

# **House of Representatives Office of Program Research**

## **2007 Interim Plans**

Office of Program Research  
Washington House of Representatives  
Ken Conte, Director

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**Office of Program Research  
Washington House of Representatives  
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**House of Representatives  
Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
Day before September Committee Assembly	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	The Management Structure of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.	Public Hearing/ Work Session
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Adoption Verses Rulemaking in Commercial Fisheries</li> <li>• Conservation of Working Lands</li> </ul>	Public Hearing/ Work Session
December	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternatives to the Current Forest Practices Act</li> <li>• Cougar Management</li> <li>• The use of Science in Regulations</li> </ul>	Public Hearing/ Work Session

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**Project Title: The management structure of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.**

**Project Goal:**

Bill development

**Project Description:**

The committee will analyze the existing management structure of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and consider recommendations for administrative improvements, including: whether the Governor should appoint the director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the accountability of the current commission model, whether the members of the Fish and Wildlife Commission should have term limits, if there is a need for a citizens ombudsman to the Fish and Wildlife Commission, whether the Fish and Wildlife Commission should have staff distinct from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and possible alternative models to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** September

**Staff Assigned:** Jaclyn Ford, Jason Callahan

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**Project Title: Policy adoption verses rulemaking in commercial fisheries**

**Project Goal:**

Monitoring and possible bill development

**Project Description:**

The Fish and Wildlife Commission is responsible for setting all commercial fishing seasons and regulations. Most elements of the commercial seasons are established by administrative rule; however, some elements are adopted outside of the rulemaking process in the form of a policy statement. The committee will examine the advantages and disadvantages of using policy adoptions over rulemaking, including the processes and abilities of the affected to appeal.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** September

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan

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**Project Title: Conservation of working lands**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor program and policy development and determine if there is a need for legislation or budget proposals for 2008**

**Project Description:**

The conservation of working lands, whether agricultural or forested, has economic, environmental, and security-related goals and policy implications. This session, the Legislature debated a number of related issues, including the creation of the Office of Farmland Preservation, reasons for past decline of agricultural lands, uses and funding of conservation easements, application of development regulations and critical areas ordinances to agricultural lands, and provision of financial assistance to local governments for working lands conservation. The Committee will monitor: (1) the establishment of the Office of Farmland Preservation; (2) the Ruckelshaus Center examination of conflicts between critical areas ordinances and agricultural lands, and (3) the next phase of discussions regarding local government financial assistance for working lands conservation. Legislation and/or budget proposals for 2008 may result.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December

**Staff Assigned:** Meg VanSchoorl, Jason Callahan

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**Project Title: Alternatives to the current Forest Practices Act**

**Project Goal:**

**Committee education and long-range possible bill development**

**Project Description:**

The Forest Practices Act (FPA) was adopted by the Legislature to regulate how and when commercial timber operations may occur. In the time since its passage, the development of new federal laws have altered the roles and responsibilities of the state in terms of habitat protection and water quality management. The Committee will review the current FPA, and compare the approach Washington takes with the models of forest practices regulations employed by other Northwest states, with an eye towards how forest practices regulations interact with and are impacted by federal habitat and water quality laws.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan

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**Project Title: Cougar management**

**Project Goal:**

Bill development for 2008 session

**Project Description:**

This fall, the Department of Fish and Wildlife will be completing a pilot project that allowed for the use of hounds to hunt cougars in a limited geographic range. The pilot project was authorized by the Legislature in order to gather information needed to make a permanent decision about the utility of hounds in cougar management. The committee will receive the Department's report about the pilot project and begin the process of crafting permanent legislation.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan

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**Project Title: The use of science in regulations**

**Project Goal:**

Bill development for 2008 session

**Project Description:**

Much of the state's environmental regulation and natural resources management is based on the results of science. However, the ability of natural resources managers and environmental regulators to access the best science has been eroded over time. This erosion leads to a reduction in effectiveness and efficiency of management and regulatory decisions. The committee will examine how environmental sciences are being funded today, and discuss possible options for legislation that creates steady funding for reliable, non-biased environmental science research.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Work session

**Completion Date:** December

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan

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**House of Representatives  
Appropriations  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Health Care.</li> <li>• Higher Education Financial Aid Programs.</li> </ul>	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K-12 Pupil Transportation Formula Update.</li> <li>• Update on Joint Task Force Reviewing Basic Education/K-12 funding formulas.</li> <li>• Pension Funding Council Recommendations on Economic Assumptions.</li> <li>• Update on family leave deliberations.</li> <li>• 2008 session preview.</li> </ul>	Work Session

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**Project Title: Update on health care**

**Project Goal:**

Review recent health care developments.

**Project Description:**

This project will update the committee on health care related items funded in the 2007-09 Operating Budget and any recent health care developments.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session.

**Completion Date:** September 30, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Bernard Dean and David Pringle.

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**Project Title: Higher Education Financial Aid Programs**

**Project Goal:**

Update members on new and existing state-supported financial aid programs.

**Project Description:**

Several new financial aid programs were created and funded in the 2007-09 biennial budget. Members will receive an update on the development and implementation of these new state-supported financial aid programs as well as an overview of existing financial aid programs.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session.

**Completion Date:** September 30, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Debbie Driver

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**Project Title: K-12 pupil transportation formula update**

**Project Goal:**

Monitor the progress of OFM's study of K-12 pupil transportation funding formula options for Washington State.

**Project Description:**

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee's (JLARC) recent review of K-12 pupil transportation funding found significant structural and implementation problems with the current funding formula. OFM will contract with consultants who have expertise in pupil transportation and K-12 funding formula distributions. Legislators and staff will be involved in the process, which will entail the development of at least two options for a new pupil transportation formula.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session.

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Ben Rarick

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**Project Title: Update on task force reviewing basic education/K-12 funding formulas**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor progress of joint task force in reviewing basic education definitions and developing funding formula options**

**Project Description:**

A joint task force is created to review the current basic education definition and funding formulas and develop a new definition and funding structure that aligns with the final report of the Washington Learns steering committee and the basic education provisions in current law. The joint task force will consist of 14 members: eight legislators, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, a representative of the Governor's Office or the Office of Financial Management, and four members appointed by the Governor. The Washington Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) will provide primary staffing support, but legislative fiscal staff time will be required to assist in formula development and other technical issues.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session.

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Ben Rarick

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**Project Title: Pension Funding Council Recommendations on Economic Assumptions**

**Project Goal:**

**To review the recommendations of the PFC.**

**Project Description:**

According to the new schedule enacted in SB 5014(C 280 L 07), the Pension Funding Council will adopt changes to the economic and demographic assumptions used to project costs and calculate contribution rates for the state retirement systems by October 31 of 2007. The Appropriations Committee will review the recommendations of the PFC and be briefed on potential budget implications for the 2009-11 biennial budget.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session.

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** David Pringle

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**Project Title: Update on Family Leave**

**Project Goal:**

To understand the current status of the Family Leave Act and to monitor the deliberations of the Joint Legislative Taskforce on Family Leave Insurance.

**Project Description:**

E2SSB 5659 created the Joint Task Force on Family Leave Insurance. The task force will study: financing for benefits and administrative costs; program implementation and administration; government efficiencies which improve program administration and reduce program costs; and impacts, if any, on the unemployment compensation system and options for mitigating such impacts.

The task force will meet multiple times in preparation for the creation of a report of findings and recommendations, including recommendations as to the specific manner in which benefits and administrative costs should be financed, as well as proposed legislation, to the Legislature by January 1, 2008.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session.

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Owen Rowe and David Pringle

**House of Representatives  
 Appropriations Subcommittee on Education  
 Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September Committee Assembly (Wednesday)	Half Day	Olympia	APPE joint with House Early Learning and Children's Services	Early Learning: Funding Structure and Quality.	Work Session
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	APPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Task force Reviewing Basic Education/K-12 Funding formulas.</li> <li>• Critical Issues in Recruiting and Retaining the Mathematics and Science Teaching Workforce.</li> </ul>	Work Session
December Committee Assembly (Wednesday)	TBA	Olympia	APPE joint with House Higher Education Committee	Higher Education Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community College budgets.</li> <li>• Accountability.</li> <li>• Return on investment.</li> <li>• Financial barriers for students.</li> </ul>	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	School district budget discussion with superintendents and school district business officers of three school districts.	Work Session

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**Project Title: Early Learning: Funding Structure and Quality.**

**Project Goal:**

The Committee will continue discussions about Washington's current funding structure for child care and early learning and will examine how funding and policy options can influence quality and accessibility.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will conduct a joint work session with the House Early Learning and Children's Services Committee to discuss the current funding structure for child care and early learning in Washington, and examine ways in which funding and policy options can promote and support quality improvements in those programs.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One joint work session with House Early Learning and Children's Services.

**Completion Date:** November 30, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Amy Skei

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**Project Title: Update on task force reviewing basic education/K-12 funding formulas**

**Project Goal:**

Monitor progress of joint task force in reviewing basic education definitions and developing funding formula options.

**Project Description:**

A joint task force is created to review the current basic education definition and funding formulas and develop a new definition and funding structure that aligns with the final report of the Washington Learns steering committee and the basic education provisions in current law. The joint task force will consist of 14 members: eight legislators, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, a representative of the Governor's Office or the Office of Financial Management, and four members appointed by the Governor. The Washington Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) will provide primary staffing support, but legislative fiscal staff time will be required to assist in formula development and other technical issues.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session.

**Completion Date:** September 30, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Ben Rarick

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**Project Title: Critical issues in recruiting and retaining the mathematics and science teaching workforce.**

**Project Goal:**

**Build understanding of obstacles to retaining highly qualified math and science teachers in Washington state public schools.**

**Project Description:**

One area of policy emphasis in the 2007 legislative session was increasing math achievement on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning. A key challenge to improving math achievement is the recruitment and retention of highly qualified math teachers. Studies show that math and science teachers are more difficult to retain in public school settings because of the 'opportunity costs' they incur in teaching versus pursuing careers in the technology industry. This project would invite Dr. Linda Cavalluzzo from the CNA Research Corporation to present findings from her study, "Critical Issues in Recruiting and Retaining Mathematics and Science Teaching Workforce." The activity would involve discussion with the author and an effort to use her findings to generate policy options for Washington State.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session.

