

Week 5

Friday marked the end of the fifth week, and the 33rd day, of the 2020 legislative session. Two cut-off dates have now come and gone and the next hurdle for legislative action is Wednesday, February 19, when all bills must pass from their House of Origin or be considered dead. In other words, bills that originated in the House must be passed by the full House, and bills that originated in the Senate must be passed by the full Senate, by the end of business on Wednesday in order to be considered "alive".

Legislators worked until midnight on Sunday and then again until about 11:00 last night (Monday). The long hours combined with the impending deadlines has everyone on edge at this stage in the session.

Some priority bill are tracking include:

The B&O tax "fix bill" unfortunately passed and was signed by the Governor, without a "fix" that would help us. We are sure that this issue will be brought up again next session. It's hard once they see the money coming in from these taxes for them to want to give it back, even if it's the right thing to do. We will continue to talk with legislators over the interim about this issue. <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2019&BillNumber=6492>

SB 5887 - Prior authorization, is scheduled to move out of the House committee this week. This bill has been years in the making and we are hopefully it will get to the Governor's desk this session. <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5887&Initiative=false&Year=2019>

The telehealth and telemedicine bills have passed off the floor in the Senate and are now in their relative House committees. We will continue to support these bills as they keep moving.

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