

[HB 1431](#)—Clarifying that meals furnished to tenants of senior living communities as part of their rental agreement are not subject to sales and use tax. Rep. Joe Timmons' legislation to clarify that senior meals are not subject to sales tax passed the House and Senate on unanimous votes and is now at the Governor's Office for signature.

[HB 1547](#)—Increasing the health care workforce by authorizing out-of-state providers to practice immediately. The legislation creates an expedited temporary practice permit process for registered nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, and licensed practical nurses, who are licensed in Alaska, California, Idaho, or Oregon, to practice in Washington. The legislation failed to advance but is eligible for reconsideration next year.

[HB 1694](#)—Addressing home care workforce shortages. The legislature is working to eliminate barriers to training and credentialing for health care workers, including home care aides employed in assisted living. Of particular note for providers is that the term "date of hire" is defined as the first day the long term care worker is employed by any employer. Long term care workers who are not currently certified or eligible to reactivate an expired credential may receive a new date of hire when either beginning work with a new employer or returning to work for a former employer. The bill has been signed into law.

[SB 5547](#)—Concerning nursing pool transparency. This legislation aims to ensure that nursing pools (staffing agencies) are registered with the Department of Health. The bill also establishes reporting requirements related to provided services. The bill has been signed by the Governor.

[SB 5499](#)—Concerning the multistate nurse licensure compact. Legislation that would make Washington a Nurse Licensure Compact state passed the Senate on a 40-8 vote earlier this month. The bill has been signed into law by Governor Inslee.

[SB 5278](#)—Implementing audit recommendations to reduce barriers to home care aide certification. This legislation is intended to address the [Washington State Auditor's report](#) about barriers to training and certification for home care aides. The legislation has passed the Senate and has undergone several revisions but, in short, is intended to provide easier access to training and testing for home care aides. The bill has been advanced to the Governor's Office for final consideration.

[SB 5582](#)—Reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to increase the supply of nurses in Washington. This legislation directs the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (College Board) to develop a plan to train more nurses over the next four years, including the development of an online Licensed Practical Nurse program at two community or technical colleges. The bill modifies program approval and training requirements under the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission and creates a marketing plan to advertise available nurse training opportunities and jobs in Washington. The bill has been signed by the Governor.