

# WAADAC Legislative Report

## January 29, 2026

### Melissa Johnson, Consultant

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The third week of the 2026 Washington State Legislative Session marked a transition in the legislative process, as committees began moving beyond the preliminary stage of holding public hearings on bills. This period, known as the “executive session” phase, is a critical juncture in which committees evaluate proposed legislation. During executive sessions, members debate the merits and potential impacts of each bill, consider and adopt amendments, and ultimately take formal votes to determine whether a measure should advance to the next stage of the legislative process. This stage is especially important because it allows lawmakers to weigh public input received during hearings against policy considerations, political priorities, and fiscal implications.

Looking ahead, after next week’s policy committee cutoff on February 4<sup>th</sup>, legislators will shift their focus to bills that impact the state budget. These bills have until February 9<sup>th</sup> to pass out of those fiscal committees. However, bills that are deemed “necessary to implement the budget” or NTIB are not subject to the February 9<sup>th</sup> deadline.

On Monday, Governor Bob Ferguson (D) and Attorney General Nick Brown (D) held a press conference where they condemned the recent ICE operation in Minnesota and the Department of Homeland Security memo authorizing agents to forcibly enter homes without judicial warrants.

While acknowledging the state cannot block federal deployment, Ferguson and Brown emphasized Washington’s commitment to resisting unlawful conduct through legal action, interagency coordination, and legislative efforts. Planned steps include urging DHS to withdraw and de-escalate ICE operations, strengthening coordination through the Governor’s Immigration Sub-Cabinet, adding senior policy staff focused on immigrant and refugee issues, preparing for potential National Guard involvement to protect public safety, and working with partners statewide. The Governor and Attorney General also highlighted support for legislation to increase accountability, including bans on law enforcement face coverings (which passed the Senate floor this week), prohibitions on ICE impersonation, and new protections requiring employers to notify workers when federal agencies seek employment eligibility information.

This week, legislative committees also considered four bills aimed at regulating and shaping the use of artificial intelligence (AI) across public and private sectors. ESHB 1622 (Parshley, D-22), a bill from 2025, would require most public employers, including state agencies, local governments, and higher education institutions, to bargain with employee unions over AI adoption or changes that could affect wages or performance evaluations, giving workers a formal voice in technology decisions.

Another 2025 bill, 2SHB 1170 (Shavers, D-10) focuses on AI transparency, mandating that large generative AI providers disclose when content is AI-generated, offer provenance information, and provide user-friendly detection tools. HB 2157 (Ryu, D-32) seeks to regulate high-risk AI systems that influence consequential decisions in areas like employment, housing, education, healthcare, insurance, and legal services. It would require risk-management programs, impact assessments, consumer disclosures, and protections against algorithmic discrimination. Similarly, Senate Bill 6284 (Lias, D-21) proposes a

framework for high-risk AI, emphasizing risk mitigation, regular reviews, transparency, and consumer notification while balancing innovation and trade-secret protections.

## Upcoming Events

### **Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 2/2 @ 10:30am**

- [SB 6282](#) - Public Hearing - Requiring state registered apprenticeships in the building and construction trades to provide behavioral health and wellness training. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Law & Justice (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 2/2 @ 10:30am**

- [SB 6296](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning involuntary treatment. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 2/2 @ 4:00pm**

- [SB 6275](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the community reinvestment program. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Law & Justice (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 2/3 @ 8:00am**

- [SB 6296](#) - **Exec Session** - Concerning involuntary treatment.

### **Civil Rights & Judiciary (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/3 @ 10:30am**

- [HB 2548](#) - **Exec Session** - Strengthening health care market standards.

### **Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 2/3 @ 10:30am**

- [SB 6282](#) - **Exec Session** - Requiring state registered apprenticeships in the building and construction trades to provide behavioral health and wellness training.

### **Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans (House) - HHR C and Virtual JLOB - 2/3 @ 10:30am**

- [HB 2523](#) - **Exec Session** - Concerning the community reinvestment program.

### **Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/3 @ 1:30pm**

- [HB 2658](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the truth in mental health coverage act. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [HB 2683](#) - Public Hearing - Promoting transparency and efficiency in health carrier relations with health care providers and facilities. (Remote Testimony Available).

**Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 2/3 @ 4:00pm**

- [SB 5988](#) - **Exec Session** - Establishing fee authority for accreditation services provided to opioid treatment programs by the department of health.

**Postsecondary Education & Workforce (House) - HHR C and Virtual JLOB - 2/4 @ 1:30pm**

- [HB 2286](#) - **Exec Session** - Concerning alternative routes to social worker licensure. (High)

**Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 2/5 @ 1:30pm**

- [SB 6294](#) - Public Hearing - Providing local governments tax resources and fund flexibility. (Remote Testimony Available).

**High Priority Bills**

<b><u>Bill Details</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Sponsor</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>
<a href="#">HB 1809</a> <b>Behavioral health response</b> Professionalizing first responders and co-responders through training and reimbursement for behavioral health emergency response.	H HC/Wellness	Nance	
<a href="#">HB 2038</a> <b>Youth behavioral health acc.</b> (SB 5799) Establishing the youth behavioral health account and funding the account through the imposition of a business and occupation additional tax on the operation of social media platforms.	H Finance	Callan	
<a href="#">HB 2286</a> <b>Social worker licensure</b> (SB 6060) Concerning alternative routes to social worker licensure.	H Postsec Ed & W	Rule	
<a href="#">HB 2340</a> <b>Nursing assistants/SUD prg.</b> Applying substance use disorder monitoring program provisions to nursing assistants.	H HC/Wellness	Simmons	
<b>Youth behavioral health</b>	H EL & Human Svc	Callan	

[HB 2429](#)  
(SB 6224) Supporting children and youth behavioral health.

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[HB 2466](#) **Social workers board** H HC/Wellness Rule  
(SB 6059) Creating the Washington state board of governors for licensed social workers.

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[HB 2558](#) **Mental health sentencing alt** H Community Safe Walen  
Concerning the mental health sentencing alternative.

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[HB 2599](#) **Therapy and psychotherapy** H HC/Wellness Kloba  
Protecting the integrity of therapy and psychotherapy services.

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[SB 6059](#) **Social workers board** S Health & Long- Orwall  
(HB 2466) Creating the Washington state board of governors for licensed social workers.

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[SB 6060](#) **Social worker licensure** S Health & Long- Orwall  
(HB 2286) Concerning alternative routes to social worker licensure.

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### Monitoring Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#">SHB 1155</a> (SB 5437) <b>Noncompetition agreements</b>	H 2nd Reading	Berry	
Prohibiting noncompetition agreements and clarifying nonsolicitation agreements.			
<a href="#">HB 1496</a> (SSB 5254) <b>Health care information</b>	H HC/Wellness	Berry	
Strengthening patients' rights regarding their health care information.			
<a href="#">HB 2097</a> <b>County B&amp;O tax</b>	H Finance	Scott	
Authorizing counties to impose a business and occupation tax.			
<a href="#">HB 2098</a> <b>Higher education funding</b>	H Postsec Ed & W	Reed	
Adjusting higher education funding.			
<a href="#">HB 2100</a> (SB 6093) <b>Payroll expense tax</b>	H Finance	Scott	
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.			

<a href="#"><u>HB 2106</u></a>	<b>Health carrier modif. notice</b> Requiring carriers to provide substantive notice to health care providers and health care facilities about significant contract modifications.	H HC/Wellness	Simmons
<a href="#"><u>HB 2121</u></a>	<b>Nonprofits, schools/taxes</b> Exempting nonprofits and schools from certain sales and use taxes on services.	H Finance	Walsh
<a href="#"><u>HB 2127</u></a>	<b>Physician assistants/title</b> Changing the legal title for physician assistants to physician associates.	H HC/Wellness	Marshall
<a href="#"><u>HB 2130</u></a>	<b>New 2025 taxes repeal</b> Repealing new taxes imposed by Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5814 during the 2025 regular legislative session.	H Finance	Orcutt
<a href="#"><u>HB 2148</u></a>	<b>Pay it forward program</b> Creating the pay it forward program.	H Postsec Ed & W	Reed
<a href="#"><u>HB 2168</u> (SB 5933)</a>	<b>Overdose mapping information</b> Facilitating the rapid sharing of overdose mapping information for overdose prevention.	H HC/Wellness	Manjarrez
<a href="#"><u>HB 2198</u> (SSB 5968)</a>	<b>Permitting and licensing</b> Improving regulatory efficiency by integrating executive order 25-03, concerning permitting and licensing processes, into chapter 43.42A RCW.	H State Govt & T	Richards
<a href="#"><u>HB 2208</u></a>	<b>Health continuing ed./tax</b> Exempting health care continuing education classes from retail sales and use tax.	H Finance	McClintock
<a href="#"><u>HB 2261</u> (SB 6166)</a>	<b>Health care credentials</b> Ensuring transparency in credentials and communications between patients and health care professionals.	H HC/Wellness	Marshall
<a href="#"><u>HB 2283</u> (SB 5953)</a>	<b>Medical loss ratio</b> Establishing a medical loss ratio of at least 90 percent for health plans.	H HC/Wellness	Rule
<a href="#"><u>HB 2289</u> (SB 5998)</a>	<b>Operating budget, supp.</b> Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby
<a href="#"><u>HB 2331</u></a>	<b>Pediatric care rates</b>	H Approps	Penner