**Completion Date:** September 30, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Ben Rarick

**Project Title: Higher Education Finance**

**Project Goal:**

**Increase understanding of community college budgets, financial barriers to students, accountability and return on investment in the higher education system.**

**Project Description:**

This work session will cover three higher education issues. First, members will review processes and procedures the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges utilizes to distribute funds to individual community and technical colleges. Issues including distribution of new state supported student FTEs, allocation of special project or program funding and compensation will be discussed.

Various studies regarding financial barriers for students have been conducted by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and other entities. Members will receive an overview of findings from such studies, inform members of financial aid programs and services available to students and identify gaps in student financial assistance.

Finally, members will receive an update on the accountability performance agreement recommendations developed through the Accountability and Performance Agreements Symposium sponsored by the Higher Education Committee. An overview of the linkages between accountability, performance agreements and return on investments within higher education will be included in the discussion.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One joint work session with the Higher Education Committee

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Debbie Driver

**Project Title: School district budget discussion with superintendents and school district business offices of three school districts.**

**Project Goal:**

To better understand fiscal challenges facing school districts.

**Project Description:**

During the 2007 session, the subcommittee heard about a variety of fiscal challenges facing school districts. Some of these challenges vary depending on the district size, location, and other factors, while some are similar for all school districts. This project will explore the budget challenges faced by three different school districts.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session.

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Ben Rarick

**House of Representatives  
Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
July	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) State Government Performance Audits. (2) State Auditor's Office Process for Choosing I-900 Performance Audits (3) Schedule of I-900 performance audits and JLARC Studies and Reviews.	Public Hearing/ Work Session
August	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) State Government Performance Audits. (2) CTED Economic Development Programs and Mission. (3) Office of Regulatory Assistance Programs and Mission. (4) Follow-up of State Auditor's GA Motor Pool Performance Audit and the DSHS Financial Audit.	Public Hearing/ Work Session
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) State Government Performance Audits. (2) IT Update. (3) State Agency Practices Relating to Administrative Costs. (4) Fiscal Notes. (5) State FTEs.	Public Hearing/ Work Session
November	TBA	Yakima	Full Committee	(1) State Government Performance Audits. (2) DNR Fire Prevention and Suppression Efforts. (3) CTED Economic Development Programs. (4) Parks and Recreations Commission update.	Public Hrg/ Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) State Government Performance Audits. (2) Implementing the Puget Sound Partnership. (3) Update on State Leasing Practices and Issues. (4) Liquor Control Board Sunday Sales and Other Items.	Public Hearing/ Work Session

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**Project Title: State Government Performance Audits**

**Project Goal:**

Review the findings and recommendations of the State Auditor's performance audits of state government.

**Project Description:**

In 2005, Initiative 900 was approved, creating a performance audit program. The initiative requires the State Auditor to conduct independent, comprehensive performance audits of state and local government. For state government audits, the initiative requires that the State Auditor submit completed audit reports with findings and recommendations to the Legislature, and that the Legislature to hold a public hearing within 30 days of the audit release. House leadership has asked the Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government and Audit Review to hold hearings on the performance audits on behalf of the House. The Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee (JLARC) will also hold public hearings on the audits. The State Auditor estimates that a number of performance audit reports will be completed this summer and fall, including performance audits of the Department of Transportation Ferries, the Department of Transportation Administration and Overhead, and regarding the Collection of State Debt.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Periodic Work Sessions/Public Hearings to hear recent I-900 audits on state government.

**Completion Date:** December 30, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Alex MacBain

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**Project Title: Schedule of I-900 performance audits and JLARC study releases**

**Project Goal:**

This project will provide information on the proposed schedule for completion and publication of I-900 performance audit reports and JLARC studies.

**Project Description:**

In 2005, Initiative 900 was approved, creating a performance audit program. The initiative requires the State Auditor to conduct independent, comprehensive performance audits of state and local government. For state government audits, the initiative requires that the State Auditor submit completed audit reports with findings and recommendations to the Legislature, and that the Legislature to hold a public hearing within 30 days of the audit release. The Office of the State Auditor is working to finalize its estimated timeline for completing performance audits through December 2007. The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) carries out performance audits, program evaluations, sunset reviews, and other fiscal and policy studies on behalf of the Legislature. The project will provide updated information on the anticipated completion dates for I-900 performance audits and JLARC studies through December 2007.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** 1 Work Session/Public Hearing

**Completion Date:** July 30, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Alex MacBain

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**Project Title: The State Auditor's Office process for choosing I-900 performance audits**

**Project Goal:**

Understand the process the State Auditor uses to choose/prioritize which state agencies and local governments to conduct performance audits on and determine the scope of the audit.

**Project Description:**

In 2005, Initiative 900 was approved, creating a performance audit program. The initiative requires the State Auditor to conduct independent, comprehensive performance audits of state and local government. The project will discuss the process the State Auditor uses to choose/prioritize which state agencies and local governments to conduct performance audits on and determine the scope of the audit.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Public hearing/work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Alex MacBain

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**Project Title: Community, Trade & Economic Development's Economic Development Programs**

**Project Goal:**

Examine CTED's economic development programs and mission.

**Project Description:**

The Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development's mission statement is: "CTED invests in Washington's communities, businesses and families to build a healthy and prosperous future." The Department has 6 primary divisions that include over 200 programs to support the agency's mission. The major divisions are: Community Services, Energy Policy, Housing, Local Government, and Trade and Economic Development. The Department's strategic plan highlights several strategies to reach agency identified goals. This work session will review the programs and mission of the Economic Development division.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** 1 Work Session/Public Hearing

**Completion Date:** September 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Owen Rowe

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**Project Title: Office of Regulatory Assistance programs and mission**

**Project Goal:**

**Review the programs and mission of the Office of Regulatory Assistance**

**Project Description:**

Located in the Office of the Governor, the Office of Regulatory Assistance (ORA) provides services in a variety of state processes related to regulations, permit requirements, and agency rule-making. JLARC did a sunset review of the ORA in January 2007, finding among other things that the ORA lacked the policies and tracking systems to demonstrate the agency's effectiveness. This project will review the mission and programs of the ORA and follow-up actions taken by the agency since the JLARC review.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One public hearing/work session.

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Kirk Schmidt

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**Project Title: Follow-up of State Auditor's GA Motor Pool performance audit and the DSHS financial audit**

**Project Goal:**

**Follow-up of State Auditor's GA Motor Pool performance audit and the DSHS financial audit**

**Project Description:**

During the 2007-09 Legislative session, the subcommittee had work sessions on the State Auditor's GA Motor Pool performance audit and DSHS financial audit. This project will follow-up these hearings to see what actions GA has taken in response to the motor pool audit, and to hear from DSHS regarding issues raised in the financial audit.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Public Hearing/Work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Owen Rowe, Alex MacBain

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**Project Title: IT Projects**

**Project Goal:**

Review implementation of budget provisos related to IT projects

**Project Description:**

The subcommittee focused on IT project planning, approval oversight, coordination, cost, and other related issues in the 2007 Legislative session. The 2007-09 biennial budget included several provisions related to IT projects, most notably the IT pool. This project will follow-up on the IT discussions for the 2007 session and review the implementation of the operating budget provisos.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Public hearing/work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Dave Johnson, Alex MacBain, David Pringle, Owen Rowe

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**Project Title: State Agency practices relating to administrative costs.**

**Project Goal:**

To better understand how state government defines and manages administrative costs.

**Project Description:**

State agencies define administrative costs in a variety of ways depending on individually negotiated agreements with federal agencies, the agency structure, type of program or service delivery system, and other factors. This project will follow up discussions begun last session on understanding administrative costs, the reasons for the variations in calculating these costs, and possible approaches to make them more uniform.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Public meeting/work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Dave Johnson

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**Project Title: Fiscal notes**

**Project Goal:**

To better understand the fiscal note process and explore ways it can be improved.

**Project Description:**

Fiscal notes estimate the cost of implementing proposed legislation. They are developed by the appropriate agencies and reviewed and approved by OFM before being sent to the legislature. The legislature may reject fiscal notes. This project will review the fiscal note process, the general assumptions made in completing fiscal notes, and possible approaches to improve the fiscal note process.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Dave Johnson

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**Project Title: State FTEs**

**Project Goal:**

To better understand how FTEs are calculated and administered.

**Project Description:**

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) is a unit of measurement that refers to the equivalent amount of time one person works full-time for one year. This project will review the role of FTEs in the budget, how they are administered, and how FTEs differ from headcount.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Dave Johnson

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**Project Title: Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fire prevention and suppression efforts**

**Project Goal:**

To review fire prevention and suppression fighting efforts by DNR discuss cost drivers and implementation of the 2004 JLARC recommendations on fire suppression costs.

**Project Description:**

With over 380,000 acres burned, the 2007 wildfire season has been one of the worst in state history. The DNR is responsible for the cost of wildlife suppression on state protected lands and receives base funding of approximately \$13.2 million per year. Funding is provided for additional fire suppression costs of \$34.9 million, for a total cost to the state general fund for Fiscal Year 2007 of approximately \$48.1 million. This project will review fire fighting efforts by DNR staff and discuss cost divers and implementation of the 2004 JLARC recommendations on fires suppression costs.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Public Hearing/Work Session

**Completion Date:** November 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Alicia Dunkin

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**Project Title: Parks and Recreation Commission update**

**Project Goal:**

To review the Status of reducing the maintenance backlog at state parks.

**Project Description:**

The State Park system includes 120 developed parks, 40 marine parks, and numerous monuments and historic structures. Funding of \$3.0 million was provided in the 2007-09 budget to complete one-third of identified preventive maintenance tasks, which include maintaining wells and irrigation systems, painting and roofing structures, and repairing docks and boat launches. This project will review the status of reducing the maintenance backlog at state parks.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** 1 Work Session/Public Hearing

**Completion Date:** November 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Alicia Dunkin

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**Project Title: Implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership**

**Project Goal:**

To update the subcommittee on the status and activities of the newly created Puget Sound Partnership.

**Project Description:**

E2SSB 5372 creates the Puget Sound Partnership, a new state agency, to clean up and restore the environmental health of Puget Sound by the year 2020. The Puget Sound Partnership will create an action agenda to achieve clean-up and restoration goals. This project will have Members and staff participate in the Partnership's meetings and get an update on the status and activities of the new agency.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** 1 Work Session/Public Hearing

**Completion Date:** November 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Alicia Dunkin

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**Project Title: Update on State Leasing Practices and Issues**

**Project Goal:**

Examine the Department of General Administration's role in state leasing and purchasing of facilities.

