WSLHA Legislative Report

January 15, 2022

Melissa Johnson, Lobbyist

# Upcoming Events

**College & Workforce Development (House) - Virtual - 1/17 @ 1:30pm**

* HB 1805 - Public Hearing - Concerning the opportunity scholarship program. (Remote testimony.)
  1. Allows the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship Program to accept advanced degree program students who exceed 125 percent of the state median income if they demonstrate financial need through other factors.
  2. Recommendation: sign in support

**Health & Long Term Care (Senate) - Virtual - 1/17 @ 1:30pm**

* SB 5496 - Exec Session - Concerning health professional monitoring programs.
* SB 5518 - Public Hearing - Concerning the occupational therapy licensure compact. (Remote testimony.)

**Health Care & Wellness (House) - Virtual - 1/17 @ 1:30pm**

* HB 1821 - Public Hearing - Concerning the definition of established relationship for purposes of audio-only telemedicine. (Remote testimony.)
  1. The definition of "established relationship" for purposes of audio-only telemedicine is changed by:
     1. expanding the period within which a previous appointment took place from one year to three years for behavioral health services and two years for all other health care services;
     2. allowing the previous appointment to take place via audio-video technology for behavioral health services—the appointment must still be in person for other health care services;
     3. allowing the previous appointment to be with a provider in the same medical group, in addition to the same clinic; and
     4. expanding what constitutes an established relationship to include situations where the audio-only telemedicine provider has direct access to the patient's current health record.
  2. Recommendation: sign in support

**Housing, Human Services & Veterans (House) - Virtual - 1/18 @ 8:00am**

* HB 1592 - Public Hearing - Concerning military spouse employment. (Remote testimony.)
  1. Requires DOH to issue a license to a military spouse within 30 days of a completed application.
  2. Recommendation: sign in support

**Ways & Means (Senate) - Virtual - 1/18 @ 4:00pm**

* SB 5620 - Public Hearing - Concerning medicaid expenditures. (Remote testimony.)

**Health Care & Wellness (House) - Virtual - 1/19 @ 8:00am**

* HB 1708 - Exec Session - Concerning facility fees for audio-only telemedicine.

**Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - Virtual - 1/19 @ 10:30am**

* SB 5487 - Exec Session - Concerning small school district consolidation incentives for infrastructure enhancement and modernization.

**Labor, Commerce & Tribal Affairs (Senate) - Virtual - 1/20 @ 8:00am**

* SB 5600 - Exec Session - Concerning the sustainability and expansion of state registered apprenticeship programs.

**College & Workforce Development (House) - Virtual - 1/20 @ 10:00am**

* HB 1659 - Exec Session - Making higher education more affordable and accessible for students by bridging the gap between cost and need to reduce barriers, improve opportunity, and advance economic security.
* HB 1736 - Exec Session - Establishing a state student loan program.

**Appropriations (House) - Virtual - 1/20 @ 3:30pm**

* HB 1699 - Public Hearing - Permitting individuals retired from the public employees retirement system, the teachers retirement system, and the school employees retirement system additional opportunities to work for a school district for up to 1,040 hours per school year while in receipt of pension benefits until July 1, 2025. (Remote testimony.)

**Health & Long Term Care (Senate) - Virtual - 1/21 @ 8:00am**

* SB 5618 - Public Hearing - Protecting consumers from charges for out-of-network health care services, by aligning state law and the federal no surprises act and addressing coverage of treatment for emergency conditions. (Remote testimony.)
* SB 5753 - Public Hearing - Increasing board and commission capacities. (Remote testimony.) (Support)
  1. This is DOH request legislation that adds increases reimbursement for Board of Hearing & Speech members and clarifies the definition of a quorum.
  2. Recommendation: sign in support