



Micah Matthews, MPA Deputy Executive and Legislative Director

With the conclusion of the 2024 Legislative Session on March 7, the WMC begins the simultaneous work of policy landscape evaluation, implementation of new statutory requirements, and consideration of policy proposals for the 2025 session. A part-time legislature does not equal part time policy work for WMC staff. Despite not initiating any legislation, the WMC saw a significant impact to its regulatory work in 2024. Bills of note for our physician and physician assistant licensees are as follows:

House Bill 1300: Fraud in Assisted Reproduction

- This bill makes it a crime for practitioners to implant their own genetic materials in patients. It also bans the practice entirely under the Uniform Disciplinary Act and classifies it as unprofessional conduct.
- The WMC completed our [first case](#) regarding fraud in assisted reproduction in November 2023. This bill clarifies the legal landscape for all practitioners in the assisted reproduction field, which is a welcome change.
- Bill report: [1300-S.E SBR APS 24 \(wa.gov\)](#)

House Bill 2041: Physician Assistant Collaborative Practice

- This bill moves PAs from a supervision model to the collaborative practice model, removes responsibility for WMC to maintain the practice agreement portal in favor of providing a model collaborative agreement, and clarifies legal liability for acts performed by the PA.
- Additionally, for PAs fresh out of training or switching specialties, a period of supervised practice (similar to what exists now for PAs) is required for a defined period of time.
- A third tier of practice experience is recognized for PAs who have worked in a single specialty for 20,000 hours in rural areas that does not require their collaborating physician to be practicing the same specialty as the PA.
- Bill report: [2041-S.E SBR APS 24 \(wa.gov\)](#)

House Bill 1917: Adopting the Physician Assistant Compact

- The WMC will be an inaugural member in the PA Compact. The compact activates once seven states adopt the legislation. WA will be number four with several other states pending adoption this year.
- The compact model is like the Physical Therapy Compact model with a privilege to practice being issued as opposed to a license.
- With the adoption of Virginia on April 5, the PA Compact went live and activated an 18 month timeline to stand up the Compact Commission
- Bill report: [1917 SBR APS 24 \(wa.gov\)](#)

Senate Bill 5184: Concerning Licensure of Anesthesiology Assistants

- This bill creates the new (to WA) profession of Certified Anesthesiology Assistants (CAAs) under the regulatory authority of the WMC.
- CAAs must practice under the direct supervision of a qualified anesthesiologist up to a 4:1 ratio.
- The WMC must conduct rulemaking prior to launching the profession. This will be an estimated 18-month process. [Sign up here](#) to receive rulemaking notifications, Look for this profession to launch January 2026.
- Bill report: [5184 SBR HA 24 \(wa.gov\)](#)

2024 Legislative Session Wrap Up



Senate Bill 5838: Establishing an AI Task Force, by request of the Attorney General

- Brings together state agencies and leaders to develop recommendations consistent with NIST standards and other noted national expertise.
- The focus is initially on state use of AI and prevention of discrimination.
- Bill report: [5838-S2.E SBR HA 24 \(wa.gov\)](#)

Senate Bill 5481: Uniform Telehealth Act

- This is a bill by the Uniform Laws Commission, which establishes uniform telehealth policy in its own statute as opposed to insurance regulations. Put another way, telehealth requirements in law will finally be about the practice of a profession as opposed to payment. This may be one of the most significant bills impacting health care in this state passed this session.
- Establishes that care occurs at the time and location of the patient and that the telehealth standard is the same as the in-person standard.
- Requires a WA license to deliver telehealth from out of state to WA patients with several exceptions:
 - Peer-to-peer consults
 - Clinical specialist consults for assessment and diagnosis but not treatment
 - Continuity of care for patients in WA, temporarily
- If you recognize the license exemptions - it is because they have been the [policy of the WMC](#) since 2016. They are now the law for all licensed health professions in WA and any other state who adopts the uniform law.
- Bill report: [5481-S.E SBR HA 24 \(wa.gov\)](#)