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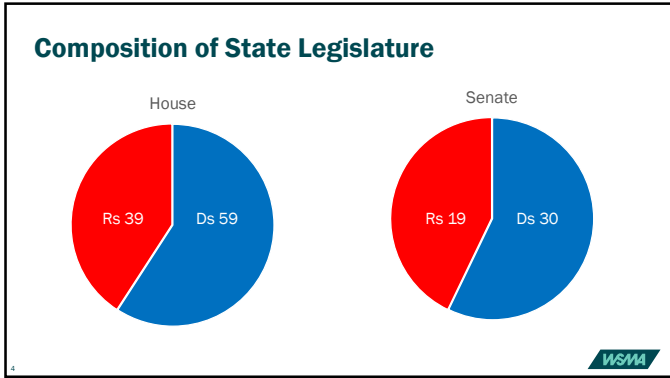
2026 Legislative Session Overview

- Began January 12th
- 60 days
- Supplemental budget
- Ongoing state budget challenges
- Interplay with federal politics, policy
- Adjourned March 12th
- Election year

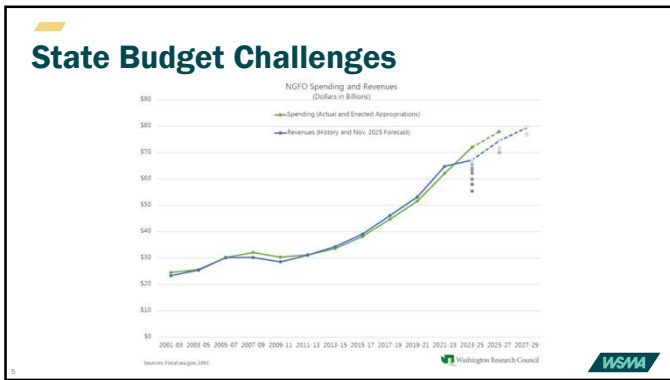


WSMA

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2026 WSMA Budget Priorities

- Updates to the state budget were approved on the final day of session with a combination of cuts and new spending, the latter driven by rising state tort claims and increased utilization of state programs such as Medicaid.
- WSMA successfully advocated for priority funding items to maintain:
 - Apple Health Expansion immigrant coverage program
 - Subsidies for plans on the Washington Health Benefit Exchange
 - Full funding for Foundational Public Health Services.



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2026 WSMA Legislative Priorities

- Prior authorization
 - 2025-26 (SB 5395) / PASSED
 - Prohibit AI prior auth denials
 - Prior auth policy changes posted on single site
 - Clarify retroactive denial prohibition
 - Applies to state regulated commercial insurance
 - Builds on recent legislation, rulemakings



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2026 WSMA Legislative Priorities



- Insurance reform
 - Timely payment (SB 5845) / PASSED
 - Requires carriers to pay clean claims in 30 days
 - Limits insurer claw backs to 12 months (from SB 6071)
 - Non-competition agreements (HB 1155) / PASSED
 - Makes any non-competition covenant void and unenforceable, regardless of when parties entered into the covenant.
 - Basically, prohibits non-competition agreements.
 - WSMA policy comes from the House of Delegates.



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2026 WSMA Legislative Priorities


- Vaccines and preventive services ([HB 2242](#)) / SIGNED
 - Ensure continued, appropriate access to essential health care services by:
 - Clarifying state authority to allow the Washington State Department of Health to make recommendations on preventive services, including immunizations.
 - Maintaining coverage for preventive services that were recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force as of June 30, 2025.
 - Preserving the state's ability to procure vaccines in a cost-effective manner for the Childhood Vaccine Program.

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2026 WSMA Legislative Priorities

- Scope of Practice
 - Pharmacists independent practice ([SB 5924](#)) / DIED
 - Department of Health sunrise review [report](#) ([HB 1520](#)/[SB 5513](#))
 - Psychologists prescribing ([SB 5112](#)/[HB 1124](#)) / DIED
 - Naturopaths ([HB 1888](#)) / DIED
 - Physician assistant title change ([HB 2127](#)) / DIED



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2026 WSMA Legislative Priorities

- Medical Title Transparency ([HB 2261](#)/[SB 6116](#)) / DIED
 - Require all health care professionals to wear an identification badge displaying the practitioner's name and health care credentials during patient care encounters
 - Ensure that all health care advertisements identifies the practitioner's health care credentials
 - Establish the title "physician surgeon" in statute




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WSMA federal priorities

- Mitigation of HR 1 impact
 - Coverage losses (in addition to ePTC)
 - Apple Health implementation (work requirements, eligibility, etc.)
- Rural Health Transformation Program (HR 1)
 - CMS awarded Washington state \$181 million for year one of the program
 - These funds will support rural hospitals, clinics, medical groups, etc.
 - HCA setting up advisory committee to make allocation recommendations
- Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction (WiSeR)
 - Traditional Medicare, WA one of six impacted states
 - Effective January 2026, impacts 13 services
 - Implementation challenges - working with Congressional delegation, CMS, Media

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Engagement Opportunities

- Connect with your legislators during and outside of the legislative session.
- **WSMA Road Trip** events
- Participate in **WSMA's online communities** where you can connect with others and help guide the work of the WSMA.
- E-mail billie@wsma.org for more information on how to engage with your legislators!



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Thank you!

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