**Project Description:**

The Department of General Administration works with state agencies to procure and manage facility leases. This work session will identify the amount the state is spending on facility leases, and discuss whether state-ownership is more cost effective than leasing from the private sector, and consider whether this analysis is possible under the current budgeting and leasing processes and tracking systems. It will also review the implementation of SHB 2366 which is intended to improve the oversight, management, and financial analysis of state leases.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** 1 Work Session/Public Hearing

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Owen Rowe

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**Project Title: Liquor Control Board Sunday Sales and Other Items**

**Project Goal:**

Review the implementation of expanded Sunday sales and other items.

**Project Description:**

The 2007-09 Operating Budget provided \$2.1 million to open an additional 29 stores on Sunday. This project will review the implementation of this expansion and other items.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Public Hearing/work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Kirk Schmidt

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**House of Representatives  
Capital Budget  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding.  (2) School Facilities Needs for All-Day Kindergarten Programs.  (3) Pilot Information Management System for K-12 Facilities.  (4) Vocational Skills Centers - Feasibility Studies.  (5) Higher Education Capital Facility and Technology Capacity Study.	Work Session
August (TBA)	All Day	Vancouver	Work Group	Task Force organization and introduction to issues.	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) 2008 Session Preview.  (2) Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding.  (3) Study Committee on Public Infrastructure Programs and Funding Structures.  (4) Modifications to the Job Development Fund Program.  (5) Snohomish/Island/Skagit County University Branch Campus.	Work Session
October (TBA)	All Day	Yakima or other central WA location	Work Group	Development of spending-related findings and preliminary recommendations.	Work Session

**Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September (TBA)	All Day	Olympia	Work Group	Current issues with K-12 capital spending.	Work Session
November (TBA)	All Day	Olympia	Work Group	Development of spending-related findings and preliminary recommendations.	Work Session
December (TBA)	All Day	Olympia	Work Group	Development of spending-related findings and preliminary recommendations.	Work Session

**Study Committee on Public Infrastructure Programs and Funding Structures**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
July (TBA)	All Day	Olympia	Work Group	Study committee organization, introduction to issues, and project scoping discussion.	Work Session

## Study Committee on Public Infrastructure Programs and Funding Structures

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
August (TBA)	All Day	Olympia	Work Group	Overlaps and gaps of current community and economic development-related infrastructure programs.	Work Session
September (TBA)	All Day	Seattle	Work Group	Development of options for program consolidation and standardization.	Work Session
October (TBA)	All Day	Olympia	Work Group	Initial discussion of possible new strategies.	Work Session
November (TBA)	All Day	Olympia	Work Group	Development of final report.	Work Session

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**Project Title: Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding**

**Project Goal:**

Evaluate the state's eligibility requirements and distribution formulae for allocating capital resources to school districts and develop alternative funding mechanisms and revenue sources to support future school construction needs.

**Project Description:**

Section 6016 of the 2007-09 Capital Budget (ESHB 1092) establishes a Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding to review the current K-12 construction funding process and eligibility requirements, flexibility needed in the system to address diverse district and geographic needs, and potential revenue sources and alternative funding mechanisms for school construction. The Task Force is comprised of eight legislative members including four from the House of Representatives and four from the Senate. The Task Force will coordinate with the appropriate standing committees of the Legislature and may consult with other interested parties for technical advice and assistance. The Task Force will report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2007.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Seven work sessions

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Susan Howson, Steve Masse and Bryon Moore

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**Project Title: School Facility Needs for All-Day Kindergarten Programs**

**Project Goal:**

Monitor and review the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) examination of alternatives for addressing school facilities needs for all-day kindergarten programs.

**Project Description:**

Section 5008 of the 2007-09 Capital Budget (ESHB 1092) directs the OSPI to examine facility needs for all-day kindergarten programs. The OSPI must submit a report to the Legislature by September 1, 2007 with recommendations on preferred alternatives and an analysis of the feasibility and cost of implementing the alternatives. The OSPI will present their report to the Capital Budget Committee in September.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** September 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Susan Howson

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**Project Title: Pilot Information Management System for K-12 Facilities**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) development of a pilot information management system for public school facilities.**

**Project Description:**

Section 5014 of the 2007-09 Capital Budget (ESHB 1092) directs the OSPI to define and develop a pilot school facility information management system. Participating school districts must represent a cross section of school districts. By December 1, 2007, the OSPI must report to the Legislature on the inventory system's scope, potential school district participants, and an implementation plan for the pilot group of school districts. The OSPI will provide a progress update to the Capital Budget Committee in September.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Susan Howson

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**Project Title: Vocational Skills Centers - Feasibility Studies**

**Project Goal:**

**Review the findings and recommendations of the feasibility studies funded in the 2006 Supplemental Capital Budget.**

**Project Description:**

Section 194 of the 2006 Supplemental Capital Budget (ESSB 6384) provided \$400,000 for comprehensive feasibility studies for the development of skills centers in the following targeted areas: Moses Lake, northeast King County, Pierce County, and Seattle. This work session topic will update the Capital Budget Committee on the findings and recommendations outlined in the feasibility studies.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** September 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Susan Howson

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**Project Title: Higher Education Capital Facility and Technology Capacity Study**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor and review the Higher Education Coordinating Board's (HECB) implementation of the capital facility and technology capacity study directed by the 2007-09 Operating Budget.**

**Project Description:**

Section 610 of the 2007-09 Operating Budget (SHB 1128) directs the HECB to implement a capital facility and technology capacity study which will compare 10-year enrollment projections with the capital facility requirements and technology application and hardware capacity needed to deliver higher education programs over the next 10 years. The HECB must report its findings to the Legislature by October 1, 2008. This work session topic will update the Capital Budget Committee on the HECB's progress on the study.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** October 2008

**Staff Assigned:** Susan Howson

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**Project Title: Study Committee on Public Infrastructure Programs and Funding Structures**

**Project Goal:**

**Evaluate state community and economic development-related infrastructure programs, funds, and purposes to identify overlaps and gaps in the types of projects that qualify for and receive capital funding.**

**Project Description:**

Section 6026 of the 2007-09 Capital Budget (ESHB 1092) establishes a study committee on public infrastructure programs and funding structures to review state community and economic development-related infrastructure programs, funds, and purposes. The Study Committee is comprised of eight legislative members including four from the House of Representatives and four from the Senate. The Study Committee may seek assistance from interested legislators and other participants for technical advice and assistance and may request their participation in subcommittees, advisory committees, or work groups. The Study Committee will make recommendations regarding a systematic approach to the integration, consolidation, and/or standardization of state community and economic development-related infrastructure programs. The Study Committee will report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 2008.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Five work sessions

**Completion Date:** January 2008

**Staff Assigned:** Nona Snell, Steve Masse and Brian Sims

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**Project Title: Modifications to the Job Development Fund Program**

**Project Goal:**

Monitor the development of the modified Job Development Fund program criteria by the Office of Financial Management and the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (DCTED) per the Governor's 2007-09 Capital Budget veto message, and determine how the modified program criteria fits within the recommendations of the Study Committee on Public Infrastructure Programs and Funding Structures.

**Project Description:**

Section 1032(2) of the 2007-09 Capital Budget (ESHB 1092) clarified legislative intent with regard to the Legislature's expectation for the Job Development Fund program in the 2009-11 biennium. Current statute is unclear with regard to the development of a prioritized list for the 2009-11 biennium and the DCTED requested clarification from the Legislature during the 2007 session. The final capital budget adopted by the Legislature included a proviso directing DCTED not to proceed with a competitive process for the 2009-11 biennium. The Governor vetoed this language stating concern that the current process does not put enough emphasis on family wage jobs. The Governor directed her staff to work with the Community Economic Revitalization Board and DCTED to establish weighted criteria for the next group of projects and to develop legislation to make the creation of jobs the top priority for the grant selection process.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Nona Snell

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**Project Title: Snohomish/Island/Skagit County University Branch Campus**

**Project Goal:**

Monitor and review the development of an implementation plan and siting recommendations for a new university branch campus in the Snohomish/Island/Skagit county region.

**Project Description:**

Section 1048 of the 2007-09 Capital Budget (ESHB 1092) directs the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the University of Washington (UW) to assess options and make recommendations on the siting of a branch campus in the Snohomish/Island/Skagit county region. The OFM and the UW will also develop operational and management plans needed to establish the institution. By November 15, 2007, a report will be delivered to the Legislature on campus siting recommendations and a preliminary design and implementation plan. This work session topic will provide a progress update to the Capital Budget Committee.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** June 2008

**Staff Assigned:** Susan Howson

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**House of Representatives  
Commerce and Labor  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Oil and Gas Pricing 2. Unemployment Insurance (if necessary)	Work Session
TBA (in October)	TBA (Full Day)	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Collective Bargaining (Full Committee) 2. Workers' Compensation (Full Committee) 3. Tied House (Full Committee; Joint with Senate Labor, Commerce, Research, and Development Committee)	Work Session
TBA (in November)	TBA (Full Day)	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Apprenticeship and Workforce Training (Full Committee) 2. Tied House (Full Committee; Joint with Senate Labor Commerce, Research, and Development Committee)	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Coverage of Low-Wage Workers Enrolled on State Plans Workgroup Report 2. Workplace Bullying	Work Session

**Joint Task Force on Family Leave Insurance**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	Task force organization.	Work Session
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	TBA	Work Session
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	TBA	Work Session
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	TBA	Work Session
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	TBA	Work Session
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	Discussion and approval of final report.	Work Session

**Joint Task Force on the Underground Economy in the Construction Industry**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
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## Joint Task Force on the Underground Economy in the Construction Industry

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	Task force organization.	Work Session
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	TBA	Work Session
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	TBA	Work Session
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	Discussion and approval of final report.	Work Session

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**Project Title: Oil and Gasoline Pricing**

**Project Goal:**

Receive report from the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development and study factors related to gasoline prices.

**Project Description:**

In recent years, the Committee has had an interest in rising oil and gasoline prices and how these rising prices affect workers, businesses, and consumers in Washington. In April, the Office of the Attorney General announced that, together with the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, it would conduct an investigation into the factors that influence gasoline prices in Washington. The first phase of the investigation will analyze supply and demand conditions in Washington and will include an initial analysis of regional prices in nine areas. A preliminary written report will be available in July.

