

# WAADAC Legislative Report

## February 12, 2026

### Melissa Johnson, Consultant

---

Legislators worked last weekend, as fiscal committees heard testimony and voted on bills ahead of the Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> fiscal committee cutoff. That deadline marked a critical point in session, further narrowing the universe of proposals that will move forward this year. With that milestone now behind them, the House and Senate have pivoted to the next phase: extended caucus meetings, lengthy floor sessions, and strategic negotiations as lawmakers work toward the February 17<sup>th</sup> deadline for bills to pass out of their house of origin.

Before bills reach the floor, however, they must clear a pivotal and often decisive hurdle, the Rules Committees. Rules serves as a gatekeeper, deciding which proposals are positioned for debate and which may quietly stall without ever receiving a vote. While the fundamental role of the Rules Committees is similar in both chambers, the mechanics differ. In the House, Rules meetings are not publicly announced, and deliberations occur behind closed doors. In contrast, the Senate's Rules process is open to public observation, offering greater transparency into how decisions are made about floor scheduling.

A key factor in whether and when a bill is pulled to the floor is the anticipated level of controversy and the amount of debate time it will require. During the early days of floor action, leadership in both chambers typically prioritize measures that are broadly supported or relatively straightforward, allowing them to move efficiently through the process. More contentious or complex bills, particularly those expected to generate lengthy debate or many amendments, are often held until later in the floor calendar, frequently surfacing during extended evening sessions as deadlines draw near.

Following a record-breaking public hearing last Friday, the Senate Ways & Means Committee advanced the Millionaire's Tax, SB 6346, last Monday. The public hearing drew unprecedented engagement, with nearly 81,000 individuals signing in and more than 200 people testifying. On Monday, the committee amended the bill in several ways: increase the amount for public defense services; increased the charitable deduction from \$50,000 to \$100,000; and increased the small business B&O tax credit to exempt the first \$300,000 of business income with a complete phaseout at \$600,000, among other provisions.

Democrats will likely schedule floor action on the Millionaire's Tax on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. It will undoubtedly accrue many floor amendments and debate will be robust as Senate Republicans attempt to kill or slow down the bill.

Also on Monday, the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council will convene to adopt the official revenue forecast. Budget writers in both chambers rely on this forecast as they refine spending plans to account for economic trends and ensure proposed spending aligns with projected revenues. The Senate is expected to release its operating budget on February 20<sup>th</sup>, with the House budget release later that weekend. Hearings will likely happen early the week of February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The transportation and capital budgets typically following shortly thereafter.

One casualty of the fiscal committee cutoff is [SB 6296](#), the ITA bill. It didn't pass the Ways & Means Committee and won't be considered further this session.

## Upcoming Events

### Civil Rights & Judiciary (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/18 @ 8:00am

- [ESSB 5993](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning lowering the interest rate for medical debt. (Remote Testimony Available).

### Important Dates

February 17 – Floor Cutoff

February 25 – Policy Committee Cutoff (Opposite House)

March 2 – Fiscal Committee Cutoff (Opposite House)

March 6 – Floor Cutoff (Opposite House)

March 12 – Sine Die

---

## High Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#">HB 2038</a> (SB 5799)	<b>Youth behavioral health acc.</b> 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 2340</a>	<b>Nursing assistants/SUD prg.</b> Applying substance use disorder monitoring program provisions to nursing assistants.	S Health & Long-T Simmons	
<a href="#">2SHB 2429</a> (SB 6224)	<b>Youth behavioral health</b> Supporting children and youth behavioral health.	H Rules R Callan	

---

## Monitoring Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#">ESHB 1155</a> (SSB 5437)	<b>Noncompetition agreements</b> Prohibiting noncompetition agreements and clarifying nonsolicitation agreements.	S Labor & Comm Berry	
<a href="#">SHB 1496</a>	<b>Health care information</b> Strengthening patients' rights regarding their health care information.	H Rules R Berry	

Detail Report

February 12, 2026

Page 2 of 5

(SSB  
5254)

