

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

To: WSBA Board of Governors
From: Sanjay Walvekar, WSBA Outreach and Legislative Affairs Manager
Date: May 1, 2019
Re: 2019 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

BACKGROUND: The following is provided for the Board's information regarding action taken by the Legislature during the 2019 session.

The 105-day 2019 regular session began on January 14 and adjourned on April 28. Legislators passed a myriad of policy measures, as well as [a new 2019-21 state operating budget](#) (including plans for increased higher-education spending and a rebuild of the state's mental-health system) and a [corresponding tax package to fund the budget](#) (anticipating more than \$830 million in new revenue).

OVERVIEW:

2019 WSBA Legislative Priorities

Priority #1: Solicit and receive input from the members, sections and committees of the WSBA regarding setting the legislative priorities of the WSBA.

This priority was adopted by the Board in November, after feedback from members attending the annual Section Legislative Primer. The WSBA legislative affairs team will work with WSBA stakeholders to draft legislative priorities for the 2020 session.

Priority #2: Sponsor Bar-request legislative proposals initiated by WSBA Sections that are approved by the Board.

Gov. Inslee signed WSBA's request bill, [SB 5003](#), into law on April 26. Originating from the Corporate Act Revision Committee of the Business Law Section, SB 5003 addresses preemptive rights, cumulative voting, and approval of asset sales under the [Washington Business Corporation Act](#) to better align with the Model Business Corporation Act and other leading corporate law jurisdictions, such as Delaware. This law goes into effect 7/28/2019.

Priority #3: Support non-Bar request legislative proposals approved by the Board under GR 12.

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The Board's legislative involvement this session centered on [ESHB 1788](#), a bill that would repeal the majority of the State Bar Act. The WSBA Board opposed this legislation and testified in opposition to the bill before the Senate Law & Justice Committee on March 19. The bill passed the House and Senate with amendments but did not receive a concurrence vote in the House. In effect, no bill related to the State Bar Act passed the Legislature this session.

Priority #4: Monitor and take appropriate action on legislative proposals significant to the practice of law and administration of justice.

The WSBA Legislative Affairs Office monitored numerous legislative proposals that might have impacted various WSBA entities. The following is a list of some of the key bills that were monitored and involved working collaboratively with relevant WSBA Sections:

- [SB 5079](#) (Sen. McCoy): enacting the Native American Voting Rights Act of Washington (Civil Rights Law: support). Signed by Gov. Inslee. This law goes into effect 7/28/2019.
- [SB 5131](#) (Sen. Takko): regarding foreclosure and distraint sales of manufactured/mobile or park model homes (Creditor Debtor Rights: concerns). Signed by Gov. Inslee. This law goes into effect 7/28/2019.
- [SB 5399](#) (Sen. Pedersen): concerning child relocation by a person with joint decision-making authority and equal residential time (Family Law: concerns). Signed by Gov. Inslee. This law goes into effect 7/28/2019.
- [HB 1066](#) (Rep. Kilduff): requiring debt collection complaints to be filed prior to service of summons and complaint (Creditor Debtor Rights: concerns). Passed both houses and awaiting Gov. Inslee's signature.
- [HB 1602](#) (Rep. Reeves): concerning consumer debt (Creditor Debtor Rights: concerns). Passed both houses and awaiting Gov. Inslee's signature.
- [E2SHB 2158](#) (Rep. Hansen): Creating a workforce education investment to train Washington students for Washington jobs (Taxation: concerns). Passed both houses and awaiting Gov. Inslee's signature.
- [SB 5907](#) (Sen. Kuderer): requiring the office of civil legal aid to conduct a comparative study of the impact of attorney representation for tenants in unlawful detainer proceedings (Low Bono: support). Passed committee; did not go to floor vote.
- [SB 5513](#) (Sen. Keiser): concerning the employer-employee relationship (Solo & Small Practice: opposed). Did not pass committee.

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- [SB 5189](#) (Sen. Hasegawa): prohibiting dual agency in certain real estate transactions (RPPT: opposed).
Did not pass committee.
- [SB 5302](#) (Sen. Rivers): creating an office of the homeowners' association ombuds. (RPPT: opposed).
Did not pass committee.

Session Statistics

During the legislative session this year, the WSBA Legislative Affairs Office:

- Referred **1098** bills to WSBA Sections;
- Continuously tracked **460** bills through the end of session;
- Monitored **52** committee hearings;
- Testified and/or coordinated testimony for **3** hearings; and
- Participated in approximately **30** meetings with legislators and staff.

Legislative Interim

For some bills that did not reach final passage this year, legislators have already expressed an interest in studying these issues over the summer and fall months for reintroduction in 2020. Over the interim, relevant WSBA entities and the WSBA Legislative Affairs Office will monitor and participate in these discussions with legislators and legislative staff regarding various legislative proposals.