

WAADAC Legislative Report

March 2, 2024

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As the 2024 session draws to a close, both chambers spent last Monday in fiscal committees to meet the fiscal committee cutoff deadline. Beginning on Tuesday, legislators spent their time in caucus and on the floor working to pass as many of their priority bills as possible before the clock ran out on Friday at 5pm.

On cut-off days, the 5pm bill in each chamber is the source of great speculation. Both the House and Senate chose highly controversial bills this time. The Senate took up a piece of legislation they had started work on the day prior, HB 1589, the bill that accelerates the transition from natural gas to electricity. After a fiery debate, the bill passed 27-22 with Senators Mullet and Van De Wege joining Republicans in opposition. Across the rotunda, the House took up SB 5241, the “Keep Our Care Act” that would regulate future healthcare mergers with the intent of preserving access to health care services including reproductive care, gender-affirming care, and end-of-life care. Shortly before 5:00pm, the House announced SB 5241 would come up next, they went to caucus, and did not return to the floor.

One significant piece of legislation that did not advance on cut-off day was labor’s number one priority, HB 1893, the bill that would have provided unemployment benefits to striking workers. Supporters had said the bill would level the playing field for workers, while detractors claimed the policy would upend the balance between business and labor at the bargaining table. Only three states, New Jersey, New York, and Maine, have allowed striking workers to access jobless benefits.

Another much-watched bill that did not advance was the rent stabilization legislation, HB 2114. The Senate Ways & Means committee did not bring the bill up for a vote, given it did not have the backing of enough Democrats to pass, notably lacking the support of Senators Mullet and Van De Wege. Neither of these moderate Senators will be returning to the Senate next session and thus, a new version of the bill in 2025 may enjoy an easier path if more progressive Democrats are elected in 2024.

Next week, the House and Senate will focus on negotiating the differences in bills that have passed both chambers but in different forms. If a bill has been amended by the opposite house, it must return to the original house to get approval of the amendments. If the original house concurs in the amendments, the bill has passed the Legislature. If the original house disagrees, it can ask the second house to recede from the amendments. If the opposite house recedes, the bill has passed the Legislature.

If the two houses cannot resolve their differences, one of them can ask for a conference committee. In this case, members from each house meet behind closed doors to negotiate a final bill. If they are successful, the conference committee makes a report. Both houses must adopt the conference committee report for the bill to pass the Legislature. Neither chamber is allowed to amend a conference report.

And, of course, all eyes will be on the final negotiated budgets (operating, capital, and transportation) which we will likely see early in the week. Adopting the budgets is typically one of the last acts the Legislature completes before adjourning *Sine Die* (from the Latin meaning “without day”) on Thursday.

In addition to the flurry of floor activity, joint committees met this week to address the three initiatives to the Legislature majority Democrats have chosen to hear. On Tuesday, a joint session of the House Finance and Senate Ways & Means Committees heard public testimony on Initiative 2111. This measure would prohibit state and local jurisdictions from imposing a tax on any individual person on any form of personal income. The bill was voted out of committee on Friday.

Wednesday morning, Initiative 2081 was heard in a joint session of the House Education and Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committees. This measure declares 15 rights that parents and guardians of public school children have, including rights to receive or be notified of academic, medical, safety, and law enforcement matters; rights to access certain materials and records; and rights to opt their children out of certain activities. The bill was voted out of committee on Friday.

Finally, on Wednesday, the Senate Law & Justice and House Community Safety, Justice & Reentry Committees heard public testimony on Initiative 2113. This measure would remove certain restrictions on when peace officers may engage in vehicular pursuits. The bill was voted out of committee on Friday.

The legislator retirement announcements continue to roll out. Representative JT Wilcox announced this week that he will not seek re-election after having served 14 years in the Legislature. Wilcox served as Minority Leader of the House Republican Caucus from 2018-2023.

Upcoming Dates:

March 7 - Last day of Regular Session

Monitoring Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<u>2ESHB 1508 (SB 5519)</u> Health care cost board Improving consumer affordability through the health care cost transparency board.	S Pres Signed	Macri	
<u>2SHB 1877</u> Behavioral health/tribes Improving the Washington state behavioral health system for better coordination and recognition with the Indian behavioral health system.	S Passed 3rd	Lekanoff	
<u>SHB 1889</u> Professionals/immigration Allowing persons to receive professional licenses and certifications regardless of immigration or citizenship status.	Del to Gov	Walen	
<u>2SHB 1929 (SB 6050)</u> Postinpatient housing Supporting young adults following inpatient behavioral health treatment.	S Pres Signed	Cortes	

