WAADAC Legislative Report
February 22, 2025
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The 2025 legislative session is now one third of the way over. Friday, February 21st was the cutoff for bills to be voted out of policy committees in the House of Origin. Fewer than 20% of bills introduced become law and this was the first hurdle that bills must jump to stay alive. It is a very quick turnaround until the next cutoff on Friday, February 28th, where bills with a fiscal impact to the state budgets must be voted out of the fiscal committees (Finance, Appropriations, Transportation, and Ways & Means).

Between now and then, legislators will spend long days and nights in those committees hearing and voting on bills. Of course, there's a great deal of gray area there, as bills that are deemed by majority leadership to be "necessary to implement the budget" or "NTIB," are exempt from these cutoffs. This designation is used to prevent majority party legislation from dying, allowing action until the gavel drops on Sine Die. Bills with minimal or no fiscal impact advance directly to the Rules Committee for further consideration.

In budget news, the House Democrats have released a website showing what they suggest a no-revenue budget looks like. This week, we should see the results of Governor Ferguson's budget reduction exercise.

WAADAC Bills of Interest

On Thursday, the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee heard SB 5683. This bill requires health carriers to report **timeliness of claims payments** to providers to the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC), to be published on the OIC website. It passed the committee on Friday and has been referred to the Ways & Means Committee.

HB 1155, the bill that **prohibits non-compete agreements**, is the vehicle moving forward. It is in the Rules Committee. The companion bill, SB 5437, died in the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee.

SB 5361, the bill to **delay the use of the ASAM 4 criteria**, treatment criteria for addictive, substance related, and co-occurring conditions, passed the Ways & Means Committee and is now in the Rules Committee.

On Tuesday, the House Health Care & Wellness Committee passed HB 1813, concerning the **reprocurement of medical assistance services**, including the realignment of behavioral health crisis services for Medicaid enrollees. It has been scheduled for a hearing in the Appropriations Committee on Wednesday.

HB 1392 and SB 5372 create the Medicaid Access Program to **increase Medicaid reimbursement rates** to the Medicare rate as of December 31, 2024. The House version is the vehicle moving forward. It's scheduled for a vote in the Appropriations Committee on Thursday.

SB 5229 increases options for proving a person is gravely disabled by a behavioral health disorder for the purposes of **involuntary commitment** by allowing proof that within the past two weeks the person has required revival by opioid overdose reversal medication to prevent a fatality or probable fatality. It is currently in the Senate Ways & Means Committee. Still no hearing scheduled yet.

HB 1574 expands **protections for a person seeking medical assistance for someone experiencing a drug-related overdose** or who experiences a drug-related overdose and needs medical assistance. This bill is now in the Rules Committee.

On Friday, the House Health Care & Wellness Committee passed HB 1686, the bill creating a **health care entity registry**. It was amended in committee to only apply to corporations or organizations that own or control more than one entity, removing most small independent practices from the bill. It has been referred to the Appropriations Committee. The Senate version, SB 5561, died in committee.

SB 5254, the **medical records** bill from the Washington State Association for Justice (trial lawyers), passed the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee on Friday. This bill was amended in committee to cap electronic medical records charges at $50 and directs the Department of Health to conduct rule-making on charges for paper records. It is now in the Ways & Means Committee.

SB 5387, the **corporate practice of medicine** bill, passed the Senate Health Care & Wellness Committee on Friday. It was amended to expand the scope of the bill to all health care entities, not just physician practices. It is now in the Ways & Means Committee.

SB 5290 permits individuals charged with possession of drugs to seek a **dismissal of the charge** by successfully completing court approved treatment. It was voted out of committee on Thursday and is now in the Rules Committee.

Upcoming Events

**Note that the following does not reflect the entire list of bills that will be considered next week. The committee agendas will change considerably over the next week, with many bills being added to the hearing and executive session agendas.*

Finance (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/24 @ 8:00am

• HB 1996 - Public Hearing - Authorizing a qualified county to impose a tax for the funding of behavioral health diversion from the criminal justice system. (Remote Testimony Available).

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/24 @ 1:30pm

• SHB 1422 - Public Hearing - Modifying the drug take-back program. (Remote Testimony Available).

