

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

To: WSBA Board of Governors
From: Sanjay Walvekar, WSBA Outreach and Legislative Affairs Manager
Date: March 12, 2020
Re: 2020 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

BACKGROUND: The following is provided for the Board's information regarding action taken by the Legislature during the 2020 session.

The 60-day 2020 regular session began on January 13 and adjourned on March 12. Legislators passed a myriad of policy measures, as well as a [\\$10.4 billion state transportation budget](#) intended to [minimize potential effects of Initiative 976](#).

OVERVIEW:

2020 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.

The WSBA legislative affairs team will continue to work with WSBA stakeholders to draft legislative priorities for the 2021 session.

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

Gov. Inslee is expected to sign WSBA's request bill, [SB 6037](#), into law this month. Originating from the Corporate Act Revision Committee of the Business Law Section, SB 6037 addresses optional provisions in articles of incorporation, shareholder consent requirements for corporate action, and board gender diversity requirements 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 on 6/10/2020.

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

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The Board Legislative Committee closely monitored [ESHB 1788](#), a bill that would repeal the majority of the State Bar Act. The WSBA Board opposed this legislation during the 2019 legislative session. The bill did not pass its house of origin this session and no bill related to the State Bar Act moved forward this year.

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

The WSBA Legislative Affairs team 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 6028](#) (Sen. Pedersen): Adopting the uniform electronic transactions act and aligning statutory provisions relating to signatures, declarations, and documents (Solo & Small Practice: support). Passed both houses and awaiting Gov. Inslee's signature.
- [SB 6053](#) (Sen. Conway): establishing wage liens (Business Law: concerns). Did not pass Senate.
- [SB 6287](#) (Sen. Pedersen): concerning guardianships and conservatorships (Family Law: concerns). Passed both houses and awaiting Gov. Inslee's signature.
- [HB 2793](#) (Rep. Hansen): vacating criminal records (Civil Rights Law: support). Passed both houses and awaiting Gov. Inslee's signature.
- [HB 2576](#) (Rep. Ortiz-Self): concerning private detention facilities (Civil Rights Law: support). Passed both houses and awaiting Gov. Inslee's signature.
- [HB 2567](#) (Rep. Thai): concerning open courts (Civil Rights Law: support). Passed both houses and awaiting Gov. Inslee's signature.
- [HB 2806](#) (Rep. Goodman): concerning mediation in family law cases involving children (Family Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution: support). Did not pass committee.
- [HB 2544](#) (Rep. Paul): concerning the definition of a veteran (Legal Assistance to Military Personnel: support). Passed both houses and awaiting Gov. Inslee's signature.

Session statistics

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

- Referred **884** bills to WSBA Sections;

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- Continuously tracked 517 bills through the end of session;
- Monitored 45 committee hearings;
- Testified and/or coordinated testimony for 4 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 2021. Over the interim, relevant WSBA entities and the WSBA Legislative Affairs team will monitor and participate in these discussions with legislators and legislative staff regarding various legislative proposals. The WSBA Legislative Affairs team will also work with Section executive committees to share information about the legislative process, set and align legislative goals, and develop best practices for a successful 2021 legislative session.