Preventing reductions in access to pediatric primary care and behavioral health services.

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<a href="#"><u>HB 2394</u></a> (SSB 6031)	<b>Insurance crimes</b> Enhancing public safety and enforcement of crimes that impact insurance.	H ConsPro&Bus	Goodman
<a href="#"><u>HB 2405</u></a> (SB 6293)	<b>PTSD treatment and research</b> Establishing a pilot program for posttraumatic stress disorder treatment and research.	H Labor & Workpl	Schmidt
<a href="#"><u>HB 2437</u></a> (SB 5988)	<b>Opioid treatment prg. fees</b> Establishing fee authority for accreditation services provided to opioid treatment programs by the department of health.	H HC/Wellness	Lekanoff
<a href="#"><u>HB 2442</u></a> (SB 6294)	<b>Local government fund use</b> Providing local governments tax resources and fund flexibility.	H Finance	Berg
<a href="#"><u>HB 2492</u></a> (SB 6282)	<b>Apprenticeships/wellness</b> Requiring state registered apprenticeships in the building and construction trades to provide behavioral health and wellness training.	H Labor & Workpl	Nance
<a href="#"><u>HB 2523</u></a> (SB 6275)	<b>Community reinvestment prg.</b> Concerning the community reinvestment program.	H Tech, Econ Dev	Reeves
<a href="#"><u>HB 2546</u></a> (SB 6071)	<b>Health carrier overpayments</b> Standardizing overpayment recovery requirements.	H HC/Wellness	Simmons
<a href="#"><u>HB 2548</u></a> (SB 6208)	<b>Health care market standards</b> Strengthening health care market standards.	H Civil R & Judi	Taylor
<a href="#"><u>HB 2560</u></a> (SB 6094)	<b>Pediatric transitional care</b> Concerning facilities licensed to provide pediatric transitional care services.	H HC/Wellness	Hill
<a href="#"><u>HB 2658</u></a> (SB 6305)	<b>Mental health coverage</b> Concerning the truth in mental health coverage act.	H HC/Wellness	Stonier
<a href="#"><u>HB 2674</u></a> (SB 6161)	<b>Dementia information</b> Concerning department of health information on dementia.	H HC/Wellness	Scott

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<a href="#"><u>HB 2683</u></a>	<b>Health carriers &amp; providers</b> Promoting transparency and efficiency in health carrier relations with health care providers and facilities.	H HC/Wellness	Rule
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5254</u></a> (HB 1496)	<b>Health care information</b> Strengthening patients' rights regarding their health care information.	S Ways & Means	Orwall
<a href="#"><u>SB 5437</u></a> (SHB 1155)	<b>Noncompetition agreements</b> Prohibiting noncompetition agreements and clarifying nonsolicitation agreements.	S Labor & Comm	Stanford
<a href="#"><u>SB 5845</u></a>	<b>Health carrier payments</b> Modernizing and clarifying timely payment requirements for health carriers.	S Health & Long-	Slatter
<a href="#"><u>SB 5867</u></a>	<b>Mobile pregnancy application</b> Partnering with a mobile pregnancy application to improve maternal and infant health.	S Health & Long-	Muzzall
<a href="#"><u>SB 5875</u></a>	<b>School liability/WLAD</b> Concerning school district liability for violation of the Washington law against discrimination.	S Law & Justice	Wellman
<a href="#"><u>SB 5881</u></a>	<b>Enhanced medicaid payments</b> Providing enhanced medicaid payments to providers and hospitals.	S Ways & Means	Muzzall
<a href="#"><u>SB 5906</u></a>	<b>Data and personal safety</b> Establishing data and personal safety protections within areas of public accommodation for all Washington residents.	S Law & Justice	Hansen
<a href="#"><u>SB 5953</u></a> (HB 2283)	<b>Medical loss ratio</b> Establishing a medical loss ratio of at least 90 percent for health plans.	S Health & Long-	Slatter
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5968</u></a> (HB 2198)	<b>Permitting and licensing</b> Improving regulatory efficiency by integrating executive order 25-03, concerning permitting and licensing processes, into chapter 43.42A RCW.	S 2nd RdConsCal	Krishnadasan
<a href="#"><u>SB 5980</u></a>	<b>Live presentations/sales tax</b> Exempting live presentations from retail sales and use tax.	S Ways & Means	Torres