• SHB 1427 - Public Hearing - Concerning certified peer support specialists. (Remote Testimony Available).

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/26 @ 1:30pm

• SHB 1813 - Public Hearing - Concerning the reprocurement of medical assistance services, including the realignment of behavioral health crisis services for medicaid enrollees. (Remote Testimony Available).

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/27 @ 9:00am

• HB 1392 - Exec Session - Creating the medicaid access program.

High Priority Bills

Bill Details		Status	Sponsor	Position
SSB 5229	**Opioid overdose/civil commit** Facilitating civil commitment for treatment for a person requiring revival by opioid overdose reversal medication.	S Ways & Means	Wagoner	

SB 5361 **(HB 1469)**	**ASAM 4 treatment criteria**	S Rules 2	Dhingra
	Delaying the use of the ASAM 4 criteria, treatment criteria for addictive, substance related, and co-occurring conditions.		

Monitoring Bills

Bill Details		Status	Sponsor	Position
SHB 1123 **(SSB 5083)**	**Health carrier reimbursement**	H Rules R	Macri	
	Ensuring access to primary care, behavioral health, and affordable hospital services.			
SHB 1155 **(SB 5437)**	**Noncompetition agreements**	H Rules R	Berry	
	Prohibiting noncompetition agreements and clarifying nonsolicitation agreements.			
HB 1198 **(SB 5167)**	**Operating budget**	H Approps	Ormsby	
	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.			
HB 1225	**Budgeting process**	H Approps	Couture	
	Reforming the Washington state budgeting process through requiring prioritized spending on essential state functions, placing limitations on state spending and revenue proposals, and requiring accountability for every dollar spent within the state budget.			
HB 1234 **(SB 5449)**	**Counselors, etc. committee**	S Health & Long-T	Simmons	
	Concerning the mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers advisory committee.			
HB 1262 **(SB 5228)**	**Health disparities council**	H 2nd Reading	Santos	
	Updating the governor's interagency coordinating council on health disparities.			
SHB 1296	**Public education system**	H Rules R	Stonier	
	Promoting a safe and supportive public education system.			
SHB 1308 **(SB 5345)**	**Access to personnel records**	H Rules R	Reed	
	Concerning access to personnel records.			
HB 1320	**Business & occupation tax**	H Finance	Street	
	Modifying business and occupation tax rates to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians.			
HB 1382	**All payers claim database**	H Rules R	Tharinger	
	Modernizing the all payers claim database.			
HB 1392 **(SB 5372)**	**Medicaid access program**	H Approps	Macri	
	Creating the medicaid access program.			
SHB 1422	**Drug take-back program**	H Approps	Peterson	
	Modifying the drug take-back program.			

SHB 1427	**Peer support specialists** Concerning certified peer support specialists.	H Approps	Davis
SHB 1432 **(SB 5477)**	**Mental health services** Improving access to appropriate mental health and substance use disorder services.	H Approps	Simmons
SHB 1566 **(SSB 5395)**	**Prior authorization/health** Making improvements to transparency and accountability in the prior authorization determination process.	H Approps	Rule
HB 1574	**Substance use/care, services** Protecting access to life-saving care and substance use services.	H Rules R	Macri
HB 1581	**988 line tax** Increasing the statewide 988 behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention line tax.	H Finance	Macri
SHB 1589 **(SB 5588)**	**Health carriers & providers** Concerning the relationships between health carriers and contracting providers.	H Approps	Bronoske
SHB 1634	**Behavioral health/schools** Providing school districts and public schools with assistance to coordinate comprehensive behavioral health supports for students.	H Approps	Thai
SHB 1686 **(SB 5561)**	**Health care entity registry** Creating a health care entity registry.	H Approps	Bronoske
SHB 1718	**Health care prof. well-being** Concerning well-being programs for certain health care professionals.	H Rules R	Thai
SHB 1811	**Crisis co-response** Enhancing crisis response services through co-response integration and support.	H Rules R	Salahuddin
SHB 1813	**Medical assist reprocurement** Concerning the reprocurement of medical assistance services, including the realignment of behavioral health crisis services for medicaid enrollees.	H Approps	Macri
HB 1996	**Behavioral health diversion** Authorizing a qualified county to impose a tax for the funding of behavioral health diversion from the criminal justice system.	H Finance	Farivar
SSB 5031	**Confinement health coord.** Concerning health care coordination regarding confined individuals.	S Ways & Means	Wilson
SSB 5083 **(SHB 1123)**	**Health carrier reimbursement** Ensuring access to primary care, behavioral health, and affordable hospital services.	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SSB 5112 **(HB 1124)**	**Prescribing psychologists** Establishing a prescribing psychologist certification in Washington state.	S Rules 2	Bateman

