

Health Workforce Council 2024 Legislative Update

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HB 2236 – CTE Core Plus Programs

Prime Sponsor: Rep. Shavers

- Directs OSPI to develop an allied health high school CTE program for students pursuing industry-recognized credentials that lead to or articulate to other programs.
 - Collaboration with the Health Workforce Council
 - Should be ready for optional use in the 2027-28 school year.
- Convenes a Statewide CTE Task Force to develop recommendations on work-based learning opportunities, including a model framework for future Core Plus programs.
 - Task Force report due November 15, 2025, section expires in 2026.



HB 1917 – Physician Assistant Compact

- Authorizes Washington to participate in the multi-state physician assistant licensure compact with compact privilege model
 - Compact is not yet active

HB 1917 – Social Work Licensure Compact

- Authorizes Washington to participate in the multi-state social work licensure compact with multi-state license model
 - Compact is not yet active



HB 1946 – Behavioral health conditional scholarships

- Expands the Washington Health Corps Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program to include conditional scholarships
 - Washington Student Achievement Council administers the Washington Health Corps with involvement of Department of Health and consultation with a planning committee

HB 1950 – Public Service Loan Forgiveness

- Adds requirements for state agencies to further remove barriers to state employee participation in Public Service Loan Forgiveness, adds OSPI to group working to remove barriers to PSLF participation for all eligible public service employees
 - Not related to bill, OFM working this year to make recommendations for how to remove PSLF barriers for employees of non-profit employers



HB 2041 – PA collaborative practice

Prime Sponsor: Rep. Riccelli

- Permits a collaborative or supervisory relationship between physician assistants and the physicians with whom they work, makes other changes related to the regulation of physician assistants, of note:
 - PAs with fewer than 4,000 hours of postgraduate clinical practice must work under supervision of a participating physician
 - PAs with more than 4,000 hours of postgraduate clinical practice may work in collaboration with a participating physician



HB 2247 – Behavioral health workforce

Prime Sponsor: Rep. Bateman

- Creates psychology associate license for individuals enrolled in a doctoral psychology program or participating in a supervised postdoctoral experience
- Allows SUDP-trainees to work outside a state regulated agency, removes the 4-time renewal limit on SUDP-T credentials
- Allows all masters-level associates to work for up to 120 days while applications are pending, removes the renewal limit on associate credentials
- Changes the supervision program created in HB 1724 (2023) to pay supervising clinicians a stipend of up to \$2000/year/supervisee (funding planned for FY 26)
- Allows agency affiliated counselors to work at FQHCs beginning in 2028



SB 5184 – Anesthesiologist Assistant

- Creates anesthesiologist assistants as a new health profession licensed by the Washington Medical Commission
- AA may provide assistance according to responsibilities delegated by a supervising anesthesiologist as consistent with the anesthesiologist assistant's education/training and experience

SB 6286 – Anesthesia workforce shortage

- Allows CRNAs to participate in the WABON nurse preceptor grant program
- Directs UW Center for Health Workforce Studies to complete a study on anesthesia workforce issues



SB 5940 – MA-EMT certification

Prime Sponsor: Senator Van De Wege

- Creates a new type of medical assistant, an MA-EMT certification
- Any person holding an EMT or paramedic certification is eligible for an MA-EMT certification with no additional training/examination requirement
- MA-EMT certification is transferable only between licensed hospitals in the state



A few budget items of note

- Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, \$1.163M to support additional staff for research and community outreach
- Area Health Education Centers, \$426K to provide state funds to new AHECs in Central and Southwest Washington

Questions?

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