The Committee will meet in September to receive a report from the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development on the investigation. The Committee will focus on the impact of rising prices on the Washington economy and business environment, including the impact to workers and consumers, the impact on real wages, and the impact on the cost of doing business in Washington.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2008

**Staff Assigned:** Alison Hellberg

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**Project Title: Unemployment Insurance**

**Project Goal:**

Monitor agency and stakeholder discussions and consider possible legislation for 2008.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will monitor ongoing work by the Employment Security Department on conformity with federal law and the status of the trust fund.

During the 2007 interim, the Committee will meet once, if necessary, to receive an update from the Employment Security Department on this work.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2008

**Staff Assigned:** Jill Reinmuth

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**Project Title: Collective Bargaining**

**Project Goal:**

**Study a variety of issues related to collective bargaining, and work with stakeholders to develop possible legislation for 2008.**

**Project Description:**

In past sessions, the Committee has considered a variety of issues related to collective bargaining, including captive audience issues, issues related to bargaining by adult family home caregivers, and issues related bargaining by child care providers.

During the 2007 interim, the Committee will study each of these issues in more detail, including working with stakeholders to develop possible legislation for 2008. The Committee will also have one work session to discuss these issues.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2008

**Staff Assigned:** Jill Reinmuth and Alison Hellberg

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**Project Title: Workers' Compensation**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor agency and stakeholder discussions and consider possible legislation for 2008.**

**Project Description:**

During the 2007 legislative session, the Committee considered HB 1503, which related to improving the independent medical examination process. During the interim, the Committee will continue to monitor work by the Department of Labor and Industries and by stakeholders on improving the independent medical examination process, and will consider possible legislation on this issue for 2008. The Committee will also monitor discussions by labor and business stakeholders related to payment on appeal, the definition of wages under the Industrial Insurance Act, and wage simplification.

The Committee will monitor, and receive updates on, work by the Department of Labor and Industries on reciprocal agreements, including the related premium liability issues faced by employers that have employees in multiple states.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2008

**Staff Assigned:** Joan Elgee

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**Project Title: Liquor Tied House Law**

**Project Goal:**

**Review proposed changes to the tied house law.**

**Project Description:**

The tied house law generally prohibits liquor manufacturers and distributors from owning or having a financial interest in a liquor retailer or from providing things of value to a retailer. Numerous exceptions have been created. In 2006, the Three-Tier System Review Task Force recommended that the Liquor Control Board work with stakeholders to develop a comprehensive list of exceptions. The Board has convened a work group to identify criteria for exceptions, with recommendations due by August 1, 2007.

During the 2007 interim, the House Commerce & Labor Committee and the Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee will hold one or two joint work sessions/public hearings to receive the Board's recommendations and study the impact of potential changes on the liquor industry, including the effect on jobs.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One or more joint work sessions/public hearings

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2008

**Staff Assigned:** Joan Elgee

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**Project Title: Apprenticeship and Workforce Training**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor activities by the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council and study issues related to workforce training and development.**

**Project Description:**

The Committee will review issues related to the approval of apprenticeship programs by the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council (WSATC), including related litigation, and will receive updates from the WSATC on this issue. The Committee will review issues and challenges related to reciprocity with Idaho and Oregon apprenticeship programs.

The Committee will also continue work on the relationship between K-12 education and apprenticeship, including monitoring ongoing activity by "Running Start for the Trades." The Committee will study other issues related to workforce training, including funding and coordination issues and the link between workforce training, higher education, and economic development.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2008

**Staff Assigned:** Alison Hellberg and Jill Reinmuth

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**Project Title: Workgroup on Coverage of Low-Wage Workers Enrolled on State Plans**

**Project Goal:**

**Receive a report from the Workgroup on Coverage of Low-Wage Workers Enrolled on State Plans.**

**Project Description:**

A budget proviso created a workgroup, led by the Department of Social and Health Services in consultation with the Health Care Authority and the Employment Security Department, to prepare and submit a report and recommendations related to coverage of low-wage workers enrolled on state plans who are employed by employers with more than 50 employees. The report is due by November 15, 2007.

During the 2007 interim, the Committee will meet once to receive and discuss the report from the Workgroup on Coverage of Low-Wage Workers Enrolled on State Plans.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2008

**Staff Assigned:** Alison Hellberg

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**Project Title: Workplace Bullying**

**Project Goal:**

**To examine the issue of workplace bullying, and to discuss draft legislation to make it an unlawful employment practice to subject an employee to an abusive work environment.**

**Project Description:**

“Workplace bullying” is a term used by some researchers to describe interpersonal hostility that is deliberate, repeated and sufficiently severe as to harm the targeted person’s health or economic status.

Workplace bullying is not based on the targeted person’s race, gender or other protected status. Consequently, statutory law making discrimination or harassment based on a person’s race, gender or other protected status may not protect the person from workplace bullying. Common law tort theories also may not provide such protection.

During the 2007 legislative interim, the Committee will examine the issue of workplace bullying, and discuss draft legislation similar to that introduced in other states.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2008

**Staff Assigned:** Jill Reinmuth

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**Project Title: Joint Task Force on Family Leave Insurance**

**Project Goal:**

Prepare a report of findings and recommendations related to the family leave insurance program, including recommendations as to the specific manner in which benefits and administrative costs should be financed, as well as proposed legislation, by January 1, 2008.

**Project Description:**

E2SSB 5659 created the Joint Task Force on Family Leave Insurance. The task force will study: financing for benefits and administrative costs; program implementation and administration; government efficiencies which improve program administration and reduce program costs; and impacts, if any, on the unemployment compensation system and options for mitigating such impacts.

The task force will meet multiple times in preparation for the creation of a report of findings and recommendations, including recommendations as to the specific manner in which benefits and administrative costs should be financed, as well as proposed legislation, to the Legislature by January 1, 2008.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Preliminary indication is six work sessions/public hearings. (Number of meetings will be confirmed when Task Force convenes.)

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2008

**Staff Assigned:** Jill Reinmuth and Joan Elgee

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**Project Title: Joint Task Force on the Underground Economy in the Construction Industry**

**Project Goal:**

Prepare a report on findings and recommendations regarding the extent and potential costs to the state of the underground economy in the construction industry and a policy to establish cohesion and transparency between state agencies to increase oversight and regulation of the underground economy in the construction industry.

**Project Description:**

SB 5926 created the Underground Economy in the Construction Industry Task Force. The task force will work to determine the extent and potential costs to the state of the underground economy in the construction industry. The task force will study issues related to unreported employment and the effect on workers' employment rights and protections and the loss of revenue to the state.

The task force will meet multiple times to prepare findings and recommendations to formulate a state policy to establish cohesion and transparency between state agencies to increase the oversight and regulation of the underground economy in the construction industry. The task force will contract with the Washington Institute for Public Policy to provide assistance.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Preliminary indication is four work sessions/public hearings. (Number of meetings will be confirmed when Task Force convenes.)

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2008

**Staff Assigned:** Joan Elgee and Jill Reinmuth

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**House of Representatives  
Community & Economic Development & Trade  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
June 5	All Day	Everett	Full Committee	Aerospace Meeting.	Work Session
June 14	Morning	Tacoma	Full Committee Joint w/Senate Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee	Washington's Economic Future Through Partnerships	Work Session
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Social Entrepreneurship.	Work Session
October 3 - 4	2 full days	Tri-Cities and Walla Walla	Full Committee	Eastern Washington Economic Development Meeting.	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Small Business Needs. 2. Report on Statutory Review of the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises.	Work Session

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**Project Title: Aerospace Meeting**

**Project Goal:**

To understand the needs and challenges facing the aerospace industry in Washington.

**Project Description:**

The aerospace industry is a significant part of the Washington economy, providing over 70,000 jobs in 17 counties. The Committee will examine the current industry composition, major trends impacting business retention expansion and recruitment and other aerospace related issues during a works session and tours of aerospace facilities. This meeting is in lieu of the Task Force proposed in HB 1375

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** June 5, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Tracey Taylor & Meg Van Schoorl

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**Project Title: Washington's Economic Future Through Partnerships**

**Project Goal:**

To understand the needs and opportunities for economic development at the local government level.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will hold a joint work session with the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Management at the 2007 Association of Washington Cities Conference in Tacoma, Washington. The Committees will review 2007 legislation, be briefed on economic development issues by a panel of city officials and hold an open discussion with city participants and the members of the public about the future of economic development and potential legislation for the 2008 Legislative Session.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** June 14, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Tracey Taylor & Meg Van Schoorl

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**Project Title: Social Entrepreneurship**

**Project Goal:**

Preparation for 2008 Legislative Session

**Project Description:**

Social entrepreneurship refers to a social services "not-for-profit" organization operating a for-profit/earned income venture that provides a stable funding base for the organization while promoting its mission.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** September 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Meg Van Schoorl

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**Project Title: Eastern Washington Economic Meeting**

**Project Goal:**

To understand the needs of an emerging rural economy.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will participate in meetings concerning economic development partnerships, including WSU, Battelle/PNNL, TRIDEC Economic Development Council, Chambers of Commerce and unions. Meeting topics will include: bills passed during the 2007 legislative session, including Innovation Partnership Zones and Associate Development Organizations; economic development, education, and jobs; and tourism, including wine grape/wine, hop/beer industries and related clusters.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Work Session

**Completion Date:** October 3-4, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Meg Van Schoorl & Tracey Taylor

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**Project Title: Small Business Needs**

**Project Goal:**

To understand small business needs, state services and service gaps.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will examine the following: state financial and technical assistance for small businesses; the state's contracting system; tax exemptions; service delivery gaps; women and minority owned businesses; microenterprises; and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee Report on Small Business Incubators.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Tracey Taylor & Meg Van Schoorl

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**Project Title: Statutory Review of the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises**

**Project Goal:**

Preparation for 2008 Legislative Session.

**Project Description:**

The Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises was established in 1983 to increase the participation of minority and women business enterprises in government contracts. Twenty five years later and post-Initiative 200, this project will examine the existing statutes governing the Office and determine whether legislation is needed to help state government increase opportunities for and reduce barriers to minority and women's business enterprises.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Tracey Taylor, Meg VanSchoorl

**Project Title: Public Infrastructure**

**Project Goal:**

Preparation for 2008 Legislative Session.

