



# State Legislative Session Update

April 2, 2021 First Friday Forum

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# 2021 Legislative Session Timeline

We are here!



Date	
January 11	First day of legislative session
February 15	Last day to pass bills out of originating chamber policy committee
February 22	Last day to pass bills out of originating chamber fiscal committee
March 9	Last day to pass bills out of originating chamber
March 26	Last day to pass bills out of opposite chamber policy committee
April 2	Last day to pass bills out of opposite chamber fiscal committees
April 11	Last day to pass opposite chamber bills
April 25	Last day for regular legislative session

\*There are some exceptions to these deadlines, such as bills “necessary to implement the budget”

# Select Proposed Health Access Bills

Bill Number	Name	High-Level Summary
<a href="#">E2SHB 1086</a>	Creating the state office of behavioral health consumer advocacy.	Directs the Dept. of Commerce to establish as the state office of behavioral health consumer advocacy by 7/1/2022.
<a href="#">E2SHB 1477</a>	Implementing the national 988 system to enhance and expand behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention services.	Builds state infrastructure for a state 988 crisis hotline for suicide prevention and mental health crisis, related to federal requirement to establish a 988 hotline by 7/2022.
<a href="#">SHB 1151</a>	Bolstering economic recovery. <b>(Passed)</b>	Allows Governor to extend Consolidated Emergency Assistance more than once in a 12-month period, via executive order. Provides a one-time cash benefit and transitional food assistance to qualifying households. Requires DSHS to update the standards of need for cash assistance programs to include cell phone, internet, and child and health care costs.
<a href="#">2SSB 5214</a>	Concerning economic assistance programs.	Adds exemption from 60-month time limit for TANF recipients during periods when state unemployment is at least 7%, during months after March 1, 2020.
<a href="#">SHB 1348</a>	Providing medical assistance to incarcerated persons.	Prohibits a person's incarceration status from making them ineligible for Medicaid when incarcerated for up to 29 days, after which Medicaid may be suspended.
<a href="#">ESSB 5118</a>	Supporting successful reentry.	(Among other provisions) Requires the Dept. of Children, Youth, and Families, at least 30 days before a juvenile's release from a residential facility, to send notice of the planned release to the person's health insurance provider or assist the individual in obtaining coverage.
<a href="#">E2SSB 5304</a>	Providing reentry services to persons releasing from state and local institutions.	Expands the Medicaid suspension policy to include all correctional institutions, state hospitals, and other treatment facilities. Clarifies requirements related to reinstatement of Medicaid. Requires HCA to apply for a Medicaid waiver to provide services up to 30 days prior to the person's release or discharge.
<a href="#">SSB 5068</a>	Improving maternal health outcomes by extending coverage during the postpartum period.	Extends Apple Health postpartum health care coverage from 60 days to 12 months post-pregnancy.
<a href="#">E2SSB 5377</a>	Increasing affordability of standardized plans on the individual market.	Subject to appropriation, establishes a premium assistance subsidy program and a cost-sharing assistance subsidy program for people who earn up to 500% FPL and meet other criteria who purchase standard silver or gold health plans from the Health Benefit Exchange.

# Select Health Access Bills (cont'd.)

**Plus multiple bills related to COVID-19 topics, including:**

- Expanding telehealth ([ESHB 1196](#); [SSB 5325](#))
- Improving long-term care facilities during emergencies ([SHB 1218](#); [SSB 5294](#))
- Enhancing equity in health care ([E2SSB 5052](#); [SSB 5228](#); [ESSB 5229](#))
- Restructuring local public health jurisdictions ([E2SHB 1152](#))
- *(And more!)*

# Overview of Budget Proposals

**The budget outlook is dramatically improved from earlier predictions. Recent House ([HB 1094](#)) and Senate ([SB 5092](#)) budget proposals both:**

- Avoid cuts to health and human services
- Rely on an improving economic forecast, state's "Rainy Day Fund," and federal stimulus package funds to prevent the \$9B shortfall that was previously predicted
- Make the state's tax code more equitable by taxing Capital Gains and funding the Working Families Tax Credit
- Build on "Early Action Package" ([ESHB 1368](#)) that was passed earlier in session

# Select Proposed Budget Provisions

## House Proposal

- \$35M for clinics to care for uninsured and underinsured individuals below 200% FPL, regardless of immigration status
- \$40M in Exchange premium assistance for childcare employees

## Senate Proposal

- \$100M in Exchange premium subsidies for people up to 250% FPL

## Both Proposals

- Funding to expand Medicaid coverage to 12 months postpartum
- Medicaid primary care provider rate increase
- Investments in behavioral health and in-home care
- Immigrant Relief Fund
- *Many other provisions geared toward COVID recovery, including public health funding, assistance for housing, cash, childcare needs, etc.*