

Washington State Department of Health  
Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

**House Bills**

Bill	Title	Brief Description	Bill Status	Position	NCQAC Actions
<a href="#">SHB 1009</a>	Concerning military spouse employment.	This bill requires any agency, board, commission, or other authority for issuance of a license, certificate, registration, or permit to establish procedures to expedite the issuance of a license to military spouses upon relocation. Each authority also must have a contact or coordinator to assist with the issuance of these licenses.	Referred to Appropriations, Hearing on 01/30/23, 4 pm	Support Concept	Letter of support concept, 1/18/23
<a href="#">HB 1013</a>	Establishing regional apprenticeship programs.	This bill would establish a pilot program to regional apprenticeship programs through educational service districts with two locations, one for east of the Cascade mountains, and one to the west.	01/16/23 Hearing, 1:30 pm 01/26/23 Executive Action	Monitor	
<a href="#">HB 1020</a>	Designating the <i>Suciasaurus rex</i> as the official dinosaur of the state of Washington.	This bill designates the <i>Suciasaurus rex</i> , the only dinosaur ever found in Washington state, as the official dinosaur of the state of Washington.	01/10/23 Hearing, 1:30 pm 01/17/23 Executive action, passed 01/19/23 Rules	Monitor	
<a href="#">HB 1027</a> (Companion <a href="#">SB 5036</a> )	Concerning telemedicine	This bill extends the time frame in which real-time telemedicine using both audio and video technology may be used to establish a relationship for the purpose of providing audio-only telemedicine for certain health care services.	01/11/23 Hearing, 1:30 pm 01/13/23 Executive action, passed 01/17/23 Rules 01/24/23 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading	Monitor	

Washington State Department of Health  
Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

<a href="#">HB 1038</a> (Companion <a href="#">SB 5184</a> )	Concerning licensure of anesthesiologist assistants	The bill creates a new regulated health profession: anesthesiologist assistant (AA).	01/20/23 Hearing, 8:00 am	Serious Concerns	Jonathan Alvarado in person testimony
<a href="#">HB 1214</a>	Enacting the protecting children’s bodies act	This bill states a health care provider may not provide gender transition procedures to any individual who is under 18 years of age. They may not refer any individual who is under 18 years of age to any health care provider for gender transition procedures.		Monitor	
<a href="#">HB 1242</a>	Creating a behavioral health work group to study the root causes of rising behavioral health issues in Washington communities	This bill would create a behavioral health workgroup to study the root causes of rising behavioral health issues in Washington communities.	01/07/23 Hearing, 1:30 pm	Monitor	
<a href="#">HB 1255</a>	Reducing stigma and incentivizing health care professionals to participate in a substance use disorder monitoring and treatment program	This bill relates to reducing stigma and incentivizing health care professionals licensed by the Washington state Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission to participate in a substance use disorder monitoring and treatment program.	01/24/23 Hearing, 1:30 pm 01/27/23 Executive session	Support Concept	Panel testimony: Grant Hulteen, Dawn Morrell and Alicia Payne
<a href="#">HB 1281</a> (Companion <a href="#">SB 5179</a> )	Increasing access to the provisions of the WA death with dignity act	Replaces references to physician to qualified medical provider that includes physicians, physician assistants and ARNPs	01/25/23 Hearing, 1:30 pm 02/03/23 Executive session		

Washington State Department of Health  
Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

<p><a href="#">HB 1340</a> (Companion <a href="#">SB 5400</a>)</p>	<p>Concerning actions by health professions disciplining authorities against license applicants and license holders</p>	<p>This bill amends the UDA license restriction or denial statute to exclude from grounds for restriction or denial any disciplinary action based on any of the actions in the bill. It outlines what isn't deemed unprofessional conduct under the UDA, and also provides that the same conduct is not basis for denial of a license, with an exception to the extent required by the interstate medical compact.</p>	<p>01/24/23 Hearing, 1:30 pm 01/27/23 Executive session 8:00 am</p>	<p>Support Concept</p>	<p>Letter of support concept, 1/27/23</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1348</a> (Companion <a href="#">SB 5189</a>)</p>	<p>Establishing behavioral support specialists</p>	<p>This bill establishes the Behavioral Health Support Specialist credential, a new bachelor's level provider that acts in a support role capacity to provide low intensity behavioral health intervention for clients with mild to moderate behavioral health conditions. They cannot diagnose and must be supervised by with the partnership of a licensed healthcare provider, including at a licensed community behavioral health agency (BHA).</p>	<p>01/27/23 Hearing, 8:00 am</p>	<p>Monitor</p>	
<p><a href="#">HB 1417</a></p>	<p>Concerning the multistate nurse licensure compact</p>	<p>Adopts the interstate nursing compact. Language is the same across all compact states.</p>	<p>02/03/23 Hearing, 8:00 am Post secondary Education and Workforce</p>	<p>Support Concept</p>	
<p><a href="#">SHB 1452</a></p>	<p>Establishing a state medical reserve corps</p>	<p>Secretary of health establishes a medical reserve corps of health care professional volunteers. May be used for declared emergencies. Subject to their WA scope of practice. Liability insurance coverage</p>	<p>01/24/23 Hearing, 1:30 pm 01/25/23 Executive action, substitute</p>		