**Project Description:**

Participate and monitor the joint legislative study committee on public infrastructure and funds.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** TBD

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Tracey Taylor

**House of Representatives  
Early Learning & Children's Services  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September	TBA	Seattle	Full Committee	Braam Oversight Panel	Work Session
September Committee Assembly (Wednesday)	Half Day	Olympia	Full Committee joint w/ APP Subcommittee on Education	Early Learning: Funding Structure and Quality	Work Session
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Early Learning Initiatives: Agency Updates	Work Session
Late September	All Day	Yakima	Full Committee	Yakima Site Visit	Work Session
October	All Day	Tacoma	Full Committee	(1) Independent and Transitional Livings Skills Programs (2) Adoption of Children from Foster Care.	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Foster Parent Consultations and Licensing.	Work Session

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**Project Title: Braam Oversight Panel**

**Project Goal:**

The Committee will review the monitoring and compliance functions under the Braam Implementation Plan and the Child & Family Services Review (CFSR) Program Improvement Plan.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will request a meeting with the Braam Panel to coincide with the Panel's June 2007 or September 2007 meeting schedule. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss how compliance and monitoring compare under the Braam Implementation Plan and the CFSR Program Improvement Plan, and how 2007 legislation may impact compliance and/or monitoring under the two plans.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One meeting in September 2007.

**Completion Date:** October 31, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

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**Project Title: Early Learning: Funding Structure and Quality**

**Project Goal:**

The Committee will continue discussions about Washington's current funding structure for child care and early learning and will examine how funding and policy options can influence quality.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will conduct a joint work session with the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education to discuss the current funding structure for child care and early learning in Washington, and examine ways in which funding and policy options can promote and support quality improvements in those programs.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session: September

**Completion Date:** November 30, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

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**Project Title: Early Learning Initiatives: Agency Updates**

**Project Goal:**

The Committee will receive updates from the Department of Early Learning and other entities regarding implementation of early learning initiatives.

**Project Description:**

The 2007 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes approximately \$136 million in new funding for early learning and related programs: including ECEAP enhancements; development and piloting of a Quality Rating and Improvement System; parent, family, and caregiver supports; home visitation services; benchmark redesign; early reading initiatives; child care consultations; child care subsidy increases; and a child care career & wage ladder. The Committee will receive agency updates regarding planning and implementation of programs and delivery of services.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Session: September Committee Assembly

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

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**Project Title: Yakima Site Visit**

**Project Goal:**

The Committee will observe progress of the implementation of early learning initiatives. The Committee also will receive a briefing regarding implementation of initiatives relating to assessment and compliance in the Temporary for Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will tour a DSHS Community Services Office to receive a briefing on TANF programs and services, including an overview of services and updates on use of comprehensive evaluations and on implementation of full family sanctions for noncompliance.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2007.

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

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**Project Title: Independent and Transitional Living Skills Services and Programs**

**Project Goal:**

The Committee will study the availability, use, and delivery of independent and transitional living skills services for foster youth and former foster youth in Washington for the purpose of informing policy discussions and decisions relating to the well-being of youth who have aged out of foster care.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will gather information from the DSHS, Casey Family Programs, Pierce County Development Network, CTED, and the Family Policy Council regarding services available to foster youth and former foster youth. The Committee will study promising practices, including models and approaches from other states, for improving the outcomes of youth who age out of care.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session.

**Completion Date:** October 31, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

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**Project Title: Adoption of Children from Foster Care**

**Project Goal:**

The Committee will review programs, practices, and research to promote and support adoption of children from foster care.

**Project Description:**

During the 2007 legislative session, the Committee considered legislation to support a pilot program for promoting and supporting adoption of children from foster care. Committee staff will conduct further research into strategies proving to be effective in promoting permanency and preventing adoption dissolution. Research will include programs being operated in Washington and in other states.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session.

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

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**Project Title: Consultations with Foster Parents**

**Project Goal:**

The Committee will receive information regarding consultations between the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services and licensed foster parents.

**Project Description:**

House Bill 1624 (section 10) directs the Secretary of the DSHS to consult at least quarterly with licensed foster parents. Topics of consultations include issues relating to recruitment of foster homes; reducing foster parent turnover rates; providing effective training for foster parents; and administering a comprehensive plan to strengthen services for the protection of children.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Session: December Committee Assembly

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

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**Project Title: Foster Parent Consultations and Licensing**

**Project Goal:**

The Committee will receive an update on DSHS consultations with foster parents and hear the report and recommendations from the Work Group on Tiered Classifications for Foster Parent Licensing

**Project Description:**

HB 1624 contains two sections relating to foster parent licensing. Section 10 requires the DSHS to conduct regional and statewide consultations with foster parents. Section 11 establishes a work group to study the need for and feasibility of creating tiered classifications for foster parent licensing. The Secretary of the DSHS and the Dean of the School of Social Work at the UW will jointly facilitate the work group, membership of which includes legislators, foster parents, child welfare professionals, the Director of the Institute for Children and Families at the UW, and a representative from the Washington Federation of State Employees. In addition to the work group, at least two focused stakeholder meetings will be convened to exchange ideas and gather input. The work group will deliver its report and recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 2008.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Session: December Committee Assembly

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

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**House of Representatives  
Education  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Washington Assessment of Student Learning 2. Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance	Work Session
October	All Day	Yakima Valley	Full Committee	1. Instruction and Assessment of English Language Learners 2. "What Will it Take To Get Students to State Standards?"	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. State Board of Education Reports a. Meaningful High School Diploma b. Accountability System c. Mathematics Standards 2. Promoting Academic Success Program	Work Session

**Workgroup on School District Boundaries**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September (Pre- Committee Assembly)	Afternoon	Olympia	Committee Workgroup	School District Boundary Law	Work Session
December (Pre- Committee Assembly)	TBA	Olympia	Committee Workgroup	School District Boundary Law	Work Session

**Note:** (1) Workgroup on School District Boundaries convened by Chair.

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**Project Title: Washington Assessment of Student Learning - 2007 Results**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor the latest pass rates for the Washington Assessment of Student Learning**

**Project Description:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction will present the pass rates for the 2007 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) to the Education Committee, including the latest data on retakes and alternative assessment completion by students in the Class of 2008.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Session

**Completion Date:** September 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Barbara McLain

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**Project Title: Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor and review preliminary reports and findings of the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance**

**Project Description:**

Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5627 created a Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance, to be staffed by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy. The Education Committee will be monitoring the workplan and findings of the Joint Task Force, including reviewing preliminary reports due in September and December 2007.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Session

**Completion Date:** 2008 Session

**Staff Assigned:** Barbara McLain

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**Project Title: What Will it Take To Get Students to State Standards?**

**Project Goal:**

Identify the strategies and resources that school districts believe are necessary to help all students meet state learning standards.

**Project Description:**

At the end of the 2007 Legislative Session, a group of more than thirty school superintendents sent a letter to the Legislature requesting a delay of the requirement that students in the class of 2008 must meet state learning standards on the WASL to graduate from high school. A number of these school districts serve large populations of low income, minority, and non-English speaking students. A number are from Eastern Washington and the Yakima Valley. The Education Committee will hold a work session in the Yakima Valley to hear from schools and communities with large populations of these students about the strategies and resources they believe are necessary to help all students meet the state standards. The goal will be to develop a list of action items to be proposed for the 2008 Session.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Session

**Completion Date:** 2008 Session

**Staff Assigned:** Barbara McLain

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**Project Title: State Board of Education Reports**

**Project Goal:**

Receive reports from the State Board of Education on graduation requirements, accountability, and mathematics standards.

**Project Description:**

In 2006, the State Board of Education was reconstituted and assigned oversight responsibility for student achievement and student and school accountability. The Board has made this topic a top priority in its strategic plan and intends to issue recommendations for system accountability by December 2007. Legislation enacted in 2006 directed the Board, as part of its responsibility for high school graduation requirements, to examine broadly the overall purpose of a high school diploma. Subsequent legislation enacted in 2007 (SHB 1906) directs the Board to revise graduation requirements to reflect at least three years of mathematics and to prescribe the required content. A report with recommendations from the Board on a Meaningful High School Diploma is due by December 2007. The same bill requires a review by the Board of the state's learning standards in mathematics, with input from a citizen advisory panel and a contracted national expert. Recommendations for revisions to the standards are due by December 2007.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Barbara McLain

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**Project Title: Promoting Academic Success Program - Evaluation Results**

**Project Goal:**

**Review results of the evaluation of the Promoting Academic Success Program.**

**Project Description:**

The 2006 supplemental operating budget and the 2007-09 biennial budget provide funding for the Promoting Academic Success (PAS) program to help high school students who are struggling to meet state standards on the WASL. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy was directed to conduct a quantitative analysis of the remediation programs to examine overall effectiveness, relative effectiveness of different strategies, and relative effectiveness for different groups of students. A report is due December 15, 2007.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Barbara McLain

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**Project Title: School District Boundary Law**

**Project Goal:**

**Review school district boundary laws and processes and develop possible legislation for 2008 session.**

**Project Description:**

The procedures for addressing school district boundary disputes and other changes to district boundaries are specifically outlined in statute. Legislation was introduced in 2007 to address problems experienced by one community. However, on further review, it was determined that a comprehensive and thorough examination was needed to address not only the particular issue raised by that community but other possible issues related to school district boundary determinations. The Education Committee will convene an informal workgroup of interested legislators and representatives from school districts, Educational Service Districts, and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to review current laws and develop possible legislation.

