

# First Friday Forum: State Legislative Updates

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# 2022 Legislative Session

**The state's legislative session for 2022 will run from Jan. 10 to early March.**

- This is a “short session” in the biennial legislative cycle
- Legislature will consider a supplemental biennial budget for July 2021- June 2023
- Session is expected to be largely remote at this time

# Legislative Policy Preview

**While the Legislature typically considers fewer substantive policy proposals in short sessions, this may be a busy session.**

- Ongoing pandemic and economic recovery
- Interest in refining major policy initiatives from past legislative sessions, such as behavioral health and long-term care
- Revenue forecast has increased by roughly \$4B since last session
- Rapidly shifting federal landscape, with pending “Build Back Better” package under discussion in Congress

# Potential Hot Topics

**While session hasn't started yet, stakeholders expect to see health policy proposals in some key areas:**

Issue	Description	More Info
<b>Immigrant health equity</b>	Effort to fund health coverage regardless of immigration status by 2024, starting with low-income adults	<a href="http://www.waisn.org/health-equity-for-immigrants">www.waisn.org/health-equity-for-immigrants</a>
<b>Medicare affordability</b>	Effort to expand programs that make Medicare more affordable for low-income people	<a href="https://nohla.org/index.php/2021/06/16/medicare-cliff/">https://nohla.org/index.php/2021/06/16/medicare-cliff/</a>
<b>Surprise medical bills</b>	Insurance Commissioner request to reinforce protections against surprise medical bills when people get needed care outside health plan provider network	<a href="http://www.insurance.wa.gov/legislative-priorities">www.insurance.wa.gov/legislative-priorities</a>
<b>Charity care</b>	Attorney General request to expand hospital charity care requirements to 400% FPL	<a href="http://www.atg.wa.gov/news/news-releases/ag-ferguson-rep-simmons-bill-will-provide-22-million-washingtonians-access-more">www.atg.wa.gov/news/news-releases/ag-ferguson-rep-simmons-bill-will-provide-22-million-washingtonians-access-more</a>

# Hot Topics, Continued...

Issue	Description	More Info
Disability equity	Effort to build change and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities	<a href="http://www.ddc.wa.gov/northstar-project/northstar">www.ddc.wa.gov/northstar-project/northstar</a>
Health care workforce	Labor-led effort to enhance safety standards at hospitals	<a href="http://www.wasafeandhealthy.com">www.wasafeandhealthy.com</a>
Long term care	Efforts to refine or delay WA Cares Fund, the state's new long-term care program	Several bills have been filed, including <a href="#">HB 1732</a> and <a href="#">HB 1733</a>
Health care industry consolidation	Effort to enhance state review of health care industry mergers & acquisitions, to ensure they would result in greater affordability and access	<a href="http://www.aclu-wa.org/docs/keep-our-care-act-info-sheet">www.aclu-wa.org/docs/keep-our-care-act-info-sheet</a>
Prescription drug costs	Effort to create a state prescription drug affordability board to oversee prescription drug price increases	<a href="#">SB 5532</a> (and other prescription drug bills)
Health care & housing	Effort to expand supportive housing for Apple Health enrollees who are chronically unhoused	TBD
Behavioral health	Efforts to refine last year's investments in behavioral health infrastructure	TBD, many proposals likely

# Key Resources

**Learn more about legislative proposals with these resources:**

- Sign up for NoHLA updates: [www.nohla.org](http://www.nohla.org)
- Find “pre-filed” bills:  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/prefiled.aspx?year=2022>
- Look up a bill by number or topic: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>
- How to participate in the legislative process:  
<https://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/Participating.aspx>
- Governor Inslee’s proposed 2022 supplemental budget:  
<https://ofm.wa.gov/budget/state-budgets/gov-inslees-proposed-2022-supplemental-budgets>