SB 5167 **(HB 1198)**	**Operating budget** Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SSB 5254 **(HB 1496)**	**Health care information** Strengthening patients' rights regarding their health care information.	S Ways & Means	Orwall
SSB 5290	**Controlled subs. dismissal** Allowing persons who complete substance abuse programs to seek dismissal of certain controlled substance related charges.	S Rules 2	Salomon
SSB 5324 **(SHB 1706)**	**Prior auth. APIs/health** Aligning the implementation of application programming interfaces for prior authorization with federal guidelines.	S Rules 2	Cleveland
SSB 5331 **(HB 1199)**	**Insurance code violations** Strengthening consumer protection through increased insurer accountability for violations of the insurance code.	S Rules 2	Cortes
SSB 5369 **(HB 1663)**	**Youth mental health/schools** Enhancing youth mental health and well-being through advanced training and expansion of the workforce in schools.	S Ways & Means	Orwall
SSB 5387 **(HB 1675)**	**Corp practice of health care** Concerning the corporate practice of health care.	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SB 5388	**DOC behavioral health cert.** Concerning department of corrections behavioral health certification.	S Ways & Means	Dhingra
SSB 5395 **(SHB 1566)**	**Prior authorization/health** Making improvements to transparency and accountability in the prior authorization determination process.	S Ways & Means	Orwall
SB 5561 **(SHB 1686)**	**Health care entity registry** Creating a health care entity registry.	S Health & Long-	Cleveland
SSB 5568	**State health plan** Updating and modernizing the Washington state health plan.	S 2nd Reading	Cleveland
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 5762	**988 line tax** Increasing the statewide 988 behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention line tax.	S Ways & Means	Orwall

Dead Bills

Bill Details	Status	Sponsor	Position

HB 1124 **(SSB 5112)**	**Prescribing psychologists** Establishing a prescribing psychologist certification in Washington state.	H HC/Wellness	Simmons	
HB 1199 **(SSB 5331)**	**Insurance code violations** Strengthening consumer protection through increased insurer accountability for violations of the insurance code.	H ConsPro&Bus	Taylor	
HB 1259	**Behavioral health/schools** Concerning supervision requirements for behavioral health professionals in elementary and secondary public schools.	H Postsec Ed & W	Shavers	Support
HB 1413	**Opioid reversal purchasing** Prohibiting government purchases of opioid overdose reversal medications from certain entities.	H HC/Wellness	Reeves	
HB 1425	**Pharmacogenomic testing** Requiring coverage of pharmacogenomic testing for psychotropic medications.	H HC/Wellness	Davis	
HB 1433 **(SB 5201)**	**Psychedelic substances** Concerning access to psychedelic substances.	H HC/Wellness	Macri	
HB 1445 **(SB 5233)**	**Washington health trust** Developing the Washington health trust.	H HC/Wellness	Parshley	
HB 1451	**SVP civil commitment** Concerning civil commitment of sexually violent predators.	H Community Safe	Griffey	
HB 1469 **(SB 5361)**	**ASAM 4 treatment criteria** Delaying the use of the ASAM 4 criteria, treatment criteria for addictive, substance related, and co-occurring conditions.	H HC/Wellness	Macri	
HB 1496 **(SSB 5254)**	**Health care information** Strengthening patients' rights regarding their health care information.	H HC/Wellness	Berry	
HB 1502	**Behavioral health teaching** Establishing a behavioral health teaching clinic designation and enhancement rate.	H HC/Wellness	Rule	
HB 1507	**Health care nondisclosure** Limiting health care nondisclosure agreements.	H Civil R & Judi	Scott	
HB 1520 **(SB 5513)**	**Pharmacist scope of practice** Expanding pharmacists' scope of practice to improve access to health care and the management of chronic diseases.	H HC/Wellness	Thai	
HB 1547 **(SB 5126)**	**Student mental health net.** Establishing a statewide network for student mental and behavioral health.	H Education	Santos	
HB 1663 **(SSB 5369)**	**Youth mental health/schools**	H Education	Rule	