Washington State Department of Health  
 Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

<a href="#">HB 1495</a> (Companion <a href="#">SB 5373</a> )	Requiring equal reimbursement for advanced registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians	Health care insurance carrier must reimburse for ARNP and PA services at the same rate as a physician for similar services; may not reduce the reimbursement paid to physicians; report due January 1, 2024			
<a href="#">HB 1503</a>	Collecting health care professionals' information at the time of license application and license renewal	Amends 18.130 (UDA) to require collection of data on all applications (race, ethnicity, gender, languages spoken, provider specialty, primary and secondary practice location) and update with renewal; medical providers under 18.71 are exempt	01/31/23 Hearing 1:30pm 02/03/23 Executive Session 8:00 am		
<a href="#">HB 1547</a>	Increasing the health care workforce by authorizing out-of-state providers to practice immediately.	This bill aims to increase the healthcare workforce by authorizing out-of-state providers to practice immediately.			
<a href="#">HB 1643</a> (Companion to <a href="#">SB 5498</a> )	Creating the hospital-based nurse student loan repayment assistance program under the Washington health corps	This bill creates a hospital-based nurse student loan repayment assistance program under the Washington health corps.			

Washington State Department of Health  
 Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

**Senate Bills**

Bill	Title	Brief Description	Status	Position	NCQAC Actions
<a href="#">SSB 5006</a>	Clarifying waiver of firearm rights	This bill states mental health professionals and substance use disorder professionals (SUDP) may discuss voluntary waiver of firearm rights with their patients if they feel it will avoid or minimize an imminent danger to the health and safety of the patient or others. It changes the process for voluntary waiver of firearms. It allows an individual waiving firearm rights to list a contact person, including a family member, mental health professional, SUDP, or alternate person. The contact person will be notified by the court when the waiver is filed, revoked, or an attempt is made to purchase a firearm and makes it a civil infraction for a person who has waived firearm rights to possess or control a firearm.	01/12/23 Hearing, 8:00 am 01/19/23 Executive action, 8:00 am Substitute 01/20/23 Rules	Monitor	

Washington State Department of Health  
 Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

<p><a href="#">SB 5036</a> (Companion <a href="#">HB 1027</a>)</p>	<p>Concerning telemedicine</p>	<p>This bill extends the time frame in which real-time telemedicine using both audio and video technology may be used to establish a relationship for the purpose of providing audio-only telemedicine for certain health care services.</p>	<p>01/12/23 Hearing, 10:30 am 01/13/23 Executive action, passed 01/16/23 Rules 01/25/23 2<sup>nd</sup> reading</p>	<p>Monitor</p>	
<p><a href="#">SB 5120</a></p>	<p>Establishing 23- hour crisis relief centers in Washington State</p>	<p>This bill establishes 23-hour crisis relief centers as 24-hour, 7-days-a-week community-based facilities licensed or certified by the DOH that offer access to mental health and substance use care for patients for less than 24 hours at a time per patient, and must accept all walk-ins, ambulance, fire, and police drop-offs regardless of behavioral health acuity. It establishes rulemaking to be made by DOH and allows the professional staff of 23-hour crisis relief centers to detain a person who has been brought or accepted to the center and thereafter refuses to stay voluntarily for up to 12 hours. It removes references to crisis triage facilities from code and directs the Department of Health to convert the license or certification of crisis triage facilities to crisis stabilization units.</p>	<p>01/13/23 Hearing, 8:00 am 01/26/23 Executive action, 10:30 am</p>	<p>Monitor</p>	

