



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
WSHIP BOARD MEETING
MARCH 8, 2023

2023 WA LEGISLATIVE SESSION



- Legislature is now at the halfway point of the long (105-day) session scheduled to end April 23
- There is significant legislative turnover this year:
 - 20 new legislators + 3 returning from other activities
 - 10 new committee chairs, including House Healthcare & Wellness Committee Chair Marcus Riccelli (replacing Rep. Eileen Cody)
- Legislators' work this session includes crafting the state's operating, capital & transportation budget for the biennium
- March 8 is last day to pass bills in house of origin
- To-date there are no bills of direct impact to WSHIP

2023 WA LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Legislator priorities and key areas of interest include:

- Healthcare work force issues & staffing shortages
- Behavioral health
- Medicaid payment rates
- Long-term care
- Cost growth drivers
- Care access & affordability
- Prior authorization
- Scope of practice & licensure
- Oral health care
- Post-acute care placement
- Social determinants of health (SDOH)

OTHER UPDATES



WA Health Benefit Exchange (HBE)

- As of March 1, Ingrid Ulrey is the new CEO of the WA Health Benefit Exchange.
- Beginning in 2024, the approved Section 1332 waiver authorizes the WA Health Benefit Exchange to expand access to health and dental plans to all Washingtonians regardless of immigration status or income.

WA OIC

- Scott Kipper, Deputy Commissioner for Operations, recently left the OIC to lead the Nevada Division of Insurance.
- Several new healthcare coverage-related reports are now available on the OIC website, including the Medicare Supplemental Insurance /Medigap Guaranteed Issue Study and the Individual Market Health Plans report.
- 2023 WA OIC health-related legislative priorities include combating insurance fraud, as well as regulation of pet insurance.

HCA Universal Health Care Commission

- The Universal Health Care Commission met in January to review and discuss the Finance Technical Advisory Committee's potential direction for 2023.

HCA Health Care Cost Transparency Board

- Next Board meeting is scheduled for April 19. Last month the Board met to consider recommendations for an agreed upon definition of primary care and to review and discuss the 2022 Cost Growth Drivers Study.