Hot Button Legal Issues

Lightning Round

Tim Ailsworth
Local Government Insurance Trust

Jason A. DeLoach
Alexander & Cleaver, P.A.

Karen L. Federman Henry
Funk & Bolton, P.A.
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Legislative update

• SB 396—Open Meetings Act
  • Clarifying that the training requirement applies only to entities holding a closed session after October 1, 2017

• HB 695—Open Meetings Act
  • Adding to the reasons for a closed session the discussion of cybersecurity issues that impact the government’s network security and related issues

• SB 477—Public Information Act—new required denial of address (including email) of individuals when used solely for sending news releases or newsletters to the individual
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Legislative update (cont’d.)

• SB 474—Ethics
  • Local Ethics Commissions must meet at least one time each year and submit an annual report to the governing body describing the Commission’s activities

• HB 615—Charter amendments—Requiring a public hearing on a proposed charter amendment before voting on it

• HB 1588—Zoning—Addressing the grounds for a zoning change when it involves an energy generating system
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ADA vs FMLA

• The two are not mutually exclusive

• FMLA protects an employee’s job while seeking medical treatment, recovery for the employee or a member of the employee’s family
  • 12 weeks per year
  • all at once or spread out

• The ADA may apply once FMLA is over

• The ADA requires the accommodation as long as the employee needs it
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Miscellaneous items

• Procurement—you can take advantage of the contracts larger jurisdictions have established for goods and services (COG riders)

• Boardwalk performer restrictions declared unconstitutional as a substantial burden on harmless speech—Ocean City, Maryland

• The ADA applies to websites—make sure that content has print and audio capability (addresses hearing and vision impaired individuals)
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• Just for fun

  • Goats are “going pro”

  • Eco-Goats in Mt. Rainier are eating poison ivy, honeysuckle, and other overgrown plants

• What’s next?