---

<a href="#"><u>HB 1895</u></a>	<b>Educational assist./B&amp;O tax</b>	H Finance	Richards
	Establishing a business and occupation tax credit for small business employers providing educational assistance to employees.		
<hr/>			
<a href="#"><u>HB 2097</u></a>	<b>County B&amp;O tax</b>	H Finance	Scott
	Authorizing counties to impose a business and occupation tax.		
<hr/>			
<a href="#"><u>HB 2100</u></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.		
<hr/>			
<a href="#"><u>SHB 2168</u></a> (SSB 5933)	<b>Overdose mapping information</b>	H Rules R	Manjarrez
	Facilitating the rapid sharing of overdose mapping information for overdose prevention.		
<hr/>			
<a href="#"><u>HB 2208</u></a>	<b>Health continuing ed./tax</b>	H Finance	McClintock
	Exempting health care continuing education classes from retail sales and use tax.		
<hr/>			
<a href="#"><u>SHB 2283</u></a> (SB 5953)	<b>Medical loss ratio</b>	H 2nd Reading	Rule
	Establishing a medical loss ratio of at least 90 percent for health plans.		
<hr/>			
<a href="#"><u>HB 2289</u></a> (SB 5998)	<b>Operating budget, supp.</b>	H Approps	Ormsby
	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.		
<hr/>			
<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.		
<hr/>			
<a href="#"><u>SHB 2405</u></a> (SB 6293)	<b>PTSD treatment and research</b>	H Rules R	Schmidt
	Establishing a pilot program for posttraumatic stress disorder treatment and research.		
<hr/>			
<a href="#"><u>SHB 2442</u></a> (SB 6294)	<b>Local government fund use</b>	H Rules R	Berg
	Providing local governments tax resources and fund flexibility.		

<a href="#"><u>SHB 2492</u></a> (SSB 6282)	<b>Apprenticeships/wellness</b> Requiring state registered apprenticeships in the building and construction trades to provide behavioral health and wellness training.	S Labor & Comm	Nance
<a href="#"><u>SHB 2548</u></a> (SB 6208)	<b>Health care market standards</b> Strengthening health care market standards.	H Rules R	Taylor
<a href="#"><u>HB 2724</u></a> (SSB 6346)	<b>Tax on millionaires</b> Establishing a tax on millionaires.	H Finance	Fitzgibbon
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5437</u></a> (ESHB 1155)	<b>Noncompetition agreements</b> Prohibiting noncompetition agreements and clarifying nonsolicitation agreements.	S Rules 2	Stanford
<a href="#"><u>ESSB 5845</u></a>	<b>Health carrier payments</b> Modernizing and clarifying timely payment requirements for health carriers.	S Passed 3rd	Slatter
<a href="#"><u>SSB 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 2nd Reading	Hansen
<a href="#"><u>2SSB 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 Reading	Krishnadasan
<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 2nd Reading	Robinson
<a href="#"><u>ESSB 5993</u></a>	<b>Medical debt interest</b> Concerning lowering the interest rate for medical debt.	H Civil R & Judi	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
	<b>Insurance crimes</b>	S 2nd Reading	Lovick

[SSB](#)  
[6031](#)  
(HB  
2394)

Enhancing public safety and enforcement of crimes that impact insurance.

---

[SSB](#)  
[6071](#)  
(HB  
2546)

**Health carrier overpayments**

S 2nd Reading

Cleveland

Modernizing overpayment recovery requirements.

---

[SB 6161](#)  
(HB  
2674)

**Dementia information**

S Passed 3rd

Slatter

Concerning department of health information on dementia.

---

[SB 6173](#)

**Apple health employer assess**

S Ways & Means

Alvarado

Creating an apple health employer assessment.

---

[SSB](#)  
[6282](#)  
(SHB  
2492)

**Apprenticeships/wellness**

S 2nd Reading

Nobles

Requiring state registered apprenticeships in the building and construction trades to provide behavioral health and wellness training.

---

[SSB](#)  
[6346](#)  
(HB  
2724)

**Tax on millionaires**

S Rules 2

Pedersen

Establishing a tax on millionaires.

---