



**2024 HEALTH CARE POLITICS POLICY –
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!**

2024 WAMSS Annual Conference

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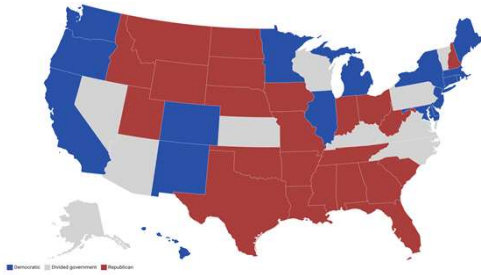
**ACA & WASHINGTON
LEGISLATIVE
STRUCTURE**

Affordable Care Act provides the structure for U.S. health care,
but much of the action happens in the Legislature at the state
level.

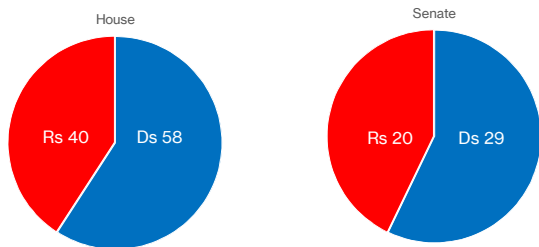
Federal Affordable Care Act

- **Affordable Care Act (ACA)**
- Comprehensive health care reform law enacted in March 2010.
- Law has 3 primary goals:
 - Make affordable health insurance available to more people. ACA provides consumers with subsidies ("premium tax credits") that lower costs for households with incomes between 100% and 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL).
 - Incomes above 400% FPL may still qualify for premium tax credit.
 - Incomes at or below 150% FPL may qualify to enroll in or change Marketplace coverage through a Special Enrollment Period.
- ACA expanded Medicaid to cover all adults with income below 138% of FPL. (Not all states have expanded their Medicaid programs.)
- Support innovative medical care delivery methods designed to lower the costs of health care generally.

WA Currently Ruled by "Trifecta"



Legislature Breakdown for 2023-2024



2024 Legislative Session in Detail

- 60-day legislative session
- "Short Session" + *Supplemental* Budget Year
- 1,779 bills introduced in 2024 Session
- 3,435 bills eligible for consideration (2-yr Biennium)
- ~387 bills passed in 2024 Session
- Nearly a 22% bill passage rate in 2024 (High!)
- 18 scope of practice bills were in play

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Majority Party Legislative Priorities in 2024

- Business & Labor
- Climate Commitment Act
- Reproductive Rights
- Behavioral Health
- Housing & Homelessness
- What do to with the 6 Initiatives? (More on this in later slides)

High Profile Non-Health Care Bills

- Clean Energy, Natural Gas & Puget Sound Energy Transition (HB 1589/SB 5562) **PASSED**
- Rent Stabilization (HB 2114) **DEAD**
- Artificial Intelligence (MULTIPLE bills)
- K-12 Support and Moving Forward After the Pandemic (MULTIPLE bills)

HEALTH CARE POLICY BILLS

2024 Legislative Session

Health Care Policy Issues 2024

- Scope of Practice Battles
 - Reasons Given for Expanded Scope Push:
 - Workforce shortages
 - Challenges in educating/training enough providers at address need
 - Legislator disposition/empathy toward non-physician provider type
- Washington State Medical Association Position on Scope of Practice Generally:

The WSMA opposes efforts by non-physician practitioners to expand the scope of their practice to include additional services currently performed by physicians, in the absence of either commensurate education and supervised training requirements, or a demonstrable and compelling societal need. (WSMA Res C-20, A-19)

Scope of Practice Bills 2023-2024

- Psychologist Prescriptive Authority (HB 1041/SB 6144) **DEAD**
- MA-EMT Certification (SB 5940) **PASSED**
- Physician Assistants (HB 2041) **DEAD**
- Naturopaths (SB 5411) **DEAD for now...**but is currently in DOH Sunrise Review
- ARNP/PA Reimbursement Mandate (HB 1495/SB 5373) **DEAD**
- ARNP Title Change (HB 2416) **PASSED**
- Anesthesiologist Assistants (SB 5184) **PASSED**
- Pharmacist Prescriptive Authority (HB 2116/SB 6019) **DEAD**
- Pharmacist Treating Certain Conditions (HB 1665) **DEAD**

Provider Workforce Bills 2023-2024

- Physician Assistant Compact (HB 1917/SB 5815) **PASSED**
- Radiologic Technologist Certification (HB 2355) **PASSED**
- Professional Licenses and Immigration Status (HB 1889) **PASSED**
- WA Physician's Health Program Surcharge (HB 1972) **PASSED**
- Physician Wellness Program Confidentiality (HB 2122/SB 6165) **DEAD**
 - Note: Bill came forward as recommendation from WSMA Workforce Workgroup.

