

Capitol News – Final Edition
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Melissa Johnson, WSLHA Lobbyist

WSLHA Priorities

[HB 1508](#) is legislation addressing **the cause of increased health care costs**. This bill directs the state's Health Care Cost Transparency Board to survey underinsurance among Washington residents, survey insurance trends among employers and employees, and identify payers or health care providers whose health care cost growth exceeded the health care cost growth benchmark. **HB 1508 passed the Legislature and now goes to Governor Inslee for his approval.**

[HB 2180](#), the bill that increases the **K-12 special education enrollment funding** cap to 16%, has passed the Legislature. This results in about \$20 million in addition to special education funding. **It now goes to Governor Inslee for his approval.**

[HB 2494](#) is another school funding bill that **increases funding to materials, supplies, and operating costs** (MSOC) for school districts. This includes technology, curriculum, textbooks, library materials, facilities maintenance, and central office administration. **It has passed the Legislature and now goes to Governor Inslee for his approval.**

General News

The Legislature finished the business of the 2024 session on time with the Sine Die gavel dropping at 5:50pm on Thursday. This week, lawmakers passed the supplemental operating, transportation, and capital budgets, in addition to finalizing bills that had passed both chambers but in different forms. Legislators also passed three of the six initiatives to the Legislature: Initiative 2081 (parental rights in public schools); Initiative 2111 (income tax prohibition); and Initiative 2113 (police pursuit). In total, almost 1200 bills were introduced this session, with about 340 of them passing the Legislature.

Bills that have passed are now in the queue to be signed by Governor Inslee if they have not been signed already. Prior to the Sine Die adjournment, both the Speaker of the House and the Lieutenant Governor (President of the Senate) sign bills that have passed each chamber, and then they are delivered to the governor. Bills that are delivered to the governor more than five days before the Legislature adjourns have five days to be acted on. Bills that are delivered fewer than five days before the Legislature adjourns have 20 days to be acted on by the governor. Both are counted as calendar days, not business days. Sundays are not counted, but Saturdays and state holidays are counted.

Since this is the second year of the biennium, any bills that did not pass are truly dead and those concepts will require that brand new bills be dropped next year should lawmakers want to try again.

All early indications point to a hectic election year as a significant number of legislators are either retiring or running for other positions. As of today, the following members have made public declarations that they will not run for their seats again in 2024:

- Senate Majority Leader Andy Billig (D-3) retiring (the SDC will also need to elect a new Majority Leader after the 2024 general election)
- Senator Sam Hunt (D-22) retiring
- Senator Karen Keiser (D-33) retiring
- Senator Mark Mullet (D-5) running for Governor
- Senator Kevin Van De Wege (D-24) running for Commissioner of Public Lands
- Senator Lynda Wilson (R-17) retiring
- Rep. Jessica Bateman (D-22) running for open Senate seat
- Rep. Kelly Chambers (R-25) running for Pierce Co. Executive
- Rep. Mike Chapman (D-24) running for open Senate seat
- Rep. Jacqueline Maycumber (R-7) running for 5th Congressional
- Rep. Bill Ramos (D-5) running for open Senate seat
- Rep. Marcus Riccelli (D-3) running for open Senate seat
- Rep. JT Wilcox (R-2) retiring
- Rep. Paul Harris (R-17) running for open Senate Seat
- Rep. Joel Kretz (R-7) retiring
- Rep. Spencer Hutchins (R-26) retiring

Additionally, several members are seeking other offices, but will return to the Legislature should they lose in November. These members include:

- Senator Manka Dhingra (D-45) running for Attorney General
- Senator Patty Kuderer (D-48) running for Insurance Commissioner
- Senator Drew MacEwan (R-35) running for 6th Congressional
- Senator Emily Randall (D-26) running for 6th Congressional
- Senator Rebecca Saldaña (D-37) running for Commissioner of Public Lands

Other Health Care Legislation Enacted this Session

HB 1917 (Leavitt, D-28) - Enacts the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact.

HB 1939 (Orwall, D-33) - Adopts the Social Work Licensure Compact in Washington State.

HB 1954 (Riccelli, D-3) - Establishes that participation in reproductive health care services or gender-affirming treatment by health care providers, consistent with the standard of care in

Washington, may not serve as the basis for professional discipline under the Uniform Disciplinary Act.

HB 1972 (Simmons, D-23) - Raises surcharge fees for the Washington Physician Health Program for physicians, osteopathic physicians, podiatric physicians, dentists, physician assistants, and veterinarians.

HB 1979 (Paul, D-10) - Caps the total out-of-pocket cost for a 30-day supply of at least one inhaled corticosteroid and one inhaled corticosteroid combination product and at least one epinephrine autoinjector product containing at least two autoinjectors at \$35.

HB 2041 (Riccelli, D-3) - Permits a collaboration relationship between physician assistants and the physicians with whom they work.

HB 2355 (Nance, D-23) - Adds magnetic resonance imaging technologists to those who may be certified as a radiologic technologist.

HB 2416 (Graham, R-6) - Changes the title for advanced registered nurse practitioners to advanced practice registered nurses.

HB 2467 (Macri, D-43) - Allows persons who have left Washington to elect to continue participation in the Long-Term Services and Supports Trust Program (Trust Program) under certain circumstances.

SB 5481 (Cleveland, D-49) Provides the circumstances in which an out-of-state health care providers may provide telehealth services to patients in this state.

SB 5592 (Hunt, D-22) - The owner of a fitness center must acquire and maintain at least one semi automatic external defibrillator on premises.

SB 5660 (Boehnke, R-8) - The Health Care Authority (HCA) must convene a Mental Health Advance Directive Effective Implementation Work Group.

SB 5821 (Muzzall, R-10) - The definition of established relationship for the purposes of audio-only telemedicine coverage is changed to create a single definition for all services.

SB 5936 (Conway, D-29) – Establishes a palliative care workgroup at OIC.