WAADAC Legislative Report
April 5, 2025
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As the iconic campus cherry blossoms bloom and the deadline for bills to be voted out of fiscal committees approaches on Tuesday, April 8, the Washington State Legislature is entering the final stretch of the 2025 regular session. This marks a crucial phase in the legislative process, where lawmakers race against time to advance their proposals before critical cutoff dates.

Following the April 8 deadline, legislators will shift their focus to intense floor debates and caucus discussions, working long hours to negotiate and pass bills before the opposite house floor cutoff on Wednesday, April 16. As the session winds down, the stakes are high, with advocates, stakeholders, and policymakers pulling out the stops and closely watching the fate of key measures that may either advance or pause until the next session.

Revenue Bills in Fiscal Committees…This week, the Senate Ways & Means Committee and the House Finance Committee held hearings on a series of revenue bills introduced by the majority Democrats. These proposals sparked an extraordinary level of public interest, drawing a record-breaking number of sign-ins from individuals and organizations eager to voice their opinions. The overwhelming engagement underscored the heightened work of business and advocacy groups on both sides of tax policy this year.

In the Ways & Means Committee, SB 5798, a bill addressing property taxes, attracted an astonishing 45,174 sign-ins—an unprecedented level of participation in state history. In comparison, SB 5797, which deals with the taxation of intangible assets, saw 14,079 sign-ins, while SB 5796, concerning payroll expense taxes, received 13,463 sign-ins. The sheer volume of responses made even these remarkable figures appear modest. By way of context, it is absolutely within the realm of normal to have a mere dozen or fewer sign-ins on a lower-profile bill.

Governor Bob Ferguson's Stance on Budgets…At a press conference on Tuesday, Governor Bob Ferguson outlined five key conditions that any budget must meet for him to sign it. Rejecting the budgets proposed by majority legislative Democrats, he stressed the following requirements:

- The Rainy Day Fund (Budget Stabilization Account) must remain untouched. While the Senate's proposal draws from these reserves, the House's version does not.
- The budget must be based on realistic revenue projections, rather than the legally permitted 4.5% projection. Ferguson supports the Senate's approach in this regard.
- New spending should be minimal due to current fiscal constraints. "This is not the time for major investments in any program, no matter how worthwhile," he cautioned.
- The budget must include significant savings and efficiencies—amounting to billions—while preserving essential services like K-12 education and public safety.
- It cannot rely on revenue sources that may face legal challenges and risk being overturned in court.

Ferguson's firm stance will be a challenge for lawmakers as they work behind closed doors toward a final budget agreement by Sine Die.

Opposite House Policy Committee Cutoff…Last Wednesday marked the deadline for bills to advance out of policy committees in the opposite chamber. Any legislation that failed to meet this deadline is unlikely to move forward in the legislative process this session, pending extraordinary efforts by legislators to resurrect. While nearly anything is technically possible until the gavel drops on Sine Die, this milestone is a crucial step in the legislative timeline, as it determines which bills continue to be debated on the floor or in fiscal committees next week before potentially becoming law.

WAADAC Bills of Interest

HB 1427 expands access to and training for **peer support specialists**. It was heard in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on Friday. It's scheduled for executive session on Tuesday.

HB 1432 updates Washington's **mental health parity** law. It was heard in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on Friday. It's scheduled for executive session on Tuesday.

HB 1574 expands **protections for a person seeking medical assistance for someone experiencing a drug-related overdose** or who is experiencing a drug-related overdose and needs medical assistance. It was voted out of the Senate Law & Justice Committee on Tuesday and is now in the Senate Rules Committee. The Law & Justice Committee amended the bill as follows:

- Limits the exception to civil asset forfeiture to applying to items related to possession charges.
- Removes the exception to penalties related to violations of restraining orders, no contact orders, or protection orders.
- Limits the exception to penalties related to probation or supervision to applying to probation or supervision related to possession charges.
- Exempts public health and syringe service program clients from arrest and prosecution for taking samples of substances and using drug testing equipment to analyze or detect substances.

HB 1686, the bill creating a **health care entity registry,** was heard in the Ways & Means Committee on Thursday. It's scheduled for executive session on Monday.

HB 1813, concerning the **reprocurement of medical assistance services**, was heard in the Ways & Means Committee on Friday. It's scheduled for executive session on Monday.

SB 5361, the bill to **delay the use of the ASAM 4 criteria**, treatment criteria for addictive, substance related, was heard in the Appropriations Committee on Friday. It's scheduled for executive session on Tuesday.

Upcoming Events

Finance (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 4/7 @ 10:00am

• HB 2038 - Public Hearing - 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. (Remote Testimony Available).

