

Capitol News

March 10, 2019

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Good news on **SB 5887**, our bill clarifying that patients are allowed up to **six visits before a health care benefit manager can impose prior authorization!** It passed the Senate on March 6th with a strong 45-2-2 vote. It now goes to the House Health Care Committee for consideration.

Also good news on **HB 2012, the national certification bonus bill for educational staff associates (ESAs)**. You'll recall that HB 2012 did not receive a hearing in the House Education Committee before the policy committee cutoff. But the House leadership pulled the bill from that committee to the floor (they can do that because HB 2012 is considered "necessary to implement the budget" or NTIB). This means that it is eligible for a vote by the House this week. One important note, however, is that **it will be amended to require a study of the national certification bonus issue only**. The bill will not retain the language that provides the bonus to ESAs. Information and data from this study will help us push this issue next session. Thanks to WEA for helping keep this bill alive!

SB 5485, music therapy, passed the Senate on March 6th with a vote of 30-15-4. However, there are indications that key leaders in the House are not supportive of this bill.

It was a long week last week, with both the House and Senate working days and evenings to vote bills out of their respective chambers. The next cutoff is the **"house of origin" cutoff on March 13th** (House bills out of the House; Senate bills out of the Senate).

We enter an accelerated hearing pace on Thursday, with committees hearing bills that have passed the opposite chamber. **These bills must pass the opposite house's policy committee by April 3rd**. That gives only three weeks for these bills to be heard and to pass the policy committee.