

Capitol News

January 27, 2024

Melissa Johnson, WSLHA Lobbyist

WSLHA Priority Bills

WSLHA's priority bill [HB 1655](#), was heard last Wednesday in the House Health Care & Wellness Committee and is scheduled for a vote in that committee on Tuesday. This is the bill that requires a cost-of-living increase in reimbursement for contracts between private practice health care providers (including SLPs and audiologists) and insurers. WSLHA member Kendra Holloway was part of a panel of health care providers testifying in support of the bill.

Its companion bill, [SB 6161](#), is scheduled for a hearing on Tuesday. WSLHA member Kate Pilant will testify. [Sign in PRO here!](#)

[SB 6014](#), the bill that increases the K-12 special education enrollment funding cap from 15% to 17.25%, is in the Senate Ways & Means Committee for consideration. [HB 2180](#), the companion bill, is scheduled for a vote in the House Appropriations Committee on Monday.

General News

As if the pace of this session weren't fast enough already, legislative committees are in high gear voting on bills to meet next Wednesday's policy committee cutoff. Many bills that pass the policy committee go straight to the Rules Committee. However, if the bill has a fiscal impact to the state, they will be referred to either the House Appropriations Committee or the Senate Ways & Means Committee. Bills with a fiscal impact must pass those committees by February 5th.

Each step of the legislative process is meant to filter bills out of the process, either because of opposition, fiscal impacts, or just simply running out of time. Many of the 1150 bills (a sure record in a short session) that have been introduced this session will die between now and February 5th.

Turning to the Initiatives to the Legislature, the anti-capital gains Initiative to the Legislative (2109) was certified by the Secretary of State on Tuesday. And in related news, HB 2459 was heard later in the House State Government and Tribal Relations Committee. Under the bill, a ballot alternative would receive a public investment impact disclosure to describe the investments that would be maintained if the alternative is adopted instead of the initiative to the Legislature.

Upcoming Dates:

January 31 - Policy Committee Cutoff
February 5 - Fiscal Committee Cutoff
February 13 - House of Origin Cutoff
February 21 - Opposite House Policy Committee Cutoff
February 26 - Opposite House Fiscal Committee Cutoff
March 1 - Floor Cutoff
March 7 - Last day of Regular Session