

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

To: WSBA Board of Governors
From: Sanjay Walvekar, WSBA Outreach and Legislative Affairs Manager
Date: May 2, 2018
Re: 2018 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

BACKGROUND: The following information is provided for the Board's information regarding action taken by the Legislature during the 2018 session.

The 60-day 2018 regular session began on Monday, January 8, and adjourned on Thursday, March 8. Legislators passed a myriad of policy measures as well as a [capital budget](#) (providing state funding for the construction and renovation of schools, parks, and other state facilities) and a [supplemental operating budget](#) (adding more than \$750 million in net spending to the current budget, with a focus on funding for education, mental health, and higher education).

OVERVIEW:

2018 WSBA Legislative Priorities

Priority #1: Sponsor Bar-Request legislative proposals initiated by WSBA Sections that are approved by the Board.

Gov. Inslee signed WSBA's request bill, [SB 6040](#), into law on March 13.

Originating from the Corporate Act Revision Committee of the Business Law Section, SB 6040 addresses electronic voting at corporate meetings under the Washington Business Corporation Act and allows corporations to remotely hold shareholder meetings (similar to other leading corporate law jurisdictions, such as Delaware). This law goes into effect 6/7/2018.

Priority #2: Support non-Bar request legislative proposals approved by the Board under GR 12.

This session, WSBA Sections and entities voted to support various pieces of legislation concerning information about the law, access to justice, and the criminal justice system. The following bills were signed into law by Gov. Inslee:

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- [HB 1896](#) (Rep. Dolan): expanding civics education in public schools (BOG Legislative Committee: support). This law goes into effect 6/7/2018.
- [SB 6002](#) (Sen. Saldaña): enacting the Washington voting rights act of 2018 (Civil Rights Law Section: support). This law goes into effect 6/7/2018.

The following bill did not pass the Legislature. However similar legislation will likely be considered during the next legislative session:

- [SB 6052](#) (Sen. Walsh): reducing criminal justice expenses by eliminating the death penalty and instead requiring life imprisonment without possibility of release or parole as the sentence for aggravated first degree murder (Civil Rights Law Section: support).

More information about legislative action considered by the Board can be found in the meeting minutes of the [Board Legislative Committee](#).

Priority #3: 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:

- [HB 1169](#) (Rep. Orwall): enacting the student opportunity, assistance, and relief act (Creditor Debtor Rights Section: support). Signed by Gov. Inslee. This law goes into effect 6/7/2018.
- [HB 1298](#) (Rep. Ortiz-Self): prohibiting employers from asking about arrests or convictions before an applicant is determined otherwise qualified for a position (Civil Rights Law Section: support). Signed by Gov. Inslee. This law goes into effect 6/7/2018.
- [HB 1022](#) (Rep. MacEwen): enhancing crime victim participation in the criminal justice system process (Civil Rights Law Section: support). Signed by Gov. Inslee. This law goes into effect 6/7/2018.
- [HB 1783](#) (Rep. Holy): concerning legal financial obligations (Civil Rights Law Section: support). Signed by Gov. Inslee. This law goes into effect 6/7/2018.
- [SB 5598](#) (Sen. Pedersen): granting relatives, including grandparents, the right to seek visitation with a child through the courts (Family Law Section: oppose). Signed by Gov. Inslee. This law goes into effect 6/7/2018.

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- [SB 6560](#) (Sen. Darneille): ensuring that no youth is discharged from a public system of care into homelessness (Juvenile Law Section: support).
- [SB 6015](#) (Sen. Hasegawa): concerning actions for wrongful injury or death (Litigation Section: support). This bill did not reach final passage this session. However, similar legislation will likely be considered next session.
- [SB 6012](#) (Sen. King): allowing the federal veteran identification card to be used to obtain a veteran designation on a driver's license (Legal Assistance to Military Personnel (LAMP) Section: support). Signed by Gov. Inslee. This law goes into effect 6/7/2018.
- [HB 1630](#) (Rep. Slatter): Allowing minors to consent to share their personally identifying information in the Washington homeless client management information system (Juvenile Law Section: support). Signed by Gov. Inslee. This law goes into effect 6/7/2018.
- [HB 2253](#) (Rep. Graves): concerning the right to control disposition of the remains of a deceased minor child (Family Law Section: concerns). This bill did not reach final passage this session. However, similar legislation will likely be considered next session.
- [HB 2371](#) (Rep. Sawyer): implementing child support pass-through payments (Family Law Section: support). This bill did not reach final passage this session. However, similar legislation will likely be considered next session.

Session statistics

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

- Referred **415** bills to WSBA Sections;
- Continuously tracked **246** bills through the end of regular session;
- Monitored **184** committee hearings;
- Testified and/or coordinated testimony for **2** hearings; and
- Participated in approximately **11** meetings with legislators and staff.

Legislative interim

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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 2019. 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.

I will also be meeting with the Executive Committees of each Section to ascertain whether they will be proposing any legislation for the 2019 session.