**Committee Report: Legislative**

**Submitted By: Janene Johnstone**

**Date Submitted: 5-1-17**



Report Narrative:

I attended Rep. Goodman’s Impaired Driving Work Group in January. There weren’t any major changes proposed, and that was the only time the group met this session. The bill that came out of that group was [**ESSHB 1614**](http://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/1614-S2.PL.pdf), which passed on 4-21-17 and has been delivered to the Governor for signature. Some of the highlights include:

* Interlock companies can keep $.25 of every $20 they collect to send to DOL for the indigency fund.
* Regarding the tolling of the IID requirement, drivers can request an exemption based on physical disability or medical issue.
* Some terminology clean-up (for example, now saying “180 days” instead of “4 months”).
* Further clarifies and elaborates on who can collect blood samples and in what manner.
* Allows for a portion of the fees collected from DUI offenders to go to WTSC to fund grants, specifically for pilot programs in King and Spokane counties “that are designed for persons with two or more prior offenses in seven years and include evidence-based assessment, enhanced intensive outpatient substance use disorder treatment, monitoring, and, when needed, priority entry into voluntary or involuntary detoxification services or residential substance use disorder treatment.” [This language wasn’t in the bill the last time I checked on it, so I am curious to hear from King and Spokane counties to find out what their pilot programs are all about!]

For any of you in MCA who contribute to PSERS and who work a full-time schedule that is actually a little less than “full-time” (defined as a minimum of 160 hours per month), you owe Elizabeth Hickman of Pierce County a huge thank-you. Maybe you should even buy her coffee, or take her out to lunch, or buy her flowers.

From my 10-17-16 Report – *Pat Thompson, the Deputy Director of the WA State Council of County and City Employees, and member of the Select Committee on Pension Policy in Olympia, intends to propose legislation that will be discussed at the committee’s next meeting in December (which I hope to attend). Currently, only full time employees are eligible for PSERS. A situation has come up where the Department of Retirement Systems has pointed out that the definition of “full time” means someone who works a minimum of 160 hours per month, and discovered in a couple of recent audits that there are some staff in the state who may be working “full time,” but whose employer’s definition of “full time” does not meet the DRS requirement, and therefore they believe those employees should not be allowed to participate in PSERS. The proposed legislation being brought forth by Pat Thompson seeks to fix the technicality by changing the wording to be that “full time” is defined by the employer, not by DRS.*

From my 2-27-17 Report – *I attended the 12-13-16 Select Committee on Pension Policy meeting in Olympia, at which Elizabeth Hickman of Pierce County testified, and at which Pat Thompson presented his proposed change to the PSERS language. The change he proposed at the meeting was narrower than what he had originally discussed, with the “fix” only applying to the 24 currently identified affected employees, or to any others discovered via audits in the future in the same situation (meaning that it will not allow for future employees to join PSERS as full-time employees if they do not work a minimum of 160 hours per month, but it will grandfather in any employees currently (well, as of 1-1-17 or before) working under their own employer’s alternative definition of “full time” provided that it’s a minimum of 140 hours per month) The committee unanimously voted to move forward with the proposed legislation.*

[**ESHB 1709**](http://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/1709.PL.pdf)passed UNANIMOUSLY out of both houses and has been delivered to the Governor for signature.

\*\***Way to go, Elizabeth, and THANK YOU from your MCA peers!!!\*\***

Other bills that passed this legislative session of possible interest to MCA that have passed the legislature and have been delivered to the Governor for signature. I don’t see effective dates on these as of the writing of this report (4-27-17), so those must be added once the Governor actually signs them:

* [**SHB 1501**](http://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/1501-S.PL.pdf) – Regarding sale of firearms, very much supported by DV advocacy groups – If a dealer discovers during a background check that someone attempting to purchase a firearm has been prohibited from doing so, they must report it to WASPC. Protected parties who register in the system will be notified (sort of like vinelink, it sounds like) when a respondent subject to a court order attempts to purchase a firearm.
* [**SB 5037**](http://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5037.PL.pdf) passed the legislature and has been delivered to the Governor for signature. This bill makes the 4th DUI in 10 years a felony.
* [**ESSHB 1163**](http://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/1163-S2.PL.pdf) – Makes the 3rd DV Assault 4th degree charge within 10 years a felony. Also requires AOC to establish a work group to “address the issue of domestic violence perpetrator treatment and the role of certified perpetrator treatment programs in holding domestic violence perpetrators accountable.” The bill lists various organizations and representatives that they want on the work group, including “court probation officers,” so we’ll need to make sure MCA has a voice in the work group. Please come talk to me if you are interested! The bill also establishes a DV risk assessment work group, but appears they forgot misdemeanant probation on the list of required participants.
* [**ESHB 1426**](http://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/1427-S.PL.pdf) – Regarding opiate treatment – Attempts to better track and monitor prescribers and patients receiving opiate medications, tracking and reporting overdoses, and providing for medication assisted treatment for opiate addiction.

And just a side note…

I was elected to this position in 2012 and am heading into my sixth year (!) as Legislative Chair for MCA. This position will be up for reelection next year and I am ready to pass the torch to someone new (for now, anyway ☺). When I first put in my name for this position, it’s not an exaggeration to say that my knowledge of the legislative process and terminology was just about non-existent. I needed to be challenged and to get out of my comfort zone and I definitely feel like I have grown as a result. If there is anyone who thinks this would be an interesting challenge to take on, but are afraid that maybe you don’t know enough, or that this is overwhelming or feels like too much to take on, you can do it! Ask me questions! Come with me to meetings! I’ll show you everything I do so you’ll see that it’s really not that scary.

Next Meeting Date:

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Please e-mail a copy of your report to Camille Jackson at [CJackson@lynnwoodwa.gov](mailto:CJackson@lynnwoodwa.gov). Thank you.