



Washington Fire Chiefs

2022 Legislative Priorities

- **Mental & Behavioral Health Proposals**
 - Support legislative clarification to the scope of law enforcement engagement on mental and behavioral health responses
 - Support enhanced investment and training for initial response and wrap-around services for incidents involving mental and behavioral health crises
- **COVID-19-Related Issues**
 - Explore opportunities for COVID-related financial support to fire districts and RFAs
 - Explore opportunities for enhanced recruitment and retention
 - Monitor Department of Health legislation to allow EMTs to provide medical evaluation, testing, and vaccines outside of an emergency in response to a public health agency request
- **General Operations/Policy Proposals**
 - Support legislation granting fire districts of a certain size the authority to serve as their own treasurer
 - Support legislation clarifying the scope of virtual meetings and notice requirements under the Open Public Meetings Act
 - Monitor legislation from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner regarding balance billing for potential impacts on ground ambulance transport billing
 - Continue to explore incentive options for ongoing regionalization efforts
 - Continue to explore options related to the 1% property tax growth limit, working with other local government association partners
- **WSAFM-Related Proposals**
 - Monitor efforts regarding updates to the inspection and testing of fire and smoke control systems and dampers
 - Monitor impacts of code suspensions/delays due to COVID-19 and homeless/affordable housing efforts
 - Protect key programs and funding within the State Fire Marshal's Office