<u>HB 1946</u>	Behav. health scholarship Creating the Washington health corps behavioral health scholarship program.	H Spkr Signed	Eslick
<u>E2SHB 1956 (SSB 5923)</u>	Substance use prevention ed. Addressing fentanyl and other substance use prevention education.	S Passed 3rd	Leavitt
<u>HB 1972 (SB 5822)</u>	Physicians health prg. fees Increasing the licensure fees that support the Washington physicians health program.	Del to Gov	Simmons
<u>HB 1983</u>	Criminal justice trtmnt acct Concerning the criminal justice treatment account.	S Pres Signed	Simmons
<u>E2SHB 2247</u>	Behavioral health providers Addressing behavioral health provider shortages.	S Passed 3rd	Bateman
<u>ESHB 2256</u>	Children behavioral health Addressing the children and youth behavioral health work group.	Del to Gov	Callan
<u>SHB 2396</u>	Synthetic opioids Concerning fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.	S Passed 3rd	Mosbrucker
<u>SSB 5804 (HB 2029)</u>	Opioid overdose med./schools Concerning opioid overdose reversal medication in public schools.	H Passed 3rd	Kuderer
<u>SB 5821 (HB 1881)</u>	Audio-only telemedicine Establishing a uniform standard for creating an established relationship for the purposes of coverage of audio-only telemedicine services.	H Passed 3rd	Muzzall
<u>E2SSB 5853</u>	Behav crisis services/minors Extending the crisis relief center model to provide behavioral health crisis services for minors.	H Passed 3rd	Dhingra
<u>ESB 5906</u>	Drug overdose prevention Implementing a statewide drug overdose prevention and education campaign.	H Passed 3rd	Wilson
<u>SSB 5920</u>	Psychiatric/cert. of need Lifting certificate of need requirements for psychiatric hospitals and beds.	H Passed 3rd	Padden
<u>SSB 6099</u>	Tribal opioid account	H Passed 3rd	Braun

Creating the tribal opioid prevention and treatment account.

<u>2SSB 6228</u>	Substance use treatment Concerning treatment of substance use disorders.	H Passed 3rd	Dhingra
<u>ESB 6246</u>	Firearm info./mental health Concerning transmission of information relating to firearm prohibitions for persons committed for mental health treatment.	H Passed 3rd	Dhingra
<u>E2SSB 6251</u>	Behavioral crisis coord. Coordinating regional behavioral crisis response services.	H Passed 3rd	Dhingra
<u>SB 6308</u>	988 system timeline Extending timelines for implementation of the 988 system.	H Passed 3rd	Dhingra

Dead Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<u>SHB 1655</u>	Provider contract comp. Concerning provider contract compensation.	H Approps	Harris
<u>SHB 1851</u>	First approach skills prog. Implementing the first approach skills training program.	S Passed 3rd	Callan
<u>HB 1864</u>	Ignition interlock assist. Limiting the monetary assistance an indigent person may receive from the ignition interlock device revolving account program.	H Transportation	Christian
<u>HB 1881 (SB 5821)</u>	Audio-only telemedicine Establishing a uniform standard for creating an established relationship for the purposes of coverage of audio-only telemedicine services.	H HC/Wellness	Harris
<u>HB 1891</u>	Parent substance use Maintaining the safety of children when a parent has a substance use disorder.	H Human Svc, You	Eslick
<u>HB 2002</u>	Public use of fentanyl, meth Establishing criminal penalties for the public use of fentanyl or methamphetamine.	H Community Safe	Low
	Opioid overdose/high schools	H Education	Rule

[HB 2029](#)

(SSB
5804)

Concerning opioid overdose reversal medication in high schools.

[HB 2047](#)**Cannabis use/SUD employees**

H Labor & Workpl

Dent

Allowing employers to screen candidates for cannabis use when hiring for certain positions involving services to persons with substance use disorder.

[HB 2066](#)

(SB
5948)

Health provider contracting

H HC/Wellness

Riccelli

Addressing affordability through health care provider contracting.

[SHB](#)

[2104](#)

(ESSB
5950)

Operating budget, supp.

H Rules R

Ormsby

Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.

[HB 2145](#)**Health plans/mental health**

H HC/Wellness

Simmons

Concerning medically necessary treatment of a mental health or substance use disorder.

[HB 2155](#)**Credential registry**

H Approps

Reeves

Creating the Washington credential registry.

[SHB](#)
[2182](#)**Regulated substance use data**

S Labor & Comm

Reeves

Creating a data dashboard to track use of regulated substances.

[HB 2196](#)**Alcohol concentration/DUI**

H Community Safe

Donaghy

Concerning alcohol concentration.

