

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPROVAL OF
AMENDMENTS TO THE WSBA BYLAWS
ARTICLE III, SECTION I.5

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ORDER
No. 25700-B-740

The Washington Supreme Court has plenary authority over the practice of law in Washington. The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) serves under the delegated authority of the Court in regulating and administering licenses to practice law in Washington and effectuating other purposes and functions as set forth in General Rule (GR) 12 and 12.1 – 12.5. All amendments to the WSBA Bylaws are subject to Supreme Court approval.

In a letter dated September 30, 2025, the WSBA provided the Court proposed amendments to Article III, Section I.5 of the WSBA Bylaws that were approved by the WSBA Board of Governors at its September 26, 2025, meeting. The amendments relating to the WSBA license fee exemption will increase the number of times the exemption may be taken, raise the threshold to qualify for the exemption, and more accurately name the exemption.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED:

That the WSBA Bylaws Amendments to Article III, Section I.5, as described above and as provided in the attached copy of the amendments, are approved by this Court and shall be given full force and effect.

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DATED at Olympia, Washington this 10th day of October, 2025.

For the Court


CHIEF JUSTICE

Budget and Audit Committee Recommended Amendments to WSBA Bylaws

WSBA Bylaws Art. III Sec. I.5. (page 15 of WSBA Bylaws)

5. License Fee and Assessment Exemption Based on Financial Need

An active member with an annual household income equal to or less than 270% of the federal poverty level, as determined based on the member's household income for the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year for which the member is seeking to be exempted from license fees, may be granted an exemption from payment of annual license fees and assessments by the Executive Director. Exemptions are for one licensing period only, and a request must be submitted on or before February 1st of the year for which the exemption is requested. Denial of an exemption request is not appealable. A member may be granted an exemption a maximum of three times, on the basis of separate exemption requests, and the exemptions may be granted for consecutive or non-consecutive calendar years.