Capitol News

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# Last Week’s Highlights

Floor action dominated Week 13 of this 15-week session. Legislators conducted full-time floor action to meet yesterday’s Opposite House Floor Cutoff deadline. The majority party’s legislative priorities have remained the same throughout the session and were reflected in their work last week: Bills that address COVID-19 challenges; improve racial equity; advance economic recovery; address climate change; and increase revenue or create savings.

**Insurance coverage for children’s hearing instruments.** Budget negotiations between the House and Senate began last week. WSLHA is advocating that the final budget includes the House budget’s proviso to fund an actuarial study of the coverage of children’s hearing instruments. Without the analysis provided by this proviso, the Legislature will not have sufficient information to consider HB 1047 next session. HB 1047 is the bill that would mandate insurance coverage of hearing instruments for children and adolescents that died this session.

# Priority Bill Updates

* **HB 1196**, the bill that creates reimbursement parity for audio-only consultations, passed the Senate on April 10th with a vote of 45-4. **It now must return to the House for a vote to concur in the Senate amendment.**
* **SB 5169,** the bill providing reimbursement to health care providers for the cost ofPPE when treating patients in person, passed the House on April 5th with a unanimous vote. **It now goes to Governor Inslee for his action.**
* **SB 5229,** the legislation that creates a health equity continuing education requirement for health care providers, passed the House on March 24th. **It now must return to the Senate for a vote to concur in the House amendment.**
* **SB 5284,** the bill eliminating subminimum wage certificates for people with disabilities after July 31, 2023, passed the House on April 5th with a vote of 75-23. **It now goes to Governor Inslee for his action.**

# This Week’s Events

This week will focus on concurrence votes. If a bill is amended in the opposite house, it must return to the house of origin for a vote to concur in those amendments. If the house of origin agrees with those changes, they will vote to concur. If they don’t, and the opposite house does not agree to remove its amendments, the bill is in dispute. When this happens, negotiations happen between the chambers to come to an agreement. Most of the time, the dispute is resolved. If it cannot be resolved, then the bill dies.

The Legislature is scheduled to adjourn on April 25th.