[HB 2222](#)**Controlled sub. endangerment**

H Community Safe

Hackney

Updating the endangerment with a controlled substance statute.

[HB 2225](#)**Licensing/criminal records**

H ConsPro&Bus

Thai

Giving people with criminal records who are rehabilitated a fresh start in occupational licensing in Washington.

[HB 2227](#)**DUI conviction vacation**

H Community Safet

Ortiz-Self

Vacating a conviction for driving under the influence, actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence, or an offense considered a prior offense to such convictions.

[HB 2233](#)**Controlled sub./children**

H Human Svc, You

Couture

Providing an appropriate response to the use and presence of controlled substances by parents to protect children.

2SHB 2239	Social-emotional instruction Supporting student well-being through instruction in social-emotional skills.	S EL/K-12	Timmons
E2SHB 2245	Co-response services Establishing co-response services and training as an essential component of the crisis care continuum.	S Health & Long T	Bronoske
SHB 2248	Traumatic brain injuries Providing support to individuals with traumatic brain injuries.	H Approps	Bateman
HB 2259	Threats of harm to children Addressing threats of harm to children.	H Human Svc, You	Rule
HB 2280 (SB 6216)	Student mental health net. Establishing a statewide network for student mental and behavioral health.	H Education	Rule
2SHB 2319	Substance use treatment Concerning substance use disorder treatment.	H Rules X	Davis
HB 2346	Health disparities council Updating the governor's interagency coordinating council on health disparities.	H Rules X	Santos
EHB 2372	Tribes/health facilities Transferring public property to Washington state federally recognized tribes for facilities to provide alcohol and substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and aftercare programs and services, and for behavioral health and related programs and services.	S Rules 2	Lekanoff
SHB 2408	Crisis response comm methods Concerning methods of communication used by the technology platform designed for the behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention system.	S Health & Long T	Lekanoff
HB 2449	Cannabis revenue/health care Concerning use of cannabis tax revenue for professional health care services.	H Approps	Hutchins
HB 2469	Involuntary treatment Concerning involuntary treatment.	H Civil R & Judi	Davis
HB 2472	Mental health/matching funds	H Approps	Hutchins

Providing state matching funds for programs supported by the county sales and use tax for chemical dependency, mental health treatment, and therapeutic courts.

<u>HB 2476</u> (SB 6309)	Covered lives assessment Creating a covered lives assessment professional services rate account.	H Approps	Macri
<u>ESB 5241</u> (HB 1263)	Health care marketplace Concerning material changes to the operations and governance structure of participants in the health care marketplace.	H 2nd Reading	Randall
<u>SB 5822</u> (HB 1972)	Physicians health prg. fees Increasing the licensure fees that support the Washington physicians health program.	S Health & Long	Muzzall
<u>SSB 5923</u> (E2SHB 1956)	Substance use prevention ed. Addressing fentanyl and other substance use prevention education.	S Ways & Means	Wellman
<u>SB 5929</u>	Fentanyl/endangerment Concerning fentanyl.	S Law & Justice	Padden
<u>ESSB 5950</u> (SHB 2104)	Operating budget, supp. Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	H Passed 3rd	Robinson
<u>SB 6050</u> (2SHB 1929)	Postinpatient housing Supporting young adults following inpatient behavioral health treatment.	S Human Services	Dhingra
<u>SB 6051</u>	Manslaughter/substances Concerning manslaughter when certain controlled substances are sold that result in death of the user.	S Law & Justice	Braun
<u>SSB 6134</u>	Opioid use Preventing overdose and illicit use of opioids in Washington state.	S Ways & Means	Gildon
<u>SB 6216</u> (HB 2280)	Student mental health net. Establishing a statewide network for student mental and behavioral health.	S Ways & Means	Nobles
<u>SB 6244</u>	Pain medications	S Health & Long T	Rivers

Enacting the pain parity act.

<u>SB 6271</u>	Cannabis excise tax/THC Modifying the cannabis excise tax to consider THC concentration.	H Finance	Keiser
<u>SB 6272</u>	Cannabis excise tax revenue Dedicating the state share of cannabis excise tax revenue to counties and cities.	S Ways & Means	Mullet
<u>SSB 6295</u>	Behavioral health/high users Creating a path to recovery for high users of behavioral health crisis and criminal justice systems.	S Ways & Means	Dhingra
<u>SB 6297</u>	Direct transfer to treatment Recognizing a court's authority to authorize a defendant's direct transfer from jail to inpatient or residential substance use disorder treatment.	S Law & Justice	Gildon
<u>SB 6309</u> (<u>HB 2476</u>)	Covered lives assessment Creating a covered lives assessment professional services rate account.	S Ways & Means	Randall
