



Washington State Society of Anesthesiologists Legislative Report

The 2026 Legislative Session ended around 8:30 p.m. on March 12th, the 60th day.

The biggest news of the session was passage of a tax on household income of more than \$1 million per year, which passed narrowly in the House and Senate in the final days of session. [The bill](#), which marks a significant shift in Washington's tax structure, was the subject of a 24+ hour continuous debate in the House on Monday and Tuesday, and passed by 51-46 in the House and 27-21 in the Senate. Governor Ferguson has indicated he intends to sign the bill, which is likely to be subject to a legal challenge as well as a ballot measure this fall.

Lawmakers approved an \$80 billion supplemental operating budget, closing a \$2 billion budget gap using targeted reductions, reserve funds, accounting shifts and some new revenue in addition to the millionaire's income tax.

Two budget items of note:

- SB 6346 – the income tax bill – expires a B&O tax surcharge on businesses with gross income in excess of \$250 million per year. An amendment adopted in the House applies this provision to both hospitals and non-hospital healthcare providers in that income threshold; however individual providers with a household income of greater than \$1 million will be subject to the income tax beginning in 2029.
- The budget eliminates funding for the management of a grant program for nurse anesthetists, which was directed by [ESSB 6286](#) in 2024.

Legislation about medical title transparency did not pass this session, but continued work is planned on this for the interim. Likewise, a bill to regulate dental anesthesia did not advance, but WSSA plans to discuss the issue with various stakeholders prior to the 2027 session next January.

Now, legislators will turn toward campaigns and elections. A number of members have already announced they're not returning to the Legislature next session, and other retirement announcements are expected in coming weeks. At least one physician intends to run for the Legislature in the Spokane area, and 1-2 CRNAs may be running for positions in the Legislature as well. Official filing week begins May 4th and candidates must file by May 8th for legislative office. Once the landscape is understood, WSSA will develop a plan for engaging in elections.

Bill Details	Status	Sponsor
ESHB 1155 (SSB 5437)	Noncompetition agreements Prohibiting noncompetition agreements and clarifying nonsolicitation agreements.	Del to Gov Berry
ESHB 1430	APRN & PA reimbursement Concerning advanced practice registered nurse and physician assistant reimbursement.	H HC/Wellness Simmons
SHB 1496 (SSB 5254)	Health care information Strengthening patients' rights regarding their health care information.	H Rules X Berry
HB 1507 (Dead)	Health care nondisclosure Limiting health care nondisclosure agreements.	H Civil R & Judi Scott
HB 1567 (Dead)	Health care administrators Concerning licensure of health care administrators.	H HC/Wellness Stonier
HB 1675 (3SSB 5387)	Corp. practice of medicine Concerning the corporate practice of medicine.	H HC/Wellness Thai
HB 1812 (Dead)	Anesthesia services Concerning patient-centered equitable access to anesthesia services and reimbursement.	H HC/Wellness Rule
HB 1881 (Dead) (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 Taylor
HB 1888 (Dead)	Naturopathic physician scope Concerning naturopathic physician scope of practice.	H HC/Wellness Berg
HB 2100 (SB 6093)	Payroll expense tax Enacting an excise tax on large operating companies on the amount of payroll expenses above the minimum wage threshold of the additional medicare tax to fund services to benefit Washingtonians and establishing the Well Washington fund account.	H Finance Scott
HB 2106	Health carrier modif. notice Requiring carriers to provide substantive notice to health care providers and health care facilities about significant contract modifications.	H HC/Wellness Simmons