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 4/7 @ 1:30pm

• SSB 5388 - Exec Session - Concerning department of corrections behavioral health certification.

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 4/7 @ 1:30pm

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

• E2SHB 1686 - Exec Session - Creating a health care entity registry.

• SHB 1811 - Exec Session - Enhancing crisis response services through co-response integration and support.

• ESHB 1296 - Exec Session - Promoting a safe and supportive public education system.

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 4/8 @ 1:30pm

• SB 5361 - Exec Session - Delaying the use of the ASAM 4 criteria, treatment criteria for addictive, substance related, and co-occurring conditions. (High)

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 4/8 @ 1:30pm

• E2SHB 1432 - Exec Session - Improving access to appropriate mental health and substance use disorder services. (High)

• 2SHB 1427 - Exec Session - Concerning certified peer support specialists. (High)

• E2SHB 1813 - Exec Session - Concerning the reprocurement of medical assistance services, including the realignment of behavioral health crisis services for medicaid enrollees.

Important Dates:
Tuesday, April 8 - Fiscal Committee Cutoff, Opposite House
Wednesday, April 16 - Opposite House Floor Cutoff
Sunday, April 27 - Sine Die

High Priority Bills

Bill Details		Status	Sponsor	Position
2SHB 1427	**Peer support specialists** Concerning certified peer support specialists.	S Ways & Means	Davis	

E2SHB 1432 (SB 5477)	**Mental health services** Improving access to appropriate mental health and substance use disorder services.	S Ways & Means	Simmons
SB 5361 (HB 1469)	**ASAM 4 treatment criteria** Delaying the use of the ASAM 4 criteria, treatment criteria for addictive, substance related, and co-occurring conditions.	H Approps	Dhingra

Monitoring Bills

Bill Details		Status	Sponsor	Position
SHB 1198 (ESSB 5167)	**Operating budget** Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations and 2023-2025 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.	H Rules R	Ormsby	
HB 1234 (SB 5449)	**Counselors, etc. committee** Concerning the mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers advisory committee.	Del to Gov	Simmons	
ESHB 1296	**Public education system** Promoting a safe and supportive public education system.	S Ways & Means	Stonier	
SHB 1308 (SB 5345)	**Access to personnel records** Concerning access to personnel records.	S 2nd Reading	Reed	
HB 1320	**Business & occupation tax** Modifying business and occupation tax rates to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians.	H Finance	Street	
EHB 1382	**All payers claim database** Modernizing the all payers claim database.	S Rules 2	Tharinger	
SHB 1392 (SB 5372)	**Medicaid access program** Creating the medicaid access program.	S Ways & Means	Macri	
EHB 1574	**Substance use/care, services** Protecting access to life-saving care and substance use services.	S Rules 2	Macri	
E2SHB 1686 (SB 5561)	**Health care entity registry** Creating a health care entity registry.	S Ways & Means	Bronoske	
ESHB 1718	**Health care prof. well-being** Concerning well-being programs for certain health care professionals.	S 2nd Reading	Thai	
SHB 1811	**Crisis co-response** Enhancing crisis response services through co-response integration and support.	S Ways & Means	Salahuddin	

E2SHB 1813	**Medical assist reprocurement** Concerning the reprocurement of medical assistance services, including the realignment of behavioral health crisis services for medicaid enrollees.	S Ways & Means	Macri
HB 2038 (SB 5799)	**Youth behavioral health acc.** 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
HB 2045	**Business and occupation tax** Investing in Washington families by restructuring the business and occupation tax on high grossing businesses and financial institutions.	H Finance	Fitzgibbon
HB 2046	**Intangible assets tax** Creating fairness in Washington's tax by imposing a tax on select financial intangible assets.	H Finance	Berg
HB 2049	**K-12 education funding** Investing in the state's paramount duty to fund K-12 education and build strong and safe communities.	H Finance	Bergquist
E2SSB 5083 (SHB 1123)	**Health carrier reimbursement** Ensuring access to primary care, behavioral health, and affordable hospital services.	H Rules R	Robinson
ESSB 5167 (SHB 1198)	**Operating budget** Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations and 2023-2025 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.	S Conf appt	Robinson
SSB 5388	**DOC behavioral health cert.** Concerning department of corrections behavioral health certification.	H Approps	Dhingra
SSB 5568	**State health plan** Updating and modernizing the Washington state health plan.	H Approps	Cleveland
SB 5794	**Tax preferences** Adopting recommendations from the tax preference performance review process, eliminating obsolete tax preferences, clarifying legislative intent, and addressing changes in constitutional law.	S Ways & Means	Salomon
SB 5795	**Sales and use tax rate** Reducing the state sales and use tax rate.	S Ways & Means	Krishnadasan
SB 5796	**Payroll expense tax** Enacting an excise tax on large employers on the amount of payroll expenses above the social security wage threshold to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians.	S Ways & Means	Saldana
SB 5797	**Intangible assets tax** Enacting a tax on stocks, bonds, and other financial intangible assets for the benefit of public schools.	S Ways & Means	Frame
SB 5798	**Property tax** Concerning property tax reform.	S Ways & Means	Pedersen

SB 5799 (HB 2038)	**Youth behavioral health acc.**	S Ways & Means	Wilson
	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.		