(1) NOTE: Workgroup convened by Chair.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Two Work Sessions

**Completion Date:** 2008 Session

**Staff Assigned:** Barbara McLain, Sarah Ream

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**House of Representatives  
Select Committee on Environmental Health  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Pesticide Use Registry	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Upcoming Legislation	Work Session

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**Project Title: New Sewage Technology Approval**

**Project Goal:**

Possible bill development

**Project Description:**

Timely approval of emerging on-site sewage system technologies was a topic of concern for the Committee during the 2007 legislative session. Specifically, HB 1821 (bioremediation - on-site sewage treatment technology) and HB 2012 (denitrification - on-site sewage treatment products) were considered by the Committee. These bills raised issues about the accelerating pace of technology advancement and the need for timely agency approval of effective, emerging technologies without jeopardizing public health and safety. The Committee will develop further understanding of the issues with possible legislation for the 2008 session.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One meeting

**Completion Date:** December

**Staff Assigned:** Brad Avy, Chris Blake

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**Project Title: Urban Pesticide Applications**

**Project Goal:**

Education and possible bill development

**Project Description:**

Urban application of pesticides was a topic of interest for the Committee during the 2007 legislative session. The Committee will study issues surrounding urban pesticide application rates, roadside spraying/noxious weed control, overlap with the PIRT - Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking panel, and have further dialogue with state and local pesticide staff and industry experts with possible development of legislation for the 2008 session.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One (part of Pesticide Use Registry work session)

**Completion Date:** December

**Staff Assigned:** Brad Avy, Chris Blake

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**Project Title: Future Legislation**

**Project Goal:**

Prepare for upcoming session

**Project Description:**

Topics: draft legislation-upcoming Committee bills, wood smoke recommendations to legislature (due 12-1-07), national trends in environmental health legislation, septic issues, new technology approval, e-waste legislation follow-up.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December

**Staff Assigned:** Brad Avy, Chris Blake

**House of Representatives  
Finance  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Briefing on Economic and Revenue Forecast. 2. Staff Briefing: Analysis of Property Tax Data.	Work Session
October 23 1:30 - 4:30 pm	Afternoon	Kent	Full Committee	1. Review of JLARC Tax Exemption Audit Reports (6 exemptions-full study, 16 exemptions-expedited study). 2. Review of Local Government Revenue for Public Safety Funding.	Public Hearing/ Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Progress Report on Washington's Participation in the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Project. 2. Progress Report on the Electronically Delivered Products/Digital Products Study. 3. Review of Local Sales Taxes that are Credited against the State Sales and Use Tax for Local Projects (Public Facility Districts). 4. Briefing on Economic and Revenue Forecast.	Public Hearing/ Work Session

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**Project Title: Economic and Revenue Forecast**

**Project Goal:**

**Brief Committee on Economic and Revenue Forecast**

**Project Description:**

The state's economic and revenue forecast is updated four times a year. The forecast is adopted by the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council. The Council is made up of members of the House and Senate and two Governor appointees. The Finance Committee will receive a briefing on the forecast after the September and November updates.

RCW 82.33.040 Creates the economic and revenue forecast work group. The work group is provided access to all information relating to economic and revenue forecasts including revenue collection information. The economic and revenue forecast work group provides technical support to the economic and revenue forecast council. Committee staff will participate on the economic and revenue forecast work group by reviewing national and state economic and revenue data. Committee staff will prepare to brief committee members on updates to the economic and revenue forecast.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** 2 Work Sessions

**Completion Date:** 12/07

**Staff Assigned:** Rick Peterson and Mark Matteson

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**Project Title: Analysis of Property Tax Data**

**Project Goal:**

**Inform Committee on recent trends in property taxes**

**Project Description:**

Washington's active real estate market has resulted in substantial increases in market values of real estate. On a statewide basis, median home sales prices increased by 56% from 2002 to 2006 (source: Washington Center for Real Estate Research, WSU). These increased prices have raised concerns about property tax assessment and taxes.

In a work session the Finance Committee review detailed data on property tax assessments, taxes, and levies.

Committee staff will analyze recent property tax data to evaluate trends in tax valuation changes. Staff will assemble detailed property tax assessment roll data for 13 counties for tax years 2002-2007. The data will be at the parcel level and include the following information: tax code area; overall tax rate; parcel number; land value; improvement (building value); total taxable value; exempt status; tax year; and land use code (when available.)

This information together with taxing district levy detail will allow the development of descriptive statistical information for the time period covered, including: distribution of growth in valuation at the parcel level; distribution of growth in tax at the parcel level; and maps of the differential in relative valuation and tax changes (e.g., by school district);

Staff will also prepare a report that traces district property tax growth over the most recent 10 year period. The report will summarize the data at the statewide level, the county level, by type of levy (regular and excess), by type of district, and by individual district. The report will show the components of growth in regular levies (new construction; lid lifts; statutory councilmanic authority; banked capacity).

This project will also produce a report related to the accuracy of assessment procedures by measuring the accuracy of 2006 assessed values and their conformance with the International Association of Assessing Officers standards. The report will complement similar reports that have been produced by committee staff each year since 1997.

The data compiled in the project will be used to evaluate assumptions that have been developed as part of programs used to model proposals for homestead exemptions, valuation averaging, and other major property tax relief proposals. The data provide a better understanding of the impact of proposals with respect to tax shifts, and future year consequences.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** 9/07

**Staff Assigned:** Mark Matteson and Rick Peterson

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**Project Title: Review of JLARC Tax Exemption Audit Reports**

**Project Goal:**

To inform the committee of the JLARC tax audits.

**Project Description:**

The Citizen Commission for Performance Measurement of Tax Preferences was established by the 2006 Legislature (EHB 1069). The primary role of the Commission is to develop a schedule to review all tax preferences at least once every ten years. The Commission has established the review schedule. JLARC staff will complete the first round of audits by August 30.

JLARC staff will present their tax audit findings to the Finance Committee.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One public hearing/work session

**Completion Date:** 10/07

**Staff Assigned:** Rick Peterson

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**Project Title: Review of Local Government Revenue for Public Safety Funding**

**Project Goal:**

Review local government revenue for public safety funding.

**Project Description:**

Washington dropped to 37th lowest nationally in state and local taxes relative to income, according to the latest U.S. Census Bureau figures. Taxes dropped to \$105.91 per \$1,000 personal income in Fiscal Year 2005 from \$106.27 in Fiscal Year 2004 when the state ranked 29th among the states. This relative reduction in tax revenue is due to constraints placed on revenue from property taxes.

Local governments rely on property tax to a greater extent than the state and spend a greater share of their revenue on public safety funding.

Staff will review and brief the Finance Committee on local government revenue for public safety funding using data obtained from the local government financial reporting system. The project will include a compilation of the revenue options provided to local governments for public safety funding and the utilization of these options. The Committee will hear from local governments about local funding for public safety.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One public hearing/work session

**Completion Date:** 10/07

**Staff Assigned:** Jeff Mitchell and Mark Matteson

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**Project Title: Progress Report on Washington's participation in the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Project**

**Project Goal:**

Update committee on Washington's participation in the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Project.

**Project Description:**

The 2007 Legislature adopted SSB 5089 which will bring Washington's sales and use tax into compliance with the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Project requirements. The Legislation changes the sourcing of local sales tax revenue from delivered products from the location from which delivery is made to the location of the purchaser. The legislation provides mitigation to local governments for lost revenue due to this change. Small businesses are provided compensation for the cost of complying with this change.

The Department of Revenue will update the Finance Committee on Washington's participation in the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Project, issues before the Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board, and the implementation of the mitigation measures included in the 2007 legislation.

Committee staff will participate in a work group monitoring the implementation of local government sales tax compensation for the sales tax sourcing changes adopted in the 2007 session.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One public hearing/work session

**Completion Date:** 12/07

**Staff Assigned:** Jeff Mitchell and Rick Peterson

**Project Title: Progress Report on the Electronically Delivered Products/Digital Products Study**

**Project Goal:**

Update committee on progress of the electronically delivered products/digital products study.

**Project Description:**

The operating budget directs the Department of Revenue to conduct a study of the taxation of electronically delivered products. The legislature adopted ESHB 1981 that relates to specific types of electronically delivered products but does not address the taxation of numerous other types of electronically delivered products.

The Department of Revenue will establish a study committee and will review the following issues: The provision of explicit statutory definitions for electronically delivered products; the current excise tax treatment of electronically delivered products in the state of Washington and other states as well as the tax treatment of these products under the streamlined sales and use tax agreement; the administration, costs, and potential recipients of the tax exemptions provided in ESHB1981; and alternatives to the excise taxation of electronically delivered products.

The preliminary findings and recommendations of the study committee will be presented to the Committee.

Committee staff will attend meetings of the study and provide briefings to the committee on the study's progress.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One public hearing/work session

**Completion Date:** 12/07

**Staff Assigned:** Jeff Mitchell and Rick Peterson

**Project Title: Review of local sales taxes that are credited against the State Sales and Use Tax for local projects**

**Project Goal:**

Review local government use of local sales taxes credited against the State Sales and Use Tax for local projects.

**Project Description:**

Currently there are 21 Public Facility Districts that are using revenue from a local sales and use tax that is credited against the state's sales and use tax to support public stadiums and regional centers. In 2006 about \$33 million of state sales and use tax was diverted for these purposes. The 2007 Legislature adopted EHB 2388 which allowed two additional public facility districts to be created and allowed two existing public facility districts to increase their offset against the state sales and use tax.

Committee staff will review local government use of local sales taxes credited against the state sales and use tax for local projects. Staff will inventory the projects and brief the Finance Committee on status of the projects.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One public hearing/work session

**Completion Date:** 12/07

**Staff Assigned:** Rick Peterson and Jeff Mitchell

**House of Representatives  
Health Care & Wellness  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	- Long-Term Care Task Force Report	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	- School Health - EMS System - End-of-Life Issues	Work Session

**Mental Health Task Force**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
July 10, 2007	Afternoon	Renton	TBA	Mental Health Task Force - Transformation grant activities - Review of children's mental health initiatives - Regional Support Network accountability measures - Eastern and Western State Hospital staffing/safety plans - PACT team update	Work Session

**Web Dialogue on Selected Health Care Topics**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
July 23-25, 2007	9:00 am	Internet	Health Care and Wellness	Web Dialogue on Obesity	Web Dialogue

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**Project Title: Long-Term Care Task Force**

**Project Goal:**

**The committee will monitor the work of the Task Force, including activities of the Workforce Development Workgroup.**

**Project Description:**

The Long-Term Care Task Force was established to review and make recommendations on financing and delivery of chronic care services. In the 2007 Legislative Session, the Task Force mandate was revised to add a Home and Community Long-Term Care Workforce Development Workgroup to evaluate and make recommendations related to training for long-term care workers. The Committee will monitor the Task Force activities, including activities of the Workforce Development Workgroup, during the interim. The Task Force is to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2007, which will include the Workforce Development Workgroup's recommendations that are to be finalized by December 1, 2007.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Dave Knutson, Chris Cordes

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**Project Title: School Health Reform**

**Project Goal:**

**Obtain an understanding of school health service delivery models, health issues that affect students, and the link between student health and academic performance.**

**Project Description:**

The Select Interim Legislative Task Force on Comprehensive School Health Reform was established in Second Substitute Senate Bill 5093 to review and make recommendations on policies, environmental changes, and programs needed to support healthy schools, and to review the delivery of health services in schools by school personnel. The Committee will monitor the Task Force activities during the interim. The Task Force is to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by October 1, 2008.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** October 2008

**Staff Assigned:** Chris Blake; Chris Cordes

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**Project Title: Improper Utilization of Emergency Medical Services**

**Project Goal:**

Obtain an understanding of the pressures on the emergency medical system that reduce its efficiency.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will hold a public hearing/work session to review concerns that the emergency medical system is being compromised by the inappropriate use of emergency medical providers and emergency departments. The Committee will review situations where emergency medical services refuse to transport patients who do not meet transport criteria and dispatch criteria.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Chris Blake

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**Project Title: State Vaccine Policy and Immunization Rates**

**Project Goal:**

Develop strategies to improve the immunization rate for vaccine-preventable diseases.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will hold a public hearing/work session to update information on the Department of Health's efforts to improve vaccination rates for vaccine-preventable diseases, particularly childhood diseases, and to identify successful strategies for reaching and maintaining state immunization goals.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One public hearing/work session

**Completion Date:** December, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Dave Knutson

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**Project Title: End-of-Life Issues**

**Project Goal:**

Obtain a better understanding of the issues affecting patients with a terminal illness who wish to end their lives through voluntary self-medication.

