



# LION Board Activity Report

June 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025

## **WLIA Legislative White Papers**

The WLIA Legislative Committee, assisted by the WLIA technical committee, updated their legislative white papers. LION members were active in the process. The white papers provide a brief synopsis of WLIA's legislative priorities and can be used in lobbying and educational efforts. The updated white papers will be made available on the WLIA website (<https://www.wlia.org/legislative-whitepapers>).

## **2023 Act 126/2025 Act 7 – Privacy Protection for Election Officials**

Effective July 1, 2025, this legislation provides an option for election officials to request privacy protections. The legislation does not provide many details on what, how, and for how long records need to be shielded. The LION Board is monitoring and will communicate more information when known.

## **2025 Act 25 - 2023 Act 235 Clean-up Legislation**

Introduced as AB171/SB169, clean-up legislation related to judicial shielding was signed into law on Aug 8 as 2025 Act 25. The LION Board continues to monitor and participate in efforts to create shielding best practices.

## **2025 Act 32 AB157/SB172 - Prohibiting recording contracts for services or materials that do not improve real estate.**

Introduced as AB157/SB172, legislation to prohibit recording contracts for services or materials that do not improve real estate was signed into law on Aug 8 as 2025 Act 32. The LION Board monitored this proposal.

## **AB216/SB218 - Real Estate Transfer Fee**

The significant WLIP related items in the proposal:

- \$0.40 of the RETF would go into the WLIP
- Increases base budget eligibility to \$175,000
- Increases training and education grants to \$5,000
- Creates a contribution-based grant with 46% of the WLIP funds collected through the RETF
- Requirement to establish a real property recording notification system to be administered by the county's register of deeds.

The LION Board continues to support this proposal.

## **AB445/SB449 – Relating to the Register of Deeds**

The proposal clarifies recording requirements, increases the fee to record a transportation plat from \$25 to \$30, provides a penalty for anyone who knowingly provides to the Register of Deeds for recording any false or forged document, and other statutory clean-up related to the Register of Deeds office. The LION Board is monitoring this proposal.

**AB452/ – Subdivision Approval Process**

Among other changes, the proposal requires the opportunity for an informal meeting prior to the submittal of a preliminary/final plat, modifies conditions that can be placed on plat approval, and requires the clerk to certify the approved final plat is eligible for recording within 10 days of receiving the request. The LION Board is monitoring this proposal.

**BFI Clean-up Legislation**

2023 Act 12 exempted personal property from assessment and taxes. Items, previously categorized as personal property and determined to still be taxable, were added to the real estate assessment roll on Jan 1, 2024. Legislation is being sought to clarify and clean up the law enacted by 2023 Act 12. Eric Damkot is representing LION on a BFI-related focus group.

**Modifications to the Uniform Easement Relocation Act.**

Through the WLIA legislative committee, the Board provided feedback on a potential proposal to modify the Uniform Easement Relocation Act. To date, no formal proposal has been introduced. The LION Board continues to monitor.

**Bylaw update/job descriptions**

The Board is evaluating the potential need to update the LION bylaws, create job summaries for the LION Board positions, LION document archiving, and other internal processes. The bylaws, which may not have been updated since LION's inception, would remove dated references and better reflect the current operations of the network. The other initiatives would help ensure a seamless transition as LIOs rotate on and off the Board. Any changes will be properly communicated to the membership.

Submitted by,  
Eric Damkot, LION Chair