



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
WSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MARCH 10, 2021

PREPARED BY SYDNEY SMITH ZVARA  
ZVARA CONSULTING

# 2021 WA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

JANUARY 11– APRIL 25, 2021



- March 9 was cutoff date for bills to pass house of origin
- Upcoming legislative cutoff dates:

March 26	Last day for bills to pass out of committee from opposite house (except fiscal & transportation)
April 2	Last day for opposite house bills to pass fiscal & transportation committees
April 11	Last day to pass opposite house bills (except initiatives & matters necessary to implement budgets)
April 25	Last day of session


- Legislative meetings & hearings continue via Zoom/TVW
- Areas of focus include:
  - 2021-23 Operating budget & potential new taxes
  - COVID-19 vaccination & economic relief
  - Racial equity & law enforcement reform
  - Climate change & potential clean fuel standards

# HOUSE BILL 1096

*“Concerning nonmedicare plans offered through the Washington state health insurance pool.”*



- HB 1096 is continuing to move through the legislative process
- Original fiscal note was amended by OFM
- Next step: Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee public hearing (to be scheduled)

<b>Bill Status-at-a-Glance</b> 	
See <b>Bill History</b> for complete details on the bill	
As of Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:25 PM	
<b>Current Version:</b> <b>HB 1096</b>	<b>Current Status:</b> <b>SHealth &amp; Long</b>
<b>Where is it in the process?</b>	
<p>             Introduced    In Committee    On Floor Calendar    Passed Chamber           </p> <p>             In the House: ●————●————●————●           </p> <p>             In the Senate: ●————○    ○    ○           </p> <p>             After Passage: ○    ○    ○    ○           </p> <p>             Passed Legislature    On Governor's Desk    Governor Acted    Session Law           </p>	
Jan 20	Public Hearing in House Health Care & Wellness
Jan 27	Passed by House Health Care & Wellness
Feb 8	Public Hearing in House Appropriations
Feb 9	Passed by House Appropriations
Feb 24	Passed House Chamber
Feb 26	Referred to Senate Health & Long Term Care

# WA Health Benefit Exchange & Universal Health Care Work Group



## WA Health Benefit Exchange

—In line with action taken at the federal level, WA Healthplanfinder announced a special enrollment period Feb 15 - May 15, 2021, for individuals who are uninsured or enrolled in coverage outside the Exchange.

## Subsidy Study

—Subject to availability of funds, SB 5377 would establish a premium assistance program (and possibly cost-sharing assistance) for individuals with income up to 500% of the federal poverty level. The bill passed the Senate Chamber on March 2 and will now go to the House for consideration.

## Universal Health Care Work Group

—SB 5399 would establish the “Universal Health Care Commission”. The bill is still a work in progress and is continuing to evolve. It passed the Senate Chamber on March 2 and will now move to the House.