/3 @ 8:00am

- [HB 2045](#) - Public Hearing - Investing in Washington families by restructuring the business and occupation tax on high grossing businesses and financial institutions.
- [HB 2046](#) - Public Hearing - Creating fairness in Washington's tax by imposing a tax on select financial intangible assets.

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 4/3 @ 1:30pm

- [E2SHB 1686](#) - Public Hearing - Creating a health care entity registry.
- [SHB 1392](#) - Public Hearing - Creating the medicaid access program.

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 4/4 @ 1:30pm

- [ESHB 1430](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning advanced practice registered nurse and physician assistant reimbursement.

<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 Rules C Dead Berry
SHB 1198 (ESSB 5167)	Operating budget Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	Passed, House Approps Ormsby

<u>HB 1306</u> (SB 5185)	International med. pathways Establishing preceptorship and hardship pathways to medical practice for international medical graduates.	H HC/Wellness	Reed
<u>HB 1319</u>	Wealth tax Enacting a wealth tax on the ownership of stocks, bonds, and other financial intangible property.	H Finance	Street
<u>HB 1320</u>	Business & occupation tax Modifying business and occupation tax rates to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians.	H Finance	Street
<u>SHB 1392</u> (SB 5372)	Medicaid access program Creating the medicaid access program.	S Ways & Means	Macri
<u>ESHB 1430</u>	APRN & PA reimbursement Concerning advanced practice registered nurse and physician assistant reimbursement.	S Ways & Means	Simmons
<u>HB 1433</u> (SB 5201)	Psychedelic substances Concerning access to psychedelic substances.	H HC/Wellness Dead	Macri
<u>HB 1445</u> (Dead) (SB 5233)	Washington health trust Developing the Washington health trust.	H HC/Wellness Dead	Parshley
<u>HB 1507</u> (Dead)	Health care nondisclosure Limiting health care nondisclosure agreements.	H Civil R & Judi Dead	Scott
<u>HB 1527</u> (Dead)	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-Term Care Dead	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> (Dead)	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 Ways & Means	Bronoske
<u>ESHB 1718</u>	Health care prof. well-being Concerning well-being programs for certain health care professionals.	S Rules 2	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>HB 2045</u>	Business and occupation tax Investing in Washington families by restructuring the business and occupation tax on high grossing businesses and financial institutions.	H Finance	Fitzgibbon

<u>HB 2046</u>	Intangible assets tax Creating fairness in Washington's tax by imposing a tax on select financial intangible assets.	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 Rules R	Robinson
<u>SSB 5118</u>	International medical grads Updating the requirements for the clinical experience license for international medical graduates.	S Pres Signed	Valdez
<u>ESSB 5167</u> (SHB 1198)	Operating budget Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	H 2nd Reading	Robinson
<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 Concerning emissions of greenhouse gases used for anesthetic purposes.	S Ways & Means Dead	Slatter
<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 Dead	Orwall
	Medicaid access program	S Health & Long-	Riccelli

[SB 5372](#)

(SHB
1392)

Creating the medicaid access program.

[2SSB 5387](#)
(HB 1675)

Corp practice of health care

S Rules X

Robinson

Concerning the corporate practice of medicine.

[SB 5424](#)

UW health sciences campus

S Higher Ed & Wo
Dead

Braun

Establishing a health sciences campus of the University of Washington.

[SB 5437](#)
(SHB
1155)

Noncompetition agreements

S Labor & Comm
Dead

Stanford

Prohibiting noncompetition agreements and clarifying nonsolicitation agreements.

[SSB 5493](#)

Hospital price transparency

H HC/Wellness

Riccelli

Concerning hospital price transparency.

[SB 5561](#)
(E2SHB
1686)

Health care entity registry

S Health & Long-

Cleveland

Creating a health care entity registry.

[SSB 5579](#)

Health/contract terminations

H HC/Wellness

Cleveland

Prohibiting health carriers, facilities, and providers from making any public statements of any potential or planned contract terminations unless it satisfies a legal obligation.

[SB 5588](#)
(E2SHB
1589)

Health carriers & providers

S Health & Long-T
Dead

Cleveland

Concerning the relationships between health carriers and contracting providers.

[SB 5638](#)
(HB 1560)

Hospital exec. excise tax

S Ways & Means

Saldana

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

Slatter

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

[SB 5791](#)

Higher education funding

S Ways & Means

Hansen

Increasing state funding to expand access to higher education.

[SB 5796](#)

Payroll expense tax

S Ways & Means

Saldana

Enacting an excise tax on large employers on the amount of payroll expenses above the social security wage threshold to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians.
