



Washington State Society of Anesthesiologists Legislative Report

Today was the final day of the 2025 legislative session, and lawmakers adjourned around 6:30 p.m. after passing operating, capital and transportation budgets for the 2025-27 biennium.

The \$77.8 billion operating budget includes \$7.4 billion in new spending over the next two years, and relies on both tax increases and reductions in services. The budget includes \$100 million for local governments to hire more police, which was a top priority for Governor Ferguson. Increased education spending is significant. It also fully funds the collective bargaining agreements for state employees without requiring furloughs, and protects the state's rainy day fund – something the Governor has said will be necessary to prepare for potential “chaos” from the federal government.

Some of the budget cuts include delays in implementing subsidized child care for low income families, reductions in public health funding, and delayed reimbursement rate increases for some providers.

On the tax side, bills to permanently increase B&O tax rates for many businesses (including a 20% increase for independent physician practices), apply sales tax to more services (including temporary staffing), and add tax surcharges to companies with more than \$250 million in annual revenue were passed to fund the budget. WSSA opposed the sales and B&O tax bills. Senator Ron Muzzall, the Ranking Member of the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee, introduced a number of amendments to exempt health care providers from the increase entirely, stating it was likely to further reduce access to care by increasing costs. The amendments were unsuccessful.

Bills to require health insurers to reimburse CRNAs, APRNs, PAs, and even optometrists the same as physicians were defeated again this session, even after one bill was significantly narrowed to apply only in limited circumstances. Legislation to expand the scope of practice for naturopaths and pharmacists was also defeated. Legislation to create a Medicaid Access

Program to help increase reimbursement rates for physicians and others has been passed by the Legislature and awaits the Governor's signature.

All proposed legislation that is not adopted in the first year of a biennium is automatically eligible for action in the next year, which means these bills will be "alive" again in the 2026 session – *or in a special session, should one be called by Governor Ferguson before next year.*

WSSA will be meeting with the broader physician community in the coming weeks to talk about next steps for legislation regarding medical title transparency. And in regulatory news, the **hearing on [proposed rules for CAA licensure](#) is May 9th.**

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
SHB 1155 (SB 5437) Noncompetition agreements Prohibiting noncompetition agreements and clarifying nonsolicitation agreements.	(Dead)	Berry
HB 1306 (SB 5185) International med. pathways Establishing preceptorship and hardship pathways to medical practice for international medical graduates.	(Dead)	Reed
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 to increase reimbursement rates for physicians.	Del to Gov	Macri
ESHB 1430 APRN & PA reimbursement Concerning advanced practice registered nurse and physician assistant reimbursement to have parity with physicians.	(Dead)	Simmons
Psychedelic substances	(Dead)	Macri

<u>HB 1433 (SB 5201)</u>	Concerning access to psychedelic substances.		
<u>HB 1445 (SB 5233)</u>	Washington health trust Developing the Washington health trust.	(Dead)	Parshley
<u>HB 1507</u>	Health care nondisclosure Limiting health care nondisclosure agreements.	(Dead)	Scott
<u>HB 1527</u>	Health care claims mediation Concerning settlement demands or offers made prior to mandatory mediation of health care claims.	(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.	(Dead)	Parshley
<u>HB 1560 (SB 5638)</u>	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.	(Dead)	Stonier
<u>HB 1675 (2SSB 5387)</u>	Corp. practice of medicine Concerning the corporate practice of medicine.	(Dead)	Thai
<u>E2SHB 1686 (SB 5561)</u>	Health care entity registry Creating a health care entity registry.	C 142 L 25 – signed into law	Bronoske
<u>ESHB 1718</u>	Health care prof. well-being Concerning well-being programs for certain health care professionals.	C 97 L 25 – signed into law	Thai
<u>HB 1780</u>	Doctor title/health provider Promoting accurate communications between patients and health care providers.	(Dead)	Marshall

<u>HB 1812</u>	Anesthesia services Concerning patient-centered equitable access to anesthesia services and reimbursement.	(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 (hospital mergers).	(Dead)	Taylor
<u>HB 1888</u>	Naturopathic physician scope Concerning naturopathic physician scope of practice.	(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 ("wealth tax").	H Finance	Berg
<u>ESHB 2081</u> (SB 5815)	Business and occupation tax Modifying business and occupation tax surcharges, rates, and the advanced computing surcharge cap, clarifying the business and occupation tax deduction for certain investments, and creating a temporary business and occupation tax surcharge on large companies.	S Pres Signed	Fitzgibbon
<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 Spkr Signed	Robinson
<u>SSB 5118</u>	International medical grads Updating the requirements for the clinical experience license for international medical graduates.	C 3 L 25 – signed into law	Valdez
	Operating budget	S CC rpt rec	Robinson

[ESSB
5167](#)
(SHB
1198)

Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.

[SB
5185](#)
(Dead)
(HB
1306)

International med. pathways

(Dead)

Saldana

Establishing preceptorship and hardship pathways to medical practice for international medical graduates.

[SB
5201](#)
(HB
1433)

Psychedelic substances

(Dead)

Salomon

Concerning access to psychedelic substances.

[SB
5233](#)
(HB
1445)

Washington health trust

(Dead)

Hasegawa

Developing the Washington health trust.

[SSB
5236](#)

Anesthetics/greenhouse gases

(Dead)

Slatter

Concerning emissions of greenhouse gases used for anesthetic purposes.

[SB
5242](#)

Behavioral health resources

(Dead)

Orwall

Establishing an interactive screening program to improve access to behavioral health resources for health care providers.

[SSB
5254](#)
(HB
1496)

Health care information

(Dead)

Orwall

Strengthening patients' rights regarding their health care information.

[SB
5372](#)
(SHB
1392)

Medicaid access program

S Health & Long-

Riccelli

Creating the medicaid access program.

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

Corp practice of health care

(Dead)

Robinson

Concerning the corporate practice of medicine.

[SB
5424](#)

UW health sciences campus

(Dead)

Braun

Establishing a health sciences campus of the University of Washington.

<u>SB 5437</u> (SHB 1155)	Noncompetition agreements Prohibiting noncompetition agreements and clarifying nonsolicitation agreements.	(Dead)	Stanford
<u>SSB 5493</u>	Hospital price transparency Concerning hospital price transparency.	C 146 L 25- signed into law	Riccelli
<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.	Del to Gov	Cleveland
<u>SB 5588</u> (E2SHB 1589)	Health carriers & providers Concerning the relationships between health carriers and contracting providers.	(Dead)	Cleveland
<u>SB 5638</u> (HB 1560)	Hospital exec. excise tax Funding health care access by imposing an excise tax on the annual compensation paid to certain highly compensated hospital employees.	(Dead)	Saldana
<u>SSB 5683</u>	Health carrier payment times Concerning health carrier transparency of payment timeliness of claims submitted by health care providers and health care facilities.	(Dead)	Slatter
<u>SB 5791</u>	Higher education funding Increasing state funding to expand access to higher education by increasing B&O taxes.	(Dead)	Hansen
<u>SB 5796</u>	Payroll expense tax 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.	(Dead)	Saldana
<u>ESSB 5814</u> (HB 2083)	Excise taxes Modifying the application and administration of certain excise taxes.	H Spkr Signed	Frame
<u>SB 5815</u> (ESHB 2081)	Business and occupation tax	S Ways & Means	Saldana

Modifying business and occupation tax surcharges, rates, and the advanced computing surcharge cap, clarifying the business and occupation tax deduction for certain investments, and creating a temporary business and occupation tax surcharge on large companies.