

Capitol News

January 24, 2017

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Week two of the legislative session saw committees getting down to business, with more of a focus on bill hearings than on work sessions. Bills are being introduced at a fast pace, with the policy committee cutoff deadline just four weeks away.

We have bill numbers for the "years of service" bill for school-based SLPs and audiologists: HB 1374 and SB 5283. The prime sponsor of HB 1374 is Rep. Laurie Dolan, a freshman legislator from the 22nd district. Cosponsors include Reps. Harris, Doglio, Caldier, Sullivan, Kilduff, Ortiz-Self, Robinson, Bergquist, Santos, and Pollet. SB 5283 is prime sponsored by Sen. Judy Warnick. Cosponsors include Sens. Mullet, Rivers, Rolfes, and Keiser. If any of these legislators is one of yours, please email them to thank them for sponsoring this bill. WSLHA is working on getting hearings for these bills.

Several bills regarding hearing loss will be heard this week:

- SB 5177 - Requiring long-term care workers to be trained to recognize hearing loss.
- SB 5178 - Requiring the Department of Health to develop a hearing loss education program for health care professionals.
- SB 5179 - Requiring coverage for hearing instruments under public employee and Medicaid programs.

Upcoming Events

Business & Financial Services (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 1/24 @ 8:00am

- HJM 4001 - Exec Session - Concerning the coordination of legislation and regulations to increase the portability of occupational credentials between Washington, Oregon, and California.

Higher Education (Senate) - SHR 3, JACB - 1/24 @ 8:00am

- SB 5022 - Public Hearing - Providing information to students about education loans.

Health Care (Senate) - SHR 2, JACB - 1/24 @ 10:00am

- SB 5124 - Public Hearing - Addressing nonpublic personal health information. (Hearing is on the Proposed Substitute.)
- SB 5197 - Public Hearing - Requiring additional security review of the all payer claims database.

Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 1/25 @ 1:30pm

- HB 1264 - Public Hearing - Specifying medical assistance coverage for hearing devices for adults.

Higher Education (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 1/25 @ 1:30pm

- HB 1169 - Public Hearing - Enacting the student opportunity, assistance, and relief act.

Health Care (Senate) - SHR 2, JACB - 1/26 @ 10:00am

- SB 5177 - Public Hearing - Requiring long-term care workers to be trained to recognize hearing loss.
- SB 5178 - Public Hearing - Requiring the Department of Health to develop a hearing loss education program for health care professionals.

- SB 5179 - Public Hearing - Requiring coverage for hearing instruments under public employee and Medicaid programs.
- SB 5180 - Public Hearing - Establishing the legislative advisory committee on aging.

Appropriations (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 1/26 @ 3:30pm

- HB 1288 - Public Hearing - Additional contribution rates for contributions made after the date the service is rendered for individual employers of the Washington state retirement systems.
- HB 1484 - Public Hearing - Providing an enhanced retirement benefit for public employees' and teachers' retirement system plans 1.

Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 1/27 @ 10:00am

- HB 1276 - Public Hearing - Creating a pilot project to test a three-part aim solution that improves health and health care in a manner that lowers overall health care costs in a normally distributed population.
- HB 1314 - Public Hearing - Concerning health care authority auditing practices.

WSLHA High Priority Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
HB 1264	Hearing devices for adults	Specifying medical assistance coverage for hearing devices for adults.	H HC/Wellness	McBride	Support
HB 1374 (SB 5283)	Ed. staff assocs/service yrs	Concerning the calculation of years of service for educational staff associate positions for salary allocation purposes.	H Approps	Dolan	Support
SB 5177	Hearing loss training	Requiring long-term care workers to be trained to recognize hearing loss.	S Health Care	Bailey	
SB 5178	Hearing loss education prog.	Requiring the Department of Health to develop a hearing loss education program for health care professionals.	S Health Care	Bailey	
SB 5179	Hearing instrument coverage	Requiring coverage for hearing instruments under public employee and Medicaid programs.	S Health Care	Bailey	Support

<u>SB 5283</u> (HB 1374)	Ed. staff assocs/service yrs	Concerning the calculation of years of service for educational staff associate positions for salary allocation purposes.	S EL/K-12	Warnick	Support
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