Capitol News

February 16, 2020

Melissa Johnson, WSLHA Lobbyist

Legislators began full time floor action last week to meet the “house of origin” cutoff on 2/19. This is when House bills must pass the House and Senate bills must pass the Senate to remain alive. Lawmakers then return to committee hearings and executive sessions to meet the next cutoff deadline on 2/28. This is when House bills must be voted out of their Senate policy committees and vice versa.

Our insurance priority bills saw action again last week. Our health benefit manager bill (SB 5601) was voted out of the Ways & Means Committee. It was pulled from the Rules Committee and is now eligible to be voted on by the Senate.

And our prior authorization bill from last session (SB 5887) was heard in the House Health Care Committee. There is no opposition to this bill. It is scheduled to be voted out of the House Health Care & Wellness Committee on Friday.

Another bill of interest is on the subject of telemedicine reimbursement. SB 5385, a bill from last session, is now moving through the Legislature.  It passed the Senate last Thursday, virtually unanimously.  It requires insurers to reimburse providers for telemedicine at the same rate as if performed in person.  The bill does allow hospitals, hospital systems, telemedicine companies, and practices of 11 providers or more to negotiate a different rate of reimbursement.  It now goes to the House for consideration.

This week, we’ll see the state’s revenue forecast, which is expected to be positive. Then we’ll see the House budget released early the following week, with the Senate budget to follow soon thereafter.

And an announcement from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction…OSPI will be holding a webinar on Wednesday, March 18th for an update on the implementation of their Early Screening of Dyslexia program:

Join Zoom Meeting [https://zoom.us/j/476852299](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDAyMTMuMTcxNjk3MTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3pvb20udXMvai80NzY4NTIyOTkifQ.qoSA6jqltL1oC5TWOpoO-faqRIWeQ_krFjjH95lex80/br/75037952380-l)

**Meeting ID:** 476 852 299

**One tap mobile:** +16699006833,,476852299# US (San Jose) **OR** +16465588656,,476852299# US (New York)

**Dial by your location:** +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) **OR** +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Find your local number: [https://zoom.us/u/adSIkieZ08](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDAyMTMuMTcxNjk3MTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3pvb20udXMvdS9hZFNJa2llWjA4In0.7JTAvjGczaLDG6iy1w0THNWUiFvG4gmUU7dGO9sDHHg/br/75037952380-l)