

Washington Continuing Care Residents Association
2024 Legislative Report

SUMMARY

The 2024 Legislature concluded on Thursday, March 7th. The 60-day session ended with 325 bills sent to Governor Inslee, including three supplemental budgets – operating, capital and transportation. The Governor concluded his work on Friday, March 29th. He signed all bills into law, with partial vetoes on five. Unless otherwise stated, the new laws go into effect on June 6, 2024

This year the Legislature received six Initiatives at the beginning of session. The Legislature can approve any of the initiatives or send them to the voters. The Legislature may also pass an alternative proposal to accompany an Initiative on the ballot. In the end the Legislature approved three of the initiatives, and sent the other three (first three in the list below) to the ballot in November without alternative proposals. The three that were approved go into effect on June 6, 2024. The six certified initiatives are:

To go on the ballot in November:

- Initiative to the Legislature no. 2109 Repealing the Capital Gains Tax.
- Initiative to the Legislature no. 2117 Repealing the Carbon Tax Credit Trading Legislation.
- Initiative to the Legislature no. 2124 Repealing the State Long Term Care Insurance.

Approved and go into effect on June 6, 2024:

- Initiative to the Legislature no. 2081 Repealing Legislation related to Parental Rights and Issues around Gender Affirming and Reproductive Health Care, Safe Harbor Protections for Kids, and Sexual Health Education.
- Initiative to the Legislature no. 2111 Prohibiting State or Local Income Taxes.
- Initiative to the Legislature no. 2113 Repealing Legislation related to Vehicular Pursuit by Police Officers.

2024 POLICY BILLS SUPPORTED by WACCRA

2024 Policy Bills Signed Into Law

Improved Health Care Access

ESHB 2041 – Relating to Physician Assistant Collaborative Practice

This bill changes the requirements relating to the regulation of physician assistants by establishing collaboration agreements to increase hiring of physician assistants and still maintain patient safety. The physician assistant will work under a physician’s supervision, and they will collaborate on the assistant’s scope of work and the degree of autonomy.

HB 1917 – Relating to the Physician Assistant Compact

This bill establishes the Physician Assistant Compact, which allows licensed physician assistants to practice across state lines in Compact states under a Compact privilege. This bill will help address the workforce challenges impacting the health care sector.

SSB 5936 – Convening a work group to design a palliative care benefit for fully insured health plans

This bill establishes a work group to design the parameters of a palliative care benefit for fully insured health plans and a payment model for that benefit.

SHB 1979 – Reducing the cost of inhalers and epinephrine autoinjectors

The bill requires health plans to cap the total out-of-pocket cost for a 30-day supply of at least one inhaled corticosteroid and one inhaled corticosteroid combination product and at least one epinephrine autoinjector product containing at least two autoinjectors at \$35.

The Nothing About Us Without Us Act

2E2SHB 1541 – Increasing access and representation in policy-making processes for people with direct lived-experiences

This bill implements membership requirements for any statutory entity such as a task force, work group, or advisory committee that is examining a particular issue that directly and tangibly affects a particular underrepresented population. The membership must include at least three

individuals from the underrepresented populations with direct lived-experience with the issue the entity is examining. The Office of Equity and the statutory entities will report on the effectiveness of the membership requirements.

2024 Policy Bills that Died

ESSB 5640 – Establishing an independent living residents’ right work group

This substitute bill would have established an independent living residents’ right work group to recommend a bill on rights for independent living residents in assisted living facilities.

HB 1859 – Concerning the rights of resident in long-term care facilities

This bill would have applied the rights available to the residents of nursing homes under federal law to the residents of all long-term care facilities under state long-term care resident rights provisions.

2024 Supplemental Operating Budget

Senior Nutrition Program

Funding is provided to replace lost federal funding to continue senior nutrition services, including site-based, pantry, and home-delivered meals for approximately 13,200 seniors.

Long Term Care Ombuds - \$300,000

Funding is provided for the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombuds.

UPCOMING CHANGES IN THE LEGISLATURE AND THE 2024 ELECTIONS

This is the second year of the legislative cycle, and all House members and half of the Senate members are up for re-election. It is also the time legislators who intend to retire make their announcements. There are several legislators running for a different elected office. Filing week for the August primary and November general election is May 6th through May 10th. At that time there will be a final slate of who is running or not.

The following Senators have announced that they will not return in 2025:

Senator Andy Billig, 3rd District, Spokane – Retiring

Senator Sam Hunt, 22nd District, Olympia – Retiring

Senator Karen Keiser, 33rd District, Des Moines – Retiring midterm

Senator Mark Mullet, 5th District, Issaquah - Term up, running for Governor

Senator Mike Padden, 4th District, Spokane Valley – Retiring

Senator Ann Rivers, 18th District, LaCenter – Retiring

(and re-districted in U.S. District Court’s Judge Lasnik approved new map last month)***

Senator Kevin Van De Wege, 24th District, Port Angeles - Term up, running for Lands

Commissioner

Senator Lynda Wilson, 17th District, Vancouver – Retiring

The following House members have announced that they will not return in 2025:

Democrats:

Jessica Bateman (22nd LD, Olympia) - Running for Senate seat

Mike Chapman (24th LD, Port Angeles) - Running for Senate seat

Frank Chopp (43rd District, Seattle) - Retiring

Bill Ramos (5th LD, Issaquah) - Running for Senate seat

Marcus Riccelli (3rd LD, Spokane) - Running for Senate seat

Republicans:

Kelly Chambers (25th LD, Puyallup) - Running for Pierce County Executive

Bruce Chandler (15th LD, Granger) – Retiring

Paul Harris (17th LD, Vancouver) – Running for Senate seat

Spencer Hutchins (26th LD, Gig Harbor) – Retiring

Joel Kretz (7th LD, Wauconda) – Retiring

Jacquelin Maycumber (7th LD, Republic) - Running for Congress, 5th District

J.T. Wilcox (2nd LD, Yelm) – Retiring

The following Senators are not up for re-election this year but are running for higher office. If they do not win, they will remain in the Senate in 2025:

Manka Dhingra (45th LD, Redmond) – Attorney General

Patty Kuderer (48th LD, Bellevue) - Insurance Commissioner

Drew MacEwan (35th LD, Union) - Congress 6th District

Emily Randall (26th LD, Bremerton) - Congress 6th District

Rebecca Saldana (37th LD, Seattle) - Lands Commissioner

*** The court order impacted several districts across the State. Other seats have been moved.

We are waiting for announcements from all the legislators impacted.

