Capitol News

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# Week three of the legislative session is in the books, and the pace keeps getting faster as we approach the policy committee cutoff next Friday, 2/7. This is the deadline for all bills to be out of their house of origin policy committee. The fiscal committee cutoff is just a few days after that, on Tuesday, 2/11. Then, lawmakers will enter full-time floor action to meet the house of origin cutoff on Wednesday, 2/19.

The Senate version of our health benefit manager bill, SB 5601, is scheduled to be voted out of the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee on Monday.

Neither of the music therapy bills (HB 2706 and HB 2707) have been scheduled for a hearing this week, so it looks likely that they will not be considered further this session. However, WSLHA is watching the Senate version from last session, SB 5485, to see if it starts moving. SB 5485 is in the Senate Rules Committee and could still be considered this session. WSLHA has concerns that these bills would allow a music therapist to treat communication disorders.

SB 6532, the bill eliminating the state regulation of behavior technicians, was pulled from the hearing schedule last week. So it looks likely that this bill will not be considered further this session. WSLHA opposed this bill.