**Project Description:**

In light of events in the past several years surrounding Terry Schiavo and the recent Supreme Court decision upholding Oregon's Death with Dignity Act, the Committee will consider options for promoting a patient's right to determine their end-of-life choices. The Committee will review the current status of various end-of-life laws and documents that support a patient's wishes.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Chris Blake

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**House of Representatives  
Higher Education  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
August 16	TBA	Tacoma (Pierce College)	Full Committee	Key Issues in Workforce Education	Work Session
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee + invitation to APPE	Higher Education Fiscal Issues: Cost Study, CTC Tuition Study, Maintenance & Operations Review, Tuition Policy, and Faculty Compensation	Public Hearing/ Work Session
October 18	All Day	Seattle (UW)	Full Committee Joint with Technology, Energy & Communications Committee	Tech Transfer and Distance Learning	Work Session
December Committee Assembly (Wednesday)	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee Joint with Appropriations Subcommittee on Education	Higher Education Finance: Community College Budgets, Accountability, Return on Investment, and Financial Barriers for Students	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Member Discussion of Key Issues for the 2008 Legislative Session	Public Hearing/ Work Session

**Accountability and Performance Workgroup**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
July 12 & 13	All Day	Seattle	Full Committee	Symposium on Accountability and Performance Agreements	Work Session
Fall	All Day	Seattle	Full Committee	Accountability and Performance Agreement Development	Work Session

**High Demand Committee**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
July	All Day	Pullman (WSU)	2 members, joint with Senate	SSB 5731: Committee Meetings focused on High Demand	Work Session
September	All Day	Ellensburg (CWU)	2 members, joint with Senate	SSB 5731: Committee Meetings focused on High Demand	Work Session
November	All Day	Seattle	2 members, joint with Senate	SSB 5731: Committee Meetings focused on High Demand	Work Session

**Web Dialogue on Access to Higher Education**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
July 23-25, 2007	All Day	Internet	Higher Education	Web Dialogue on Access to Higher Education	Web Dialogue

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**Project Title: Key Issues in Workforce Education**

**Project Goal:**

**Increase knowledge of workforce training programs and explore options for legislation that will add value to the workforce development system.**

**Project Description:**

The Committee will discuss various issues, best practices, funding streams and gaps in workforce training. The Committee will discuss and prioritize ways to add value to the workforce development system, with the goal of enhancing services to businesses and current/future employees. Also, the Committee will examine federal and state workforce development funding streams, along with their rules and requirements.

The project will investigate how professional-technical FTEs, the Worker Retraining Program, and other workforce-focused programs are funded, and if such funding streams cover program costs, and provide sufficient resources for educational institutions to offer necessary programs. It will examine required outcomes, reporting, and funding for Basic Skills and Workforce Education courses. The project will show federal and state funding streams, which agencies receive the funding, and requirements/opportunities linked to the various sources. It will also investigate access to financial aid for workforce education students.

Members will tour an I-BEST program and a Center for Excellence.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Session

**Completion Date:** August

**Staff Assigned:** Jennifer Thornton

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**Project Title: Higher Education Fiscal Issues**

**Project Goal:**

**Increase understanding of the costs of providing quality higher education.**

**Project Description:**

State funds and student tuition provide the primary funding streams for college and university instruction and support services. In the 2007 session, the higher education committee received information pertaining to: tuition increases rising more rapidly than inflation, institutional support lower than in peer states, lack of funding for specific building operations and maintenance, and the inability to attract world class faculty due to salaries that are not competitive with peers. Additionally, the committee had extensive discussion relating to the Washington Learns recommendations on a tuition and funding policy.

The topic is multi-faceted and complex. Members will receive information on how other states fund maintenance and operations, a report by the SBCTC on community college tuition, updates on the cost study and tuition policy, and data on faculty compensation.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One public hearing/work session. Appropriations Subcommittee on Education will be invited to attend.

**Completion Date:** September/Ongoing

**Staff Assigned:** Jennifer Thornton

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**Project Title: Tech Transfer and Intellectual Property**

**Project Goal:**

Receive information on tech transfer and the role and potential benefit to the state.

**Project Description:**

A primary purpose of the two state research universities is to conduct research, and both of them have tech transfer offices focused on moving from research into product development. This project involves visiting the tech transfer office at the University of Washington to increase the knowledge and understanding of the types of research and product development stimulated from state universities. Faculty and administrators will share information on how state-based institutions conduct tech transfer, what do they do to secure benefits to the state through agreements, and how SHB 1806 (from 2005, relating to encouraging the ethical transfer of technology for the economic benefit of the state) has influenced decision making.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One joint work session with Technology, Energy & Communications Committee

**Completion Date:** December

**Staff Assigned:** Jennifer Thornton

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**Project Title: Distance Learning**

**Project Goal:**

Increase understanding of the use of distance learning in delivering higher education and expanding access.

**Project Description:**

Distance learning is rapidly increasing as a way of delivering education. Different methods are used to provide distance learning, such as on-line courses and video courses with multiple interactive sites. This project will focus on course and program availabilities, technologies, costs, and student outcomes when receiving some or all of their education through distance learning. It will explore various ways that distance education is delivered in a globally competitive environment, and how it can be used as a method to expand access to higher education, so that more people can be educated to higher levels.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session at UW

**Completion Date:** December

**Staff Assigned:** Sarah Ream

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**Project Title: Higher Education Finance**

**Project Goal:**

**Increase understanding of community college budgets, financial barriers to students, accountability and return on investment in the higher education system.**

**Project Description:**

This work session will cover three higher education issues. First, members will review processes and procedures the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges utilizes to distribute funds to individual community and technical colleges. Issues including distribution of new state supported student FTEs, allocation of special project or program funding and compensation will be discussed.

Various studies regarding financial barriers for students have been conducted by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and other entities. Members will receive an overview of findings from such studies, inform members of financial aid programs and services available to students and identify gaps in student financial assistance.

Finally, members will receive an update on the accountability performance agreement recommendations developed through the Accountability and Performance Agreements Symposium sponsored by the Higher Education Committee. An overview of the linkages between accountability, performance agreements and return on investments within higher education will be included in the discussion.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session joint with Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Jennifer Thornton

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**Project Title: Member Discussion of Key Issues for 2008 Legislative Session**

**Project Goal:**

**Receive updates from members on interim activities and begin developing primary session goals.**

**Project Description:**

Work session focused on learning the priorities of the Higher Education Committee members and suggestions for 2008 Legislation in order to educate more people to higher levels. Identify the primary session goals and strategies.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One public hearing/work session

**Completion Date:** December

**Staff Assigned:** Jennifer Thornton

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**Project Title: Accountability and Performance Agreements**

**Project Goal:**

**Developing a new accountability framework to be used in higher education legislation.**

**Project Description:**

Performance agreements provide a means of clarifying the relationship between the state and its institutions of higher education, and identifying their mutual goals, objectives, responsibilities and expected outcomes. A two-day symposium and one day meeting will focus on the development of performance agreements as a new accountability framework, and potential legislation for the 2008 session.

**Day 1:**

1) Review of the state of performance agreements, including:

- a. Presentation of research and best practices pertaining to higher education accountability;
- b. Presentation on how accountability systems and performance agreements are used in other states;
- c. Presentations by institutions involved in drafting performance contracts, the HECB, and the SBCTC;
- d. Presentation by the OFM to talk about the structure and process of implementing agreements; and
- e. Participant discussion focused on exploration of using performance agreements as the mechanism to develop a longer term strategy/plan, and as the basis for the budget discussions.

2) Strategic planning, including:

- a. Participant discussion of goals and objectives of agreements, and determining how to prioritize what is delivered by institutions; and
- b. Customer input ( WBBA, AeA, Chamber of Commerce, College admissions directors, K-12 system, and others) regarding demand for degrees, student supply, and exploration of what might need to change, and how such change can take place.

3) Presentations on educational quality and how it is measured.

**Day 2:**

1) Understanding the relationship to costs, including:

- a. Discussion of how costs relate to the goals, and evaluating the cost of the degrees and quality;
- b. Examination of changes necessary to the budgeting system to be able to implement performance agreements; and
- c. Discussion of educational capacity including adequacy and availability of physical space, and alternative options such as virtual classrooms.

2) Preview and relationship of cost-studies required in 2007 legislation to performance agreements.

The follow-up meeting will build off of the foundation developed during the two-day symposium, and focus on developing performance agreements.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Two-day symposium and One day meeting of Accountability and Performance Workgroup

**Completion Date:** December

**Staff Assigned:** Jennifer Thornton

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**Project Title: SSB 5731: Committee Meetings on High Demand**

**Project Goal:**

**Develop a plan to increase high demand degrees granted by public institutions of higher education to Washington state students.**

**Project Description:**

SSB 5731 establishes a committee to : (1) develop a plan to increase the number of baccalaureate degrees granted by Washington institutions of higher education by 10,000 per year and significantly increase the number of certificates and Associate Degrees granted by 2020 with a special emphasis directed towards high impact, high demand areas of study; (2) develop a marketing project to inform students, parents, and educators of opportunities in high demand fields; (3) investigate ways to motivate students to take more mathematics and science courses; and (4) identify ways that the business community can enter into more partnerships with the state to ensure that Washington institutions of higher education produce graduates in high demand fields that are ready and able to find employment in Washington. Related subjects for discussion will include: developing a common definition of high demand fields; increasing accessibility to a diverse student pool; course transferability; distance learning; math and science teacher preparation; and developing student demand.

