

Capitol News

February 13, 2017

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Week six brings the first cutoff deadline of the session, and with it, a flurry of voting activity in policy committees as they try to meet this deadline. The policy committee cutoff is Friday, February 17th. Bills that do not pass their policy committees by then are considered "dead," unless they are designated "necessary to implement the budget" or "NTIB."

Once the dust settles on the bills out of their policy committees, the fiscal committees have a week to hear and vote on bills with a fiscal impact. The fiscal committee cutoff is Friday, February 24th, again with the caveat that NTIB bills remain alive throughout the legislative session. The house of origin cutoff (House bills out of the House; Senate bills out of the Senate) is Wednesday, March 8th. Bills that make it through the house of origin cutoff then move to the opposite chamber and begin the process over in that chamber.

Both years of services bills have now had hearings, although the Senate bill was heard in the policy committee, not the fiscal committee yet. It's unclear at this point how these bills will move forward, given that the education reform bills from the Senate Republicans and the House Democrats eliminate the salary allocation model (where the years of service calculation is) from the law. The House Democrats' proposal would allow for this issue to be collectively bargained at the local level; the Senate Republicans' proposal would not.

In addition to the education reform bills, WSLHA is also watching SB 5726 and SB 5727. These bills deal with public school employee health benefits. SB 5726 would health care plan offerings through school districts. Instead, public school employees would receive health care through the Health Care Authority. SB 5727 puts limitations on premiums for full family coverage for public school employees. Both bills will be heard on Tuesday.

Upcoming Events

Health Care (Senate) - SHR 4, - 2/13 @ 8:00am

- SB 5538 - Public Hearing - Concerning health profession licensure fees.

Education (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/13 @ 1:30pm

- HB 1886 - Public Hearing - Concerning the responsibilities of the superintendent of public instruction and the state board of education.

Appropriations (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/13 @ 3:30pm

- HB 1560 - Exec Session - Addressing plan membership default provisions in the public employees' retirement system, the teachers' retirement system, and the school employees' retirement system.

Higher Education (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 2/14 @ 8:00am

- HB 1057 - Exec Session - Providing information to students about education loans.
- HB 1169 - Exec Session - Enacting the student opportunity, assistance, and relief act.
- HB 1440 - Exec Session - Establishing a student loan bill of rights.

Education (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/14 @ 1:30pm

- HB 1886 - Exec Session - Concerning the responsibilities of the superintendent of public instruction and the state board of education.

Human Services, Mental Health & Housing (Senate) - SHR 2, - 2/14 @ 1:30pm

- SB 5400 - Exec Session - Concerning disclosure of health-related information with persons with a close relationship with a patient.

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, - 2/14 @ 3:30pm

- SB 5726 - Public Hearing - Addressing public school employee benefits.
- SB 5727 - Public Hearing - Addressing public school employee benefits.

Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (House) - HHR E, JLOB - 2/15 @ 8:00am

- HB 1978 - Public Hearing - Requiring annual reporting on the implementation of laws to streamline licensing processes for military service members and their spouses.

State Government (Senate) - SHR 2, - 2/15 @ 8:00am

- SB 5616 - Public Hearing - Limiting the enforcement of administrative rules and policies.
- SB 5798 - Public Hearing - Changing rule-making requirements to require a yearly expiration.

Commerce, Labor & Sports (Senate) - SHR 4, - 2/15 @ 1:30pm

- SB 5719 - Public Hearing - Creating a labor and industries ombuds within the department of commerce.

Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/15 @ 1:30pm

- HB 1264 - Exec Session - Specifying medical assistance coverage for hearing devices for adults.
- HB 1314 - Exec Session - Concerning health care authority auditing practices.
- HB 1477 - Exec Session - Concerning disclosure of health-related information with persons with a close relationship with a patient.
- HB 1523 - Exec Session - Requiring health plans to cover, with no cost sharing, all preventive services required to be covered under federal law as of December 31, 2016.

Higher Education (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 2/15 @ 1:30pm

- HB 1057 - Exec Session - Providing information to students about education loans.
- HB 1169 - Exec Session - Enacting the student opportunity, assistance, and relief act.
- HB 1440 - Exec Session - Establishing a student loan bill of rights.

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, - 2/15 @ 3:30pm

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

Education (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/16 @ 8:00am

- HB 1886 - Exec Session - Concerning the responsibilities of the superintendent of public instruction and the state board of education.

Health Care (Senate) - SHR 2, - 2/16 @ 10:00am

- SB 5728 - Public Hearing - Creating the young adult affordable health care program.

Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (House) - HHR E, JLOB - 2/16 @ 1:30pm

- HB 1978 - Exec Session - Requiring annual reporting on the implementation of laws to streamline licensing processes for military service members and their spouses.

Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/17 @ 10:00am

- HB 1264 - Exec Session - Specifying medical assistance coverage for hearing devices for adults.
- HB 1314 - Exec Session - Concerning health care authority auditing practices.
- HB 1477 - Exec Session - Concerning disclosure of health-related information with persons with a close relationship with a patient.
- HB 1523 - Exec Session - Requiring health plans to cover, with no cost sharing, all preventive services required to be covered under federal law as of December 31, 2016.

Higher Education (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 2/17 @ 10:00am

- HB 1057 - Exec Session - Providing information to students about education loans.

- HB 1169 - Exec Session - Enacting the student opportunity, assistance, and relief act.
- HB 1440 - Exec Session - Establishing a student loan bill of rights.

WSLHA High Priority Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
<u>SHB 1059</u> (SB 5023)	School levy lid revs./delay	Delaying implementation of revisions to the school levy lid.	S Ways & Means	Lytton	
<u>HB 1264</u>	Hearing devices for adults	Specifying medical assistance coverage for hearing devices for adults.	H HC/Wellness	McBride	Support
<u>HB 1374</u> (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
<u>HB 1843</u> (SB 5623)	Basic education program	Fulfilling the state's paramount duty for all children through equitable and responsible investments in the state's basic education program and reductions to local effort contributions.	H Approps	Sullivan	
<u>SB 5177</u>	Hearing loss training	Requiring long-term care workers to be trained to recognize hearing loss.	S Health Care	Bailey	
<u>SB 5178</u>	Hearing loss education prog.	Requiring the Department of Health to develop a hearing loss education program for health care professionals.	S Health Care	Bailey	
<u>SB 5179</u>	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
<u>SB 5432</u>	Special ed. funding alloc.	Concerning the funding allocation for special education programs for students with disabilities.	S EL/K-12	Rolfes	
<u>SB 5607</u>	Education	Concerning education.	H Approps	Braun	
<u>SB 5726</u>	Public school empl. benefits	Addressing public school employee benefits.	S Ways & Means	Hobbs	
<u>SB 5727</u>	Public school empl. benefits	Addressing public school employee benefits.	S Ways & Means	Hobbs	