Practice of Medicine/Licensure Bills in 2024

- Established Relationship for Coverage in Audio-Only Telemedicine (SB 5821/HB 1881) **PASSED**
- Uniform Law Commission's Model Telehealth Act (SB 5481) **PASSED**
- Access to Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP) drugs or therapies (SB 6127) **PASSED**
- Portable Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) (HB 2166) **DEAD**...but POLST ultimately funded in budget.
- Anesthesia Gas Emissions (HB 2073) **DEAD**
- Hepatitis B & C Screenings (SB 5629) **DEAD**

Reproductive Health Bills in 2024

- Harmonizing Language for Medical Licensure Protections (HB 1954) **PASSED**
- Medication Abortion Labeling (HB 2115) **PASSED**
- Ultrasound Regulations (SB 6151) **PASSED**
- Fertility Fraud (HB 1300) **PASSED**

Liability & Cost of Health Care Bills

- Mergers & Affiliations (SB 5241/HB 1263) **DEAD**
- Health Care Cost Transparency Board (HB 1508) **PASSED**
- Provider Contracting (HB 2066/SB 5948) **DEAD**
- Medical Debt (HB 2119) **DEAD**
- Pre-judgment Interest (SB 5059) **DEAD**

Health Care Business & Facility Bills

- Hospital At-Home Services (HB 2295/SB 6101) **PASSED**
- Noncompete Agreements (SB 5935) **PASSED**
- Provider Compensation (HB 1655/SB 6161) **DEAD**
- Facility Fees (HB 2378) **DEAD**
- Artificial Intelligence Task Force (SB 5838) **PASSED**
- DOH Uniform Facility Licensure (HB 1434/SB 5271) **PASSED**
- Certificate of Need (HB 2128) **DEAD**...but funded in the budget.
- CoN Waiver for Psychiatric Hospitals (SB 5920) **PASSED**

Mental/Behavior Health + SUD Bills

- Guardianship and Conservatorship (SB 5825) **PASSED**
- Mental Health Advance Directive Workgroup (SB 5660) **PASSED**
- Crisis Relief Centers for Youth (SB 5853) **PASSED**
- Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SB 6228) **PASSED**
- Opioid Prevention and Education Bills (MULTIPLE with Varying Results)

Public Health Bills in 2024

- Washington Vaccine Association: Definition of “Vaccine” + RSV Immunization (SB 5982) **PASSED**
- DOH Standing Orders (SB 6095) **PASSED**
- Syphilis Treatment (SB 5983) **PASSED**
- Extreme Weather Events (HB 1012) **PASSED**
- Free School Meals (HB 2058/SB 5964) **DEAD**

Health Insurance Bills in 2024

- Pharmacy Benefit Managers (SB 5213) **PASSED**
- Step Therapy Prohibition for Advanced Metastatic Cancer (HB 1884/SB 5814) **DEAD**
- Preventative Services Coverage (HB 1957) **PASSED**
- Emergency Supply of Insulin (SB 5776) **DEAD**
- Reducing Coast of Inhalers & Epi-pens (HB 1979) **PASSED**
- Coverage Mandates:
 - Biomarkers (HB 1450/SB 5074) **DEAD**...but has been in and out of Sunrise Review.
 - IVF & Fertility Treatment Coverage (HB 1151/SB 5204) **DEAD**
 - Obesity Coverage (SB 6182) **DEAD**

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FUNDING (WHAT MADE IT IN?)

2024 Legislative Session (Second Year of a Two-Year Biennium)

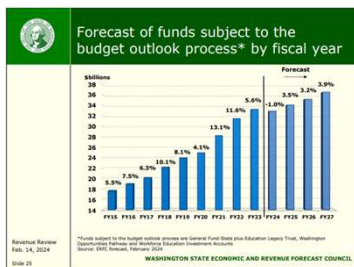
Budget Priorities for 2024

- K-12 Schools
- Mental Health/Behavioral Health
- Opioid Settlement \$
- Climate Commitment Act
- Housing & Homelessness

2024 Supplemental Budget Year

- What about 2024 statewide revenue outlook?
- What does that mean?

2024 State Budget Outlook



2024 State Supplemental Budget

- Final budget overview

- \$71.9 billion – three percent increase
- Half maintenance level, half new programs
- No significant new taxes
- \$4.1 billion in reserves
- Areas of emphasis:
 - Education, behavioral health, fentanyl epidemic, housing
- Bipartisan support, new Senate Chair for Budget
- Impact of initiatives? No COVID monies.

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2024 Budget Priority: Medicaid

- Covered Lives Assessment Proposal
- **House Bill 2746:** Rep. Nicole Macri (D) Capitol Hill
- What would the bill do?
 - Increase Medicaid rate for specialties to Medicare floor across the board.
 - Help address the soaring costs from inflation.

HB 2476: What Happened?

- Scope of Application:
 - IN: Medicaid Plans and Fully-insured Commercial Plans
 - OUT: Self-insured Plans aka “ERISA Plans”
- Differential Rate
 - \$18 per member/per month: Medicaid Plans
 - 50 cents pm/pm: Commercial Plans
- Similar to Hospital Safety Net Proposal?
- Ultimately, HB 2476 DIED in 2024.

