



forward



Advocacy News

Week 9

We have just finished week 9 of the legislative session. March 9th was the cutoff for bills to pass out of the house of origin and all the bills we are tracking made it through. After the cutoff we have seen committee action start to pick up again.

Budget

With the legislature working on moving policy bills onto the floor of each house, the budget bills have slowed down. The revenue forecast is expected next week, and we should see the first draft budgets released sometime after that. We have heard that with the announcement of federal stimulus funds appropriated by the American Rescue Plan, the budgets may be delayed by a week as they determine how to best utilize the \$4 billion dollars. Along with the federal stimulus, the revenue forecast is expected to increase by as much as \$1 billion dollars. With this extra stimulus funding combined with the increased revenue, we are in a promising position to achieve our request for increased Medicaid funding. Even with the stimulus funding and increased revenue, given the statewide demand for funding in all other programs, we will need your help in advocating for the legislature to increase Medicaid funding. Once the budgets have been released, we will notify you of opportunities to advocate based on budgeted funding levels.

Policy

[ESHB 1120](#)- **Concerning state of emergency operations impacting long-term services and supports.** This bill is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care on March 15th. We do anticipate an amendment when it gets scheduled for executive action that would shorten the return to compliance period from the SNF Staffing requirements waiver from 18 months to 12 months after the end of the state of emergency. LeadingAge Washington did agree to this change because it is likely 12 months will be adequate time. If we get to the 2022 legislative session and staffing requirements are still not being met, we will have the opportunity to address it then.

[SB 5294](#)- **Concerning the creation of statewide epidemic preparedness and response guidelines for long-term care facilities.** The bill was passed out of the Senate with almost a unanimous vote. We are very happy about the bipartisan support to strengthen the pandemic response for long term care.

[HB 1141](#)- **Increasing access to the death with dignity act.** This bill is scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Health & Long Term on March 17th.

[SB 5191](#) - **Regulating unfair business practices and prohibiting predatory price increases during states of emergency.** This bill is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Business on March 15th.

[HB 1124](#) - **Concerning nurse delegation of glucose monitoring, glucose testing, and insulin injections.** This bill is scheduled for executive action today in the Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

[SB 5160](#) - **Addressing landlord-tenant relations by providing certain tenant protections during and after landlord access to state rental assistance programs.** This bill is scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Housing, Human Services & Veterans on March 16th.

[HB 1073](#) - **Expanding coverage of the paid family and medical leave program.** This bill had its first public hearing on March 11th in the Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce & Tribal Affairs and is scheduled for executive action on the 17th.

[HB 1097](#) - **Increasing worker protections.** This bill had its first public hearing on March 10th in the Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce & Tribal Affairs and is scheduled for executive action on the 17th.

[SB 5115](#) - **Establishing health emergency labor standards.**

[SB 5190](#) - **Providing health care workers with presumptive benefits during a public health emergency.**

Both of these bills had their first public hearing in the House Labor Committee this morning. Currently, both bills contain occupational disease presumption but do have multiple conflicting provisions. The committee did acknowledge work will be done to align both bills better. Most stakeholders have focused their attention to amend SB 5190 to conform to the less burdensome terms of SB 5115.

Sincerely,

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