<u>HB 2113</u>	Radiologic technologists Concerning the supervision of diagnostic radiologic technologists, therapeutic radiologic technologists, and magnetic resonance imaging technologists.	C 10 L 26	Engell
<u>HB 2255</u>	Litigation finance Concerning litigation finance.	H Rules X	Walen
<u>HB 2261</u> (<u>SB 6166</u>)	Health care credentials Ensuring transparency in credentials and communications between patients and health care professionals.	H HC/Wellness	Marshall
<u>HB 2302</u> (<u>SSB 5924</u>)	Pharmacist prescriptive auth Expanding prescriptive authority for pharmacists.	H HC/Wellness	Thai
<u>SHB 2339</u>	Nursing Concerning the regulation of nursing.	Del to Gov	Simmons
<u>HB 2394</u> (<u>ESSB 6031</u>)	Insurance crimes Enhancing public safety and enforcement of crimes that impact insurance.	H ConsPro&Bus	Goodman
<u>SHB 2402</u>	Phthalates/medical equipment Concerning phthalates in medical equipment used for intravenous purposes.	H Rules R	Stonier
<u>SHB 2425</u> (<u>SB 6107</u>)	Nursing delegation Concerning nursing delegation.	H Rules R	Thai
<u>HB 2498</u> (<u>SB 6267</u>)	Nursing education programs Concerning nursing education program standards.	H Postsec Ed & W	Entenman
<u>ESHB 2532</u>	Nitrous oxide sale Concerning the sale and distribution of nitrous oxide.	Del to Gov	Timmons
<u>HB 2546</u> (<u>SSB 6071</u>)	Health carrier overpayments Standardizing overpayment recovery requirements.	H HC/Wellness	Simmons
<u>ESHB 2548</u> (<u>SB 6208</u>)	Health care market standards Strengthening health care market standards.	Del to Gov	Taylor

HB 2652 (SB 6258)	Medical license relinquish. Creating a nondisciplinary pathway for relinquishing licenses issued by the Washington medical commission.	H Postsec Ed & Wk	Eslick
HB 2683	Health carriers & providers Promoting transparency and efficiency in health carrier relations with health care providers and facilities.	H HC/Wellness	Rule
HB 2724 (ESSB 6346)	Tax on millionaires Establishing a tax on millionaires.	H Finance	Fitzgibbon
SSB 5185 (Dead) (HB 1306)	International med. pathways Establishing preceptorship and hardship pathways to medical practice for international medical graduates.	Del to Gov	Saldana
SSB 5236	Anesthetics/greenhouse gases Concerning emissions of greenhouse gases used for anesthetic purposes.	S Ways & Means	Slatter
SB 5242 (Dead)	Behavioral health resources Establishing an interactive screening program to improve access to behavioral health resources for health care providers.	S Health & Long-	Orwall
SSB 5254 (SHB 1496)	Health care information Strengthening patients' rights regarding their health care information.	S Ways & Means	Orwall
3SSB 5387 (HB 1675)	Corp. practice of medicine Concerning the corporate practice of health care.	S Rules X	Robinson
SSB 5437 (Dead) (ESHB 1155)	Noncompetition agreements Prohibiting noncompetition agreements and clarifying nonsolicitation agreements.	S Rules X	Stanford
SSB 5683	Health carrier payment times Concerning health carrier transparency of payment timeliness of claims submitted by health care providers and health care facilities.	S Ways & Means	Slatter
SB 5877	Anesth. assistant surcharges	H 2nd Reading	Muzzall

Making a technical correction to the surcharges authorized for certified anesthesiologist assistants.

<u>SSB 5924</u> (HB 2302)	Pharmacist prescriptive auth Expanding prescriptive authority for pharmacists.	H HC/Wellness	Slatter
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<u>SSB 6071</u> (HB 2546)	Health carrier overpayments Standardizing overpayment recovery requirements.	S Rules X	Cleveland
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<u>SB 6093</u> (HB 2100)	Payroll expense tax Enacting an excise tax on large operating companies on the amount of payroll expenses above the minimum wage threshold of the additional medicare tax to fund services to benefit Washingtonians and establishing the Well Washington fund account.	S Ways & Means	Saldana
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<u>SB 6138</u>	Dental deep sedation Requiring a multiprovider system be used for dental procedures where a patient is placed under deep sedation.	S Health & Long-	Holy
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<u>SB 6166</u> (HB 2261)	Health care credentials Ensuring transparency in credentials and communications between patients and health care professionals.	S Health & Long-T	Muzzall
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<u>SB 6169</u>	Nitrous oxide sale Concerning the sale and distribution of nitrous oxide.	S Law & Justice	Hansen
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<u>SB 6251</u>	Medical school grading Using only letter grades in schools of medicine.	S Higher Ed & Wor	Warnick
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<u>SB 6258</u> (HB 2652)	Medical license relinquish. Creating a nondisciplinary pathway for relinquishing licenses issued by the Washington medical commission.	H 2nd Reading	Muzzall
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<u>SB 6267</u> (HB 2498)	Nursing education programs Concerning nursing education program standards.	S Health & Long-	Bateman
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<u>ESSB 6346</u> (HB 2724)	Tax on millionaires Establishing a tax on millionaires.	H Spkr Signed	Pedersen
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