

BOG Legislative Committee – Meeting Minutes February 1, 2016

Members present: Phil Brady, Bill Hyslop, Mario Cava, Angela Hayes, Elijah Forde, Sean Davis, Robin Haynes, Anthony Gipe

Staff present: Jean McElroy, Debra Carnes, Alison Grazzini, Mike Shaw, Dana King



SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN

Item Discussed	Bill Number	Vote	Comments
Meeting Minutes	N/A	Vote in approval for meeting minutes	No objections Moved: Gov. Brady Seconded: Gov. Hayes
Termination of all legal responsibilities of a nonparent	HB 2612	Vote if HB 2612 meets GR 12.1	Vote aye: unanimous Moved: Gov. Brady Seconded: Gov. Hayes
If the Family Law Section is authorized to publicly comment	HB 2612	Vote for approval on testifying	Vote aye: unanimous

Bill Report:

- WSBA-request bill, SB 6205, was voted out of committee. Therefore, will be advancing further in the legislative process. It has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee and will need to be considered by the full Senate by Feb. 17 (house of origin cutoff).

Watch List:

SB 5635- Enacting the uniform power of attorney act

- Prime sponsor: Sen. Pedersen
- SB 5635 will have a scheduled public hearing in the Senate Law and Justice Committee on Feb 3.
- A representative from the Elder Law Section will be testifying in support also representing the RPPT Section.

HB 1037- Implementing changes to child support based on the child support schedule work group report.

- Prime sponsor: Rep. Moeller
- The Family Law Section supports this bill and Alison will be signing in pro on their behalf.
- A representative from the Section participated in the child support workgroup that helped develop draft recommendations to the Legislature.

HB 6585- Concerning elder justice centers

- Prime sponsor: Sen. Cleveland
- SB 6585 received a public hearing in the Senate Health Care Committee; Alison signed in pro on behalf of the Elder Law Section. The House version was heard last week and the Elder Law Section also supports.

HB 2612/ SB 6452- Authorizing the termination of all legal responsibilities of a nonparent if genetic testing shows by clear and convincing evidence that a man is not the genetic father of a child.

- Prime sponsors: Rep. Shea/ Sen. Roach
- Alison mentioned that the bill does not state a time limit for the father to challenge the genetics of the child. The father can file a case at any time and can sue the mother to repay child support if he is found to not be the biological father via DNA testing.
- The Family Law Section opposes this bill for reasons that the bill does not focus on the best interests of the child.
- Alison recommended that the BOG Leg. Committee give authorization to the Family Law Section to testify in opposition.
- Gov. Forde asked Alison for her opinion of the progression of the bill. Alison expressed that she thinks it may pass the Senate but not reach full passage given the severity of substantive policy changes.
- This bill is named the Brandon Jones Act and involves an advocacy group of fathers who were raising children that were not biologically theirs.
- Gov. Brady made a motion to vote if this bill meets GR 12.1; Gov. Hayes seconded; vote was unanimous with ayes.
- Gov. Brady called a vote if the Family Law Section should be authorized to publicly comment on the bill; Gov. Black moved the motion; Gov. Hayes seconded; unanimous with ayes.

HB 2907- Addressing the use of deadly force by a public officer or peace officer.

- Prime sponsor: Rep. Moscoso
- The Civil Rights Section voted to support but did not ask the BLC for authorization to comment publicly.
- Stakeholders affiliated with this issue include the Black Alliance of Thurston County; Pres. Hyslop was approached by a lobbyist that expressed they want the full WSBA to support.

- Gov. Forde wanted to know more about the bills and reaching final passage. Alison mentioned that it is scheduled to be voted out of committee on Friday but law enforcement heavily opposes the bill; Mike agreed.
- HB 2907 removes the language that states an officer can use deadly force with the good faith belief, leading the bill to be more controversial.
- Gov. Brady mentioned that he, personally, is in support of the bill.
- Gov. Brady expressed that he would like to express a public statement as opposed to staying impartial.
- Gov. Brady asked for Alison's opinion on expressing a position. She mentioned that the Civil Rights Section did not express interest in taking action so the opinion would be on behalf of the WSBA. Also, a variety of stakeholders could be upset if the WSBA expresses support on this issue. She also mentioned a bill of this nature was offered too late in session to formulate enough time for a great deal of public action.
- Gov. Forde expressed that this issue may be too controversial, therefore, the BOG Leg. Committee should be cautious about taking a position.

Follow-up on HB 1745: the Voting Rights Act

- Alison provided an update from last week's action item to contact the Civil Rights Section regarding a draft letter supporting HB 1745. At this time, the Civil Rights Section does not have a draft letter as they have requested further information into the WSBA legislative process.
- Gov. Brady will be following up with the Civil Rights Section.

Committee Hearings:

- Alison explained that bills worth \$50,000 or more will go into fiscal committee. Many bills will be discontinued as the fiscal cutoff date is Feb. 8; narrowing down the number of bills.
- Alison also mentioned that session is at its halfway point. Legislators will be focusing on what bills should have their highest interest and how much revenue is available to write a supplemental operating budget.

Outreach Activities:

- Alison highlighted that she has had great conversations with Senators and is working to continue a strong network with Representatives regarding the WSBA- request bill.

Gov. Black made a motion for the meeting to adjourn; seconded by Gov. Hayes; no objections.

Meeting adjourned by Gov. Brady at 4:45PM on Monday, February 1, 2016.