Washington State Department of Health  
 Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

<p><a href="#">SB 5179</a> (Companion <a href="#">HB 1281</a>)</p>	<p>Increasing access to the provisions of the Washington death with dignity act</p>	<p>This bill outlines policies, processes, offers definitions, clarifications and procedures for competent adult terminally ill patients who meet certain criteria and reside in Washington state to request medication to self-administer to end life in a humane and dignified manner. Replaces references to physician with qualified medical provider who has primary responsibility for the care of the patient and treatment of the terminal disease. This is defined as a physician, physician assistant or ARNP</p>	<p>02/02/23 Hearing, 10:30 am</p>	<p>Monitor</p>	
<p><a href="#">SB 5184</a> (Companion <a href="#">HB 1038</a>)</p>	<p>Concerning licensure of anesthesiologist assistants</p>	<p>The bill creates a new regulated health profession: anesthesiologist assistant (AA).</p>	<p>01/31/23 Hearing, 8:00 am</p>	<p>Serious concerns</p>	<p>Jonathan Alvarado in person testimony</p>

Washington State Department of Health  
 Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">SB 5185</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Addressing abortion</p>	<p>The bill deems the state may not deny or interfere with a woman’s right to choose an abortion prior to 24 weeks of gestational age, or in case of a medical emergency or severe fetal abnormality. It clarifies that except in medical emergencies or cases of abnormalities, practitioners may NOT terminate if the probable gestational age is determined as greater than 24 weeks and will be found guilty of a class C Felony, including suspension of license.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Monitor</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">SB 5189</a> (Companion <a href="#">HB 1348</a>)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Establishing behavioral support specialists</p>	<p>This bill establishes the Behavioral Health Support Specialist credential, a new bachelor’s level provider that acts in a support role capacity to provide low intensity behavioral health intervention for clients with mild to moderate behavioral health conditions. They cannot diagnose and must be supervised by with the partnership of a licensed healthcare provider, including at a licensed community behavioral health agency (BHA).</p>	<p>01/19/23 Hearing 10:30 am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monitor</p>	



Washington State Department of Health  
 Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

<p><a href="#">SB 5227</a></p>	<p>Concerning sex-selection abortions</p>	<p>This bill states that abortions may not be performed with the knowledge that the pregnant individual is seeking the abortion solely on account of the sex of the unborn child.</p>		<p>Monitor</p>	
<p><a href="#">SB 5236</a></p>	<p>Concerning hospital staffing standards</p>	<p>This bill seeks to improve nurse and health care worker safety and patient care by establishing minimum staffing standards in hospitals, requiring hospital staffing committees to develop staffing plans, addressing mandatory overtime and meal and rest breaks, and providing for enforcement.</p>	<p>01/17/23 Hearing, 10:30 am</p>	<p>Monitor</p>	

Washington State Department of Health  
 Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

<p><a href="#">SB 5263</a></p>	<p>Concerning access to psilocybin services by individuals 21 years of age and older</p>	<p>This bill establishes wellness model-based psilocybin services and establishes DOH authority to license, regulate, and enforce all provisions.</p>	<p>01/30/23 Hearing 10:30 am</p>	<p>Monitor</p>	
<p><a href="#">SB 5327</a></p>	<p>Concerning paying interns.</p>	<p>This bill establishes pay requirements for interns.</p>			

Washington State Department of Health  
 Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

<p><a href="#">SB 5373</a> (Companion <a href="#">HB 1495</a>)</p>	<p>Requiring equal reimbursement for advanced registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians</p>	<p>Health care insurance carrier must reimburse for ARNP and PA services at the same rate as a physician for similar services; may not reduce the reimbursement paid to physicians; report due January 1, 2024</p>	<p>01/31/23 Hearing, 8:00 am</p>		
<p><a href="#">SB 5400</a> (Companion <a href="#">HB 1340</a>)</p>	<p>Concerning actions by health professions disciplining authorities against license applicants and license holders</p>	<p>This bill amends the UDA license restriction or denial statute to exclude from grounds for restriction or denial any disciplinary action based on any of the actions in the bill. It outlines what isn't deemed unprofessional conduct under the UDA, and also provides that the same conduct is not basis for denial of a license, with an exception to the extent required by the interstate medical compact.</p>		<p>Monitor</p>	

