

WSLHA Priorities

WSLHA's priority legislation, [SB 6071](#), is getting traction already this session! This legislation limits overpayment recovery by insurers to six months, instead of the current two years. [HB 2546](#) is the House companion bill. Long look-back provisions create financial instability for private practices. With practices operating on tight margins, late recoupments jeopardize staffing, scheduling capacity, and patient continuity.

SB 6071 is being heard in the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee on Tuesday.

General News

Welcome to the first week of the 2026 legislative session! Lawmakers have returned to Olympia for a fast-moving 60-day short session shaped by several powerful forces: a sharpened progressive edge following the 2025 special elections, a deeply challenging budget environment, and the early shadow of the 2026 election cycle. Together, these dynamics create an atmosphere of urgency, narrow timelines, and heightened political stakes. As fiscal pressures intensify and policy priorities collide, legislators will face difficult tradeoffs and high-stakes negotiations that will define the remainder of the biennium and set the tone for the year ahead.

Before the session began, Governor Bob Ferguson released a slate of six Governor-request bills aimed at improving housing affordability, public safety, government efficiency, and protections for children and families. Some of these proposals, including initiatives focused on housing and AI safeguards, are now being discussed in legislative committees and will continue through the session's stages.

Governor Ferguson gave his first State of the State address, calling for "bold action" on making the state's tax system fairer, addressing the housing crisis, and investing in infrastructure. He took an optimistic tone despite the state's budget challenges.

Last week committees began meeting, setting the tone for the session's work. Dozens of committees in both chambers held organizational meetings, heard presentations from state agencies, and started early public hearings on bills. Hearings on the Governor's supplemental budget opened the week, highlighting the financial woes lawmakers face in balancing the state's two-year budget.

Policy committees packed their agendas, knowing there's not enough time to hear all the bills introduced thus far, let alone the bills that remain alive for consideration from the 2025

session. With less than three weeks to the policy committee cutoff on February 4th, the clock is ticking (loudly).