



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
WSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MAY 12, 2021

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# 2021 WA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

JANUARY 11– APRIL 25, 2021



## **Sine Die**

- 335 Bills passed in 2021 in addition to operating and capital budgets
- This session will likely be remembered not only for its virtual environment, but also for the large number of policy issues tackled
- Significant health care bills included those related to the COVID-19 response, Cascade Care, health equity, public health, as well as funding for Exchange subsidies, mental health and substance abuse
- Legislators enhanced their understanding of the role WSHIP programs play in our state's health care system

# HOUSE BILL 1096

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



- HB 1096 signed by Governor Inslee on April 16, 2021
- Effective date: July 25, 2021 (Chapter 60, 2021 Laws)

<b>Bill Status-at-a-Glance</b>	
See <b>Bill History</b> for complete details on the bill	
As of Thursday, May 6, 2021 08:52 AM	
<b>Current Version:</b> <b>HB 1096</b>	<b>Current Status:</b> <b>C 60 L 21</b>
<b>Where is it in the process?</b>	
Jan 27	Passed House Health Care & Wellness Committee
Feb 9	Passed House Appropriations Committee
Feb 24	Passed House Chamber
Mar 12	Passed Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee
Mar 25	Passed Senate Ways & Means Committee
Apr 9	Passed both Chambers
Apr 16	Governor signed
Jul 25	Effective date

# WA HBE & UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE



## WA Health Benefit Exchange (HBE)

- HBE efforts are currently focused on completing the system changes and communication updates needed to support implementation of the new American Rescue Plan Act, which provides financial assistance and benefits for both individuals on and off the Exchange. The special Healthplanfinder enrollment period to sign up for coverage or switch plans ends August 15, 2021.

## Subsidy Study

- E2SSB 5377 is on the Governor’s desk, pending signature. The bill establishes a premium assistance program and cost-sharing assistance for individuals with income up to 500% of the federal poverty level.

## Universal Health Care Work Group

- E2SSB 5399 is also on the Governor’s desk. It establishes a “Universal Health Care Commission”.