<a href="#"><u>SB 5988</u></a> (HB 2437)	<b>Opioid treatment prg. fees</b> Establishing fee authority for accreditation services provided to opioid treatment programs by the department of health.	S Ways & Means	Robinson
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5993</u></a>	<b>Medical debt interest</b> Concerning lowering the interest rate for medical debt.	S 2nd Reading	Alvarado
<a href="#"><u>SB 5998</u></a> (HB 2289)	<b>Operating budget, supp.</b> Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson
<a href="#"><u>SSB 6031</u></a> (HB 2394)	<b>Insurance crimes</b> Enhancing public safety and enforcement of crimes that impact insurance.	S Rules 2	Lovick
<a href="#"><u>SB 6071</u></a> (HB 2546)	<b>Health carrier overpayments</b> Standardizing overpayment recovery requirements.	S Health & Long-	Cleveland
<a href="#"><u>SB 6094</u></a> (HB 2560)	<b>Pediatric transitional care</b> Concerning facilities licensed to provide pediatric transitional care services.	S Health & Long-	Riccelli
<a href="#"><u>SB 6161</u></a> (HB 2674)	<b>Dementia information</b> Concerning department of health information on dementia.	S HLTCDP	Slatter
<a href="#"><u>SB 6166</u></a> (HB 2261)	<b>Health care credentials</b> Ensuring transparency in credentials and communications between patients and health care professionals.	S Health & Long-T	Muzzall
<a href="#"><u>SB 6173</u></a>	<b>Apple health employer assess</b> Creating an apple health employer assessment.	S Ways & Means	Alvarado
<a href="#"><u>SB 6232</u></a>	<b>Mental health counselors</b> Creating the Washington state board of licensed mental health counselors.	S Health & Long-	Bateman
<a href="#"><u>SB 6275</u></a> (HB 2523)	<b>Community reinvestment prg.</b> Concerning the community reinvestment program.	S Ways & Means	Nobles
	<b>Apprenticeships/wellness</b>	S Labor & Comm	Nobles

<a href="#"><u>SB 6282</u></a> (HB 2492)	Requiring state registered apprenticeships in the building and construction trades to provide behavioral health and wellness training.		
<a href="#"><u>SB 6292</u></a>	<b>Health care financing</b> Establishing a joint legislative executive committee on health care financing.	S Health & Long-	Cleveland
<a href="#"><u>SB 6293</u></a> (HB 2405)	<b>PTSD treatment and research</b> Establishing a pilot program for posttraumatic stress disorder treatment and research.	S Labor & Comm	Conway
<a href="#"><u>SB 6294</u></a> (HB 2442)	<b>Local government fund use</b> Providing local governments tax resources and fund flexibility.	S Ways & Means	Frame
<a href="#"><u>SB 6296</u></a>	<b>Involuntary treatment</b> Concerning involuntary treatment.	S Law & Justice	Salomon
<a href="#"><u>SB 6297</u></a>	<b>Behavioral health staffing</b> Making temporary staffing services provided to nonprofit behavioral health entities exempt from retail sales tax.	S Ways & Means	Muzzall
<a href="#"><u>SB 6305</u></a> (HB 2658)	<b>Mental health coverage</b> Concerning the truth in mental health coverage act.	S Health & Long-	Riccelli