



## Week 6

We've reached the end of week 6 of the 2021 legislative session, only 9 weeks to go. This was a busy week for bills as the first cutoff to make it out of the policy committee of origin was Monday. The next cutoff is Monday, February 22nd, which will be the last day to pass bills out of fiscal committees. Two bills we are tracking have officially died, and we expect a few others will also fail to survive cut-off.

## Budget

[HB 1368](#)- **Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic through state actions supported by federal funding.** This bill passed both the House and the Senate last week. We just received notification that the [Governor signed it this afternoon](#) and it takes effect immediately. This bill works in conjunction with HB 1367. HB 1367 is the bill that swaps CARES Act funds with enhanced federal match funds. HB 1368 appropriates those funds. The COVID rate add-ons and retainer payments that providers have received will now come from FMAP funds. The bill also extends these add-ons and retainer payments through June.

[HB 1275](#) & [SB 5311](#) These are the two bills that relate to nursing home Medicaid rates. They both look to place annual rebasing and inflation in statute. In discussions with House members, it seems unlikely that HB 1275 will move out of committee. While we prefer SB 5311, because it uses a CPI inflation factor specific to nursing homes and is typically higher, it seems that the budget writers may be looking to implement annual rebasing and an inflation factor via the budget and not make these changes permanent by placing it in statute. We continue to advocate for the stability and predictability that having these items in statute would bring. As the budget writers work towards finalizing the budget, either one of these two bills could be passed at a later stage in this session, after the February 22 cutoff, as they would be necessary to implement the budget.

[House Republican Budget](#)- The House Ranking Member has released a budget. This budget is somewhat similar to the Senate Republican budget [SB 5451](#). Specific to our issues, neither budget includes funding for long term care other than skilled nursing annual rebase and inflation for nursing homes. Much like SB 5451, this budget is not the final funding vehicle as we continue to await the House and Senate Democrat budgets. We continue to meet and work with legislators on proposals for long term care to be included in the majority budgets. We may not, however, see those budgets until sometime in March as they will likely wait for the last and latest revenue forecast to know whether they can or must adjust spending proposals.

## Policy

### LeadingAge Washington Priority Policy Bills

[SB 5294](#) - **Concerning the creation of statewide epidemic preparedness and response guidelines for long-term care facilities.** The bill was passed out of Ways & Means on Monday night and is waiting for a floor vote.

[SB 5247](#) - **Concerning the multistate nurse licensure compact.** This bill is officially dead because it did not make it out of committee by cutoff.

[HB 1120](#) - **Concerning state of emergency operations impacting long-term services and supports.** This bill was passed out of the House and is waiting to be scheduled for its first public hearing in the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee.

### Support

[SB 5169](#) - **Concerning provider reimbursement for personal protective equipment during the state of emergency related to COVID-19.** This bill was passed out of the Senate on a unanimous vote, it's waiting to be scheduled for hearing in the House Health Care & Wellness Committee.

[SB 5191](#) - **Regulating unfair business practices and prohibiting predatory price increases during states of emergency.** Is waiting for a Senate floor vote.

[HB 1124](#) - **Concerning nurse delegation of glucose monitoring, glucose testing, and insulin injections.** This bill is still waiting for a public hearing in the Senate Health & LTC Committee.

[SB 5271](#) - **Amending the necessary elements of proof of injury during the state of emergency declared due to the COVID-19 pandemic.** This bill is waiting for a floor vote.

### Oppose

[SB 5160](#) - **Addressing landlord-tenant relations by providing certain tenant protections during and after public health emergencies, providing for legal representation in eviction cases, and authorizing landlord access to state rental assistance programs.** This bill was scheduled for executive action in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on Feb 19th. It was pulled from the list of bills the committee would take action on by the time it got to that part of the hearing. A proposed substitute was posted that would strip the bill of continuing the eviction moratorium after the Governor's proclamation ends. The Ways & Means Committee is scheduled for a hearing on Monday morning, and we expect action to be taken then. However, it seems like there will be substantial changes made.

[HB 1218](#) - **Improving health, safety, and quality of life for residents in long-term care facilities.** This bill is on the House floor calendar waiting for a vote. The bill, as amended, allows us to change our position from Opposed to Neutral.

[SB 5139](#) - **Limiting rent increases after expiration of the governor's eviction moratorium.** This bill is officially dead because it did not pass out of committee on time.

[SB 5115](#) - **Establishing health emergency labor standards.** This bill is waiting for a floor vote.

[HB 1073](#) - **Expanding coverage of the paid family and medical leave program.** This bill was scheduled for executive action on Feb 18<sup>th</sup> in the House Appropriations committee, but no action was taken. It has until Monday to pass.

[HB 1097](#) - **Increasing worker protections.** This bill passed out of House Appropriations.

[SB 5190](#) - **Providing health care workers with presumptive benefits during a public health emergency.** This bill is waiting for a Senate floor vote.

You can find a more detailed description of each of these bills in Week 1 [write-up](#).

Have a great weekend!

**Sincerely,**

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