

## WCCFA Governmental and Legal Affairs Committee

THESE ARE NOT OFFICIAL MINUTES.

In a conference call Jan. 27, 2012 1:35 p.m. members of the committee heard updates from committee chair J.C. Barr and discussed the following:

1. The U.S. Department of Defense has an ongoing initiative to add military document DV 93, which all active military members sign annually to designate right to control disposition, to Washington state RCW 68.50.160, Right to Control Disposition. DV 93 is in effect only during the signer's periods of active duty. The DOD's addition to the RCW has been proposed over the last several years and failed to be passed. The DV 93 form now includes a domestic partner as a viable designee in addition to wedded spouse. WCCFA feels this should already be covered under "designated agent" clause of 68.50.160, but the DV 93 doesn't qualify under 68.50.160 because it is not a notarized document. We are one of only about 9 states that don't already recognize this. WCCFA will remain neutral on the issue.
2. SB 6043, restricting cemetery districts from selling markers if there is a monument dealer within a 50-mile radius of the cemetery. J.C. doesn't think it will go through during the current session, but it will come up again and the WCCFA needs to study impacts on all cemeteries (not just cemetery districts.) Probably future such proposals will include sale of other merchandise so we need to develop a cogent position this year. Bill is still in committee, hasn't been brought up for executive action. No hearing set as far as JC knows, WCCFA will maintain opposition for now.
3. SB 6033: extensive additions to 68.50.160 – Right to Control Disposition - in regards to parents' control over disposition of a deceased adult child. The proposal seeks to eliminate a parent from right to control and allow the other parent to control, with many very narrowly and specifically worded provisions. The issues we see include:
  - i. it would require FDs or cemetarians to proceed with disposition based on word of one parent, with only a signed affidavit from that parent saying child and other parent have no contact [for example] even though there is no proof.
  - ii. What about a case where one of the parents has a valid, devout religious objection to form of disposition directed by the other parent?
  - iii. Doesn't address situations such as if there was no contact between parent and child during childhood, but in adulthood they have reconciled.

The bill probably will make it through senate committee. The WCCFA does not support this change, and continues to feel that RCW 68.50.160 has functioned very well for years and it does not need changing.

4. SB6000, revisions to trust fund investment guidelines, is in senate rules committee, so it's moving forward. WCCFA supports this.