

Week 6

Week 6 of the 2020 Legislative Session was highlighted by the House of Origin cutoff day and the release of an economic and revenue forecast. company to increase its state taxes. This was yet another busy week in Olympia. The House of Origin cutoff is always a frantic time for legislators and a tense time for everyone engaged in the process. This year in particular there were a record number of bills introduced and therefore a record number of bills died on Wednesday at 5:00 pm. Yet, it has been reported that 505 bills in total did make it out of their House of Origin.

The telemedicine/telehealth bills are moving along and are likely to pass. It will be important to follow after session is over to see how they are implemented statewide.

The language we provided to be added into the children's mental health group was not added, but this might have turned out to be a good thing. It has been suggested that we focus on participating in the committee workshops that will be held throughout the interim. I will be following those meetings once they are scheduled and it will be great if WMHCA can send a representative at each meeting once the time comes.

As previously mentioned, any bill that would give the profession a break on B&O taxes did not pass, and the one that did, didn't exempt out health professions, unfortunately. This will surely be another fight next year.

Another bill that is likely to pass is the ITA bill SB 5720:

Brief Summary of Second Engrossed Second Substitute Bill

- Modifies the definition of "likelihood of serious harm" and "grave disability" under the adult and minor Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) statutes.
- Increases the initial detention period from 72 hours to 120 hours, not counting weekends and holidays, beginning January 1, 2021.
- Expands single-bed certifications to include commitments based on a substance use disorder, beginning July 1, 2026.
- Provides that a designated crisis responder may perform ITA evaluations by video provided that a licensed health care professional or professional person is present.
- Imports numerous provisions from the adult ITA to the minor ITA and makes numerous other changes to adult and minor ITA provisions.

The bill came out of the Senate 46-2 and currently is in committee where it will be voted out on the 28th and move to the House Floor. By going off of the Senate vote, it is likely to pass in the House as well.

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