

Proposed Bylaw Amendments – The Sections (Art. XI)

These amendments are intended to achieve three goals:

1. Policy/Governance Transparency.
2. Maintain Democratic Weight.
3. Realignment towards addressing member concerns.

There have been several years of change and uncertainty in direction given to both the WSBA staff and Section leadership on the ability of Sections to comment on and take positions on issues of interest to their members. Sections are intended to be subject matter experts within their areas of law, both for the benefit of their members and the public. Section leaders have expressed concern and frustration in regards to this change and their inability to do some of the basic functions sections were set up to do by gathering expertise.

These amendments are intended to clarify and protect certain advocacy rights for Sections, while protecting the WSBA's public identity as a whole, as well as to increase flexibility in the timing of elections consistent with concerns about pairing elections with mid-year section meetings.

REDLINE PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

E. BYLAWS AND POLICIES

1. Sections are subject to all Bar Bylaws, policies, and procedures. Each section must have bylaws consistent with the Bar Bylaws. Amendments to section bylaws may be made by a majority vote of the voting executive committee members present at a section meeting. Section bylaws or amendments thereof will become effective when approved by the BOG. However, no Bar Bylaw, policy, or procedure will prevent a section from commenting or issuing a position on a public matter, so long as:
 - a. Such position has been approved by the Section's Executive Committee;
 - b. The Section has promulgated Bylaws providing for reasonable comment and feedback on the issue from its members;

c. The Section has carried out a GR 12 Analysis in line with a GR 12 Analysis Policy promulgated by the Board of Governors; and

d. The Section makes explicitly clear in all communications that its position is not that of the WSBA as a whole, but only that of the Section, and that the position is not endorsed by the WSBA as a whole.

G. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

3. Timing. Nominations and elections for open section executive committee ~~persons~~ positions will be held ~~between March and May~~ no later than June 30th of each year.