

To: WSBA Board of Governors

From: Clark McIsaac, WSBA Legislative Assistant

Date: May 4, 2016

Re: 2017 Legislative Regular Session Wrap-Up

BACKGROUND: The following information is provided for the Board's information regarding action taken by the 2017 Legislature during the 2017 regular session.

The 2017 Legislative regular session adjourned on Sunday April 23. Governor Inslee called the first special session into order April 24; additional special sessions are anticipated to follow. Legislators have passed a myriad of policy measures and a transportation budget. Legislators have yet to pass a supplemental capital budget as well as a supplemental operating budget which may impact access to justice, court funding, and civil legal aid.

OVERVIEW:

2017 WSBA Legislative Priorities

Priority #1: Sponsor Bar-Request Legislation (goal: completed)

Gov. Inslee signed WSBA's two request bills, [SB 5011](#) and [SB 5012](#), into law on April 17.

Originating from the Corporate Act Revision Committee of the Business Law Section, SB 5011 modernizes Washington's Business Corporation Act to better reflect current corporate business practices, create process efficiencies, and ultimately attract new corporations to Washington State. This bill goes into effect 7/23/2017.

Originating from the Probate and Trust segment of the Real Property, Probate & Trust Section, SB 5012 provides a simple, low-cost way for modernizing trust documents while protecting the interests of beneficiaries. Based on the 2015 Uniform Trust Decanting Act, the bill also creates provisions for specialty trusts in situations where the beneficiary has become disabled. This bill goes into effect 7/23/2017.

Priority #2: Support New, Existing Legislation (goal: completed)

This session, WSBA Sections voted to support various pieces of legislation that promoted civil legal aid services, access to justice, and supported the state's court system.

The following bills passed the Legislature (and are awaiting a signature or possible veto by Gov. Inslee):

- [SHB 1055](#) (Rep. Kilduff): concerning pro bono legal services for military service members, veterans, and their families (LAMP: support).
- [2SHB 1402](#) (Rep. Jenkins): concerning the rights and obligations associated with incapacitated persons and other vulnerable adults (Elder: support).

The following bills were signed into law by Gov. Inslee:

- [SB 5040](#) (Sen. Pedersen): making revisions to the uniform business organizations code (Business: support). This bill goes into effect 7/23/2017.
- [SB 5085](#) (Sen. Padden): enacting the uniform voidable transactions act (Creditor Debtor: support). This bill goes into effect 7/23/2017.
- [SSB 5277](#) (Sen. Padden): concerning disqualification of judges (Litigation: support). This bill goes into effect 7/23/2017.

Priority #3: Monitor New, Existing Legislation (goal: completed)

The WSBA Legislative Affairs Office monitored numerous legislative proposals that might have impacted various WSBA entities. Although much more extensive, the following is a list of some of the key bills that were monitored and involved working collaboratively with relevant WSBA Sections.

These bills did not reach final passage during regular session this year (though may be considered during special session):

- [HB 1640](#) (Rep. Graves): allowing notaries and proof of identity for advance directives (Elder Law: support).
- [E2SHB 1783](#) (Rep. Holy): concerning legal financial obligations (Civil Rights Law: support).
- [HB 1800](#) (Rep. Gregerson): enacting the Washington voting rights act (Administrative Law: concerns).
- [SSB 5211](#) (Sen. Wilson): addressing adjudicative proceedings by state agencies (Administrative Law: oppose).

- [2SSB 5236](#) (Sen. Zeiger): creating the civic learning public-private partnership. (BOG Legislative Committee: Support).

Supplemental budgets

The final [supplemental transportation budget](#) passed the Legislature and awaits a signature or possible veto by Gov. Inslee. The supplemental operating and capital budgets are awaiting legislative action.

Session statistics

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

- Referred **679** bills to WSBA Sections;
- Continuously tracked **112** bills through the end of regular session;
- Monitored **128** committee hearings;
- Testified and/or coordinated testimony for **17** hearings; and
- Participated in approximately **31** 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 2018. 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.