	Enhancing youth mental health and well-being through advanced training and expansion of the workforce in schools.		
HB 1675 **(SSB 5387)**	**Corp. practice of medicine** Concerning the corporate practice of medicine.	H HC/Wellness	Thai
HB 1787	**Substance use/commitment** Updating the involuntary treatment commitment standards for individuals suffering from a substance use disorder.	H Civil R & Judi	Griffey
HB 1809	**Behavioral health response** Professionalizing first responders and co-responders through training and reimbursement for behavioral health emergency response.	H HC/Wellness	Nance
HB 1933	**Overdose information** Providing universal access to overdose information to law enforcement and emergency services providers.	H HC/Wellness	Manjarrez
HB 1957	**Health plan rate approval** Providing consistency in the rate approval process for individual and small group market health plans.	H HC/Wellness	Schmick
HB 1968	**Controlled sub. endangerment** Concerning endangerment with a controlled substance.	H Community Safe	Rule
HB 2001	**Sunsetting state entities** Sunsetting all nonconstitutionally mandated state agencies, commissions, boards, task forces, work groups, and councils every 10 years absent affirmative reestablishment by the legislature.	H State Govt & Tr	Dufault
SB 5126 **(HB 1547)**	**Student mental health net.** Establishing a statewide network for student mental and behavioral health.	S EL/K-12	Nobles
SB 5201 **(HB 1433)**	**Psychedelic substances** Concerning access to psychedelic substances.	S Labor & Comm	Salomon
SB 5204	**Ibogaine-assisted therapy** Concerning ibogaine-assisted therapy.	S Health & Long-	Salomon
SB 5213	**Fentanyl possession** Penalizing the possession of fentanyl.	S Law & Justice	McCune
SB 5228 **(HB 1262)**	**Health disparities council** Updating the governor's interagency coordinating council on health disparities.	S Health & Long-	Riccelli
SB 5233 **(HB 1445)**	**Washington health trust** Developing the Washington health trust.	S Health & Long-	Hasegawa
SB 5242	**Behavioral health resources** Establishing an interactive screening program to improve access to behavioral health resources for health care providers.	S Health & Long-	Orwall

SB 5345 **(SHB 1308)**	**Access to personnel records** Concerning access to personnel records.	S Labor & Comm	Saldana
SB 5372 **(HB 1392)**	**Medicaid access program** Creating the medicaid access program.	S Health & Long-	Riccelli
SB 5424	**UW health sciences campus** Establishing a health sciences campus of the University of Washington.	S Higher Ed & Wo	Braun
SB 5437 **(SHB 1155)**	**Noncompetition agreements** Prohibiting noncompetition agreements and clarifying nonsolicitation agreements.	S Labor & Comm	Stanford
SB 5449 **(HB 1234)**	**Counselors, etc. committee** Concerning the mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers advisory committee.	S Health & Long-	Slatter
SB 5452	**Psychiatric pharmacists** Allowing board-certified psychiatric pharmacists to be licensed as agency-affiliated counselors.	S Health & Long-	Slatter
SB 5477 **(SHB 1432)**	**Mental health services** Improving access to appropriate mental health and substance use disorder services.	S Health & Long-T	Bateman
SB 5481	**Behavioral health/schools** Providing access to behavioral health services to children using licensed clinicians colocated within the school.	S Health & Long-T	Wilson
SB 5513 **(HB 1520)**	**Pharmacist scope of practice** Expanding pharmacists' scope of practice to improve access to health care and the management of chronic diseases.	S Health & Long-	Slatter
SB 5588 **(SHB 1589)**	**Health carriers & providers** Concerning the relationships between health carriers and contracting providers.	S Health & Long-T	Cleveland
SB 5666	**Mental health internships** Establishing a public school-based mental health internship grant program.	S Higher Ed & Wo	Slatter
SB 5765	**Psychiatric pharmacists** Concerning psychiatric pharmacists.	S Health & Long-	Slatter