Washington State Department of Health  
 Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

<p><a href="#">SB 5481</a></p>	<p>Concerning the uniform telemedicine act</p>	<p>Adds new chapter to Title 18 RCW; Patient is located in WA state, professional practice standards of WA state and provider located out of state; has an out of state or compact license, registers with the WA discipline authority; discipline authority may take disciplinary action; rule making authority</p>	<p>02/02/23 Hearing, 10:30 am</p>		
<p><a href="#">SB 5498</a> (Companion <a href="#">HB 1643</a>)</p>	<p>Creating the hospital-based nurse student loan repayment assistance program under the Washington health corps</p>	<p>This bill creates a hospital-based nurse student loan repayment assistance program under the Washington health corps.</p>	<p>02/01/23 Hearing 8:00 am</p>		

Washington State Department of Health  
 Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

<p><a href="#">SB 5499</a></p>	<p>Concerning the multistate nurse licensure compact</p>	<p>Adopts the interstate nursing compact. Language is the same across all compact states. In addition, this bill increases the WCN surcharge to \$8, and requires NCQAC to publish a summary annually on its webpage noting the key differences in each state’s nursing practice act.</p>			
<p><a href="#">SB 5503</a></p>	<p>Establishing requirements for uniform clinical placement hours for nursing education programs</p>	<p>This bill establishes the number of clinical experience hours for Registered Nurses (RNs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs). The bill also will limit the number of direct patient care or clinical experience hours required to 300 hours for LPN programs, 500 hours for associate degree nursing programs, and 600 hours for Bachelor of Science in nursing programs. The Nursing Commission will review the number of hours annually and adjust as necessary based on national licensing or accreditation standards.</p>			

Washington State Department of Health  
 Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

<p><a href="#">SB 5537</a></p>	<p>Establishing the Washington state hospital patient care unit staffing innovation collaborative</p>	<p>Amends Department of Health statutes to establish the WA state hospital patient care unit staffing innovation collaborative to understand new and innovative staffing models and use of technology. The bill describes the member qualifications of the collaborative and geographical as well as size of hospital requirements. One member must be from a Master of Nursing program and a physician. The exploration must include integration of patient monitoring equipment, remote patient monitoring, team-based care, apprenticeship and career ladder programs, and virtual or remote care delivery models</p>			
<p><a href="#">SB 5538</a></p>	<p>Concerning postretirement employment in nursing positions for a state agency</p>	<p>This bill clarifies retirement allowances for nursing positions in state agencies.</p>	<p>1/30/23 4:00 PM Hearing, Senate Ways and Means</p>		

Washington State Department of Health  
 Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">SB 5547</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Concerning nursing pool transparency</p>	<p>Any nursing pool providing nurses, surgical technologists, diagnostic radiologic techs, or cardiovascular invasive specialist, respiratory care practitioner or nursing assistant – certified must annual register the nursing pool with the secretary of health, disclose their corporate structure and the secretary shall make publicly available. Give fee authority to cover all costs. Speaks to nursing pools located in WA but not for those who employ health care personnel in WA. Lists the requirement for health care personnel that must be met by the nursing pool, including criminal background checks, contract changes, and reports due to the secretary on an annual basis.</p>			
--	---	--	--	--	--

Washington State Department of Health  
 Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Legislative Panel  
**2023 – Bill Report – February 1, 2023**

<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">SB 5582</a></p>	<p>Reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to increase the supply of nurses in Washington</p>	<p>Expand nursing credential opportunities by requiring State Board of Community and Technical Colleges to develop a plan by 02/01/24; online curriculum and pathway for LPNs; establishes the Home Care Aide to LPN apprenticeship; guarantee HCA admission to LPN programs; workforce training board shall contract with a marketing firm to develop plan for CNAs, LPN/LVN and nursing professions and include long term care and rural; OFM to conduct salary survey on nurse educators; CNAs in DVA facilities; NCQAC able to grant nurses with graduate degrees but not doctoral degree as administrator of a bachelor program; simulation 1:2 hours and adopt rules; expand nurse preceptor funds; nursing assistant programs in high schools in rural hospitals</p>	<p>02/01/23 Hearing 8:00 am</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">SB 5588</p>	<p>Concerning the mental health sentencing alternative.</p>	<p>This bill clarifies the mental health sentencing alternative in relation to defendants undergoing treatment and supervision in another state.</p>			