Dead Bills

Bill Details		Status	Sponsor	Position
SHB 1123 (E2SSB 5083)	**Health carrier reimbursement**	H Rules R	Macri	
	Ensuring access to primary care, behavioral health, and affordable hospital services.			
HB 1124 (SSB 5112)	**Prescribing psychologists**	H HC/Wellness	Simmons	
	Establishing a prescribing psychologist certification in Washington state.			
SHB 1155 (SB 5437)	**Noncompetition agreements**	H Rules C	Berry	
	Prohibiting noncompetition agreements and clarifying nonsolicitation agreements.			
HB 1199 (SSB 5331)	**Insurance code violations**	H ConsPro&Bus	Taylor	
	Strengthening consumer protection through increased insurer accountability for violations of the insurance code.			
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 1259	**Behavioral health/schools**	H Postsec Ed & W	Shavers	Support
	Concerning supervision requirements for behavioral health professionals in elementary and secondary public schools.			
HB 1262 (SB 5228)	**Health disparities council**	H Rules C	Santos	
	Updating the governor's interagency coordinating council on health disparities.			
HB 1413	**Opioid reversal purchasing**	H HC/Wellness	Reeves	
	Prohibiting government purchases of opioid overdose reversal medications from certain entities.			
2SHB 1422	**Drug take-back program**	H 2nd Reading	Peterson	
	Modifying the drug take-back program.			
HB 1425	**Pharmacogenomic testing**	H HC/Wellness	Davis	
	Requiring coverage of pharmacogenomic testing for psychotropic medications.			
HB 1433 (SB 5201)	**Psychedelic substances**	H HC/Wellness	Macri	
	Concerning access to psychedelic substances.			
HB 1445 (SB 5233)	**Washington health trust**	H HC/Wellness	Parshley	
	Developing the Washington health trust.			

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
SHB 1566 (SSB 5395)	**Prior authorization/health** Making improvements to transparency and accountability in the prior authorization determination process.	H Approps	Rule
HB 1581	**988 line tax** Increasing the statewide 988 behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention line tax.	H Finance	Macri
E2SHB 1589 (SB 5588)	**Health carriers & providers** Concerning the relationships between health carriers and contracting providers.	S Health & Long-T	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
HB 1663 (SSB 5369)	**Youth mental health/schools** Enhancing youth mental health and well-being through advanced training and expansion of the workforce in schools.	H Education	Rule
HB 1675 (2SSB 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
SHB 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 Rules R	Farivar
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
SSB 5031	**Confinement health coord.** Concerning health care coordination regarding confined individuals.	S Ways & Means	Wilson
SSB 5112 **(HB 1124)**	**Prescribing psychologists** Establishing a prescribing psychologist certification in Washington state.	S Rules X	Bateman
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
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 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
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 X	Salomon
SSB 5324 (SHB 1706)	**Prior auth. APIs/health** Aligning the implementation of application programming interfaces for prior authorization with federal guidelines.	S Rules X	Cleveland
SSB 5331 (HB 1199)	**Insurance code violations** Strengthening consumer protection through increased insurer accountability for violations of the insurance code.	H ConsPro&Bus	Cortes
SB 5345 (SHB 1308)	**Access to personnel records** Concerning access to personnel records.	S Labor & Comm	Saldana
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
SB 5372 (SHB 1392)	**Medicaid access program** Creating the medicaid access program.	S Health & Long-	Riccelli
2SSB 5387 (HB 1675)	**Corp practice of health care** Concerning the corporate practice of health care.	S Rules X	Robinson
SSB 5395 (SHB 1566)	**Prior authorization/health** Making improvements to transparency and accountability in the prior authorization determination process.	S Ways & Means	Orwall
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 (E2SHB 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 5561 (E2SHB 1686)	**Health care entity registry** Creating a health care entity registry.	S Health & Long-	Cleveland
SB 5588 (E2SHB 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
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
SB 5765	**Psychiatric pharmacists** Concerning psychiatric pharmacists.	S Health & Long-	Slatter