What to Expect in 2025

- Will likely see Covered Lives Assessment Bill again next year.
- Expect a refined proposal in 2025.
- Continued priority for physicians.
- Key Stakeholders:
 - Hospitals
 - Patient Groups
 - Insurance Carriers
 - State Agencies
 - Legislators

Fiscal Priorities in Health Care 2024

- Health Care Workforce
- Practitioner Education & Training Requirements
- Health Coverage for Undocumented Residents
- Investments in Public Health
- Notable Tax Bills in Health Care:
 - SB 5482 (Margins Tax as B&O Tax Replacement) Status: **DIED**
 - HB 1473/SB 5486 (Wealth Tax) Status: **DIED**
 - SB 5767 (Hospital Excess Compensation Tax) Status: **DIED**

State Budget Highlights

Item	Funding
Family Medicine Residency Network	\$12.8M
UW Medicine GME	\$56.1M
POLST registry	\$719k
Credentialing	\$3.2M
Olympic Heritage Behavioral Health	\$135M
State psychiatric hospitals	\$29.8M
Health coverage for undocumented residents	\$28.4M
SUD treatment	\$\$\$

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BALLOT INITIATIVES IN WASHINGTON

In 2024, Washington saw a record 6 certified initiatives to the Legislature. What happens now?

2024 Citizen Initiatives

- What is an initiative to the Legislature?
- Becomes Law via Legislature vs. Goes to November Ballot for Statewide Vote
- Initiative Process:
 - Signature collection (Roughly 400K verified WA citizen signatures to certify)
 - Legislature has 3 options when presented with an initiative:
 1. Do Not Act on Initiative >> goes to ballot
 2. Approve Initiative As Written >> does NOT go to ballot
 3. Amend Initiative and Pass Amended Version >> both go to ballot

Record 6 Initiatives Certified in 2024

- I-2081 Parental Notification in K-12 Schools (Passed by Legislature)
- I-2111 Personal Income Tax, prohibit locals (Passed by Legislature)
- I-2113 Police Pursuit, allow some (Passed by Legislature)
- I-2109 Capital Gains Tax repeal (No Action: Sent to Nov. Ballot)
- I-2117 Climate Commitment Act repeal (No Action: Sent to Nov. Ballot)
- I-2124 Long-Term Care Act, make optional (No Action: Sent to Nov. Ballot)

LEGISLATOR CHANGES & RETIREMENTS

The makeup of the Legislature will be quite different in 2025 with many legislators retiring or seeking other offices.

Notable Senate Retirements

- Sen. Andy Billig Sen. Sam Hunt Sen. Karen Keiser Sen. Lynda Wilson



Senate Majority Leader
3rd Legislative District
D - Spokane



22nd Legislative District
D - Olympia



33rd Legislative District
D - Des Moines



17th Legislative District
R - Vancouver

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Notable House Retirements

- Rep. J.T. Wilcox Rep. Spencer Hutchins Rep. Joel Kretz



2nd Legislative District
R - Yelm



26th Legislative District
R - Gig Harbor



7th Legislative District
R - Wauconda

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Potential Senate Changes for 2025

- **Sen. Mark Mullet (D)** running for Governor. Squaring off against AG Bob Ferguson (D), Dave Reichert (R), and Semi Byrd (R).
- **Sen. Manka Dhingra (D)** is running for Attorney General. Joins Nick Brown (D) and Pete Serrano (R) in the race for AG.
- **Sen. Patty Kuderer (D)** is running unopposed, at this point, for Washington Insurance Commissioner.
- **Sen. Kevin Van de Wege (D)** is running for Commissioner of Public Lands. The race currently includes a crowded field of seven candidates.
- **Sen. Emily Randall (D)** is seeking a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington's 6th Congressional District following retirement from U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer.
- **Sen. Drew MacEwen (R)** is running for Congress against Sen. Randall, along with Washington Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz, and Jefferson County Commissioner Kate Dean.

Potential House Changes for 2025

- **Rep. Jessica Bateman (D)** is running for Senate seat after Sen. Sam Hunt announced his retirement.
- **Rep. Mike Chapman (D)** announced his campaign for Senate.
- **Rep. Bill Ramos (D)** running for State Senate seat that Sen. Mark Mullet is leaving in his run for Governor.
- **Rep. Marcus Riccelli (D)** announced his bid for the state Senate seat in Washington's 3rd Legislative District, just moments after Sen. Andy Billig made his retirement announcement.
- **Rep. Kelly Chambers (R)** is leaving her seat to run for Pierce County Executive.

2024 INTERIM & RUN-UP TO 2025 SESSION

Campaigning, Elections, Initiatives, a New Governor...oh my!

What to Expect?

- Bills signed into law (or vetoed) with new laws and programs beginning implementation
- Agency Rulemaking
- DOH Sunrise Review
- Campaigning...lots and lots of campaigning
- Elections
- A new Governor
- A new Attorney General
- Many changes in membership and leadership for Legislature
- Prep for 2025 Legislative Session
- VOTE