Three all day meetings will be held, one at a research university, one at a regional university, and one at a community/technical college. The committee reports its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2007. Two House members will serve on the committee, one of whom will be designated as a co-chair. Senate Committee Services and OPR staff will provide administrative and research support and will draft possible legislation.

July, September, and November meetings with the report ready for presentation at December assembly.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Three work sessions

**Completion Date:** December

**Staff Assigned:** Jennifer Thornton

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**Project Title: Web Dialogue on Access to Higher Education**

**Project Goal:**

**Communicating and receiving input from experts and the public on what communities, colleges, universities, and the state can do to educate more students to higher levels.**

**Project Description:**

A three-day internet based communication between legislators, experts and the public related to successfully educating more people in Washington. Daily topics will focus on access and retention, financial aid, and modern educational delivery.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Three internet-based meetings.

**Completion Date:** July 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Jennifer Thornton

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**House of Representatives  
Housing  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
August 3	TBA	Seattle	Full Committee	Effect of Condominium Conversion on Affordable Housing	Work Session
August	TBA	Yakima (Tentatively)	Full Committee	Farm Worker Housing Trust Survey	Work Session
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) Housing Activities in State Agencies Beyond DCTED (2) Activities of the Interagency Council on Homelessness	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) County Affordable Housing Activities (2) State's Use of Revenue from Housing Surcharges	Work Session

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**Project Title: Farm Worker Housing Trust Survey**

**Project Goal:**

Review the Farm Worker Housing Trust Survey.

**Project Description:**

The Farm Worker Housing Trust has completed an extensive survey of Farm Worker housing situations and needs. The Trust will present the results of its survey to the Committee. Following the presentation, the committee will discuss with stakeholders some approaches that the Legislature might effectively use to respond to farmworker housing needs.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** July 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Robyn Dupuis

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**Project Title: Effect of Condominium Conversion on Affordable Housing**

**Project Goal:**

Review the impact of condominium conversions on available affordable housing.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will review statutes related to condominium conversion and investigate possible options for legislation to address concerns about excessive conversion displacing low-income households and affecting available affordable housing stock, including rentals. The review will include a work session with stakeholders and local governments to review the impact of condominium conversions on existing and future affordable housing stock.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Robyn Dupuis

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**Project Title: Housing Activities in State Agencies Beyond DCTED**

**Project Goal:**

Review the housing programs and activities at the DOC, DSHS, and OSPI.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will review the housing programs and related activities that are taking place at state agencies other than DCTED, including the DOC, the DSHS and the OSPI. The review will compile a list of these activities and note any linkages or collaborations between these activities and housing programs at the DCTED.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** September 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Robyn Dupuis

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**Project Title: Activities of the Interagency Council on Homelessness**

**Project Goal:**

Review the activities of the ICH.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will receive a presentation from the Interagency Council on Homelessness, including a review of its activities, accomplishments, and future goals and plans.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** September 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Robyn Dupuis

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**Project Title: County Affordable Housing Activities**

**Project Goal:**

Determine affordable housing planning and program activities currently engaged in by counties.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will survey counties to determine what programs are underway at the county level to address affordable housing issues, what housing related plans exist or are under development, and what counties feel the state can do to assist them meet the housing needs of all residents.

The results will be compiled and presented to the Committee at a work session that will be coordinated with appropriate county representatives to discuss the current and potential future role of the counties in addressing affordable housing issues.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Robyn Dupuis

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**Project Title: State's Use of Revenue from Housing Surcharges**

**Project Goal:**

Review the DCTED's use of revenue from two surcharges intended to support homeless programs.

**Project Description:**

The DCTED will report on its past and current use of the state portion of the Affordable Housing for All and Homeless Surcharge funds, as well as its planned future use of these funds.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** October 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Robyn Dupuis

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**House of Representatives  
Human Services  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
July 2007	All Day	Tacoma	Full Committee	Chemical Dependency Issues and Innovations.	Work Session
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	General Assistance Unemployable	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Supervision of Offenders (ESSB 6157) and Traumatic Brain Injury (SHB 2055) Update	Work Session

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**Project Title: Chemical Dependency Issues and Innovations**

**Project Goal:**

To gain a better understanding of current chemical dependency issues and innovations in treatment.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will hold a work session to learn more about current chemical dependency issues for both adults and juveniles. The focus will be on access and availability of appropriate treatment.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Work session

**Completion Date:** July 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Sonja Hallum

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**Project Title: General Assistance Unemployable**

**Project Goal:**

The Committee will learn more about the GAU program, challenges or barriers for clients, and potential legislative issues.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will hold a forum to hear from clients, former clients, caseworkers, DASA, and other interested parties with the goal of better understanding the current issues facing GAU clients and whether there is a need for legislative action.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** September 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Sonja Hallum

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**Project Title: Supervision of Offenders (ESSB 6157) and Traumatic Brain Injury (SHB 2055) Update.**

**Project Goal:**

The Committee will be briefed on the progress made by the advisory committees and/or task forces in relation to ESSB 6157 and SHB 2055.

**Project Description:**

1. Supervision of Offenders (ESSB 6157): The Committee will hold a work session to monitor the work of DOC to improve supervision of offenders. The Committee will also review the work of the task force and any recommendations prepared by the group.
2. Traumatic Brain Injury (SHB 2055): The Committee will monitor the implementation of SHB 2055 and review the results of the work of the Advisory Committee and DSHS over the interim. The Committee will also examine the federal funding that may be accessible to the state as a result of the legislation and the need for any changes to facilitate the maximum amount of federal funding for services in Washington.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** November 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Sonja Hallum

**House of Representatives  
Insurance, Financial Services & Consumer Protection  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1031 Exchange Regulation	Work Session
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Mortgage Lending and Mortgage Fraud	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Payday Lending	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) Credit Scoring in Insurance (2) Illegal Steering in Insurance	Work Session

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**Project Title: 1031 Exchange Regulation**

**Project Goal:**

Possible draft legislation

**Project Description:**

1031 exchanges are an exchange of similar assets (usually real estate) that are designed to take advantage of federal tax law and avoid capital gains taxes. While the exchange process must meet Internal Revenue Service standards to qualify for tax advantages, there is no formal regulation of people and companies that facilitate the exchange. Those facilitators may control assets worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Recently, two facilitators have faced issues involving fraud and bankruptcy. The committee will discuss 1031 exchanges and issues concerning facilitators. The committee may discuss possible legislative proposals.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** September 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Jon Hedegard

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**Project Title: Mortgage Lending and Mortgage Fraud**

**Project Goal:**

Committee education and possible draft legislation

**Project Description:**

There are increasing issues and complaints being raised concerning mortgage lending, particularly subprime mortgage lending. These concerns range from the actual terms of the loan products to the sales practices associated with products. The committee will review existing law, regulatory enforcement of those laws, and the parameters of state jurisdiction.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** September 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Jon Hedegard

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**Project Title: Payday Lending**

**Project Goal:**

Possible draft legislation

**Project Description:**

The committee will review recent payday lending legislative and regulatory activity around the country, focusing in particular on regulatory databases. The committee may discuss possible legislative proposals.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Jon Hedegard

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**Project Title: Credit Scoring in Insurance**

**Project Goal:**

Possible draft legislation

**Project Description:**

The committee will review the current industry practices regarding the use of credit information in insurance in Washington. The committee will review recent legislative activity around the country concerning the use of credit scoring information by insurers. The committee will review the recent legislative proposals in Washington. The committee may discuss possible legislation for the 2008 session.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Jon Hedegard

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**Project Title: Illegal Steering in Insurance**

**Project Goal:**

Possible draft legislation

**Project Description:**

An unfair insurance practice rule requires auto insurers to act in good faith in allowing insureds to have their vehicles repaired at automotive repair shops of the insureds' choice. Despite the rule, the committee has heard testimony regarding the illegal practice of "steering." The committee will review the rule and industry practices. The committee will determine if the current consumer protections are adequate, clear, currently enforced, and if they should be codified in statute.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Sarah Beznoska

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**House of Representatives  
Judiciary  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Homeowners' Association Act Committee report.	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Firearms and the mentally ill.	Work Session
TBA, Fall	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Roundtable meeting with Washington Supreme Court justices.	Work Session

**Work Group on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
June 11	TBA	Kent	Work Group	Organizational meeting to provide an historical overview, identify major issues for discussion, and outline the process for the work group.	Work Session
July 11	TBA	SeaTac	Work Group	Discuss issues relating to courts of limited jurisdiction.	Work Session
August	TBA	TBA	Work Group	Discuss issues relating to courts of limited jurisdiction.	Work Session
September	TBA	TBA	Work Group	Discuss issues relating to courts of limited jurisdiction.	Work Session

**Work Group on Firearms and the Mentally Ill**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
TBA	TBA	Olympia/TBA	Work Group	Review and identify improvements to the law relating to firearms possession by persons who are mentally ill.	Work Session

**Note:** (1) Work Groups established by Chair.

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**Project Title: Homeowners' Association Act Committee**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor the work of the Homeowners' Association Act Committee and consider potential legislation to implement the recommendations of the Committee.**

**Project Description:**

In 2006, the Legislature created a Homeowners' Association Act Committee (HAAC) to review existing statutes and current issues affecting homeowners' associations and to make recommendations for necessary changes to the Homeowners' Association Act (Chapter 64.38 RCW). The HAAC has been meeting since August, 2006, and will continue to meet through August, 2007, with a final report due to the Legislature by September 1, 2007.

Judiciary Committee staff will continue to monitor the work and progress of the HAAC. The Committee will hear a report of the findings and recommendations of the HAAC at the September Committee Assembly meeting and will consider potential legislation to implement the recommendations of the HAAC.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** September, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Edie Adams

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**Project Title: Firearms and the Mentally Ill**

**Project Goal:**

**Identify improvements to the law relating to firearms possession by persons who are mentally ill.**

**Project Description:**

The Committee will examine the current law relating to possession of firearms by persons who are mentally ill and the processes that are in place for conducting background checks for mental health disqualifications. The Committee will explore changes that can be made to strengthen the law's restrictions on the possession of firearms by persons who are mentally ill and ways to ensure that these restrictions can be adequately enforced through effective background check processes. This project will be conducted by a work group consisting of several Judiciary Committee members and interested stakeholders.

(1) NOTE: Work Group established by Chair.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One Work Group meeting and one Full Committee work session

**Completion Date:** December, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Edie Adams

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**Project Title: Roundtable with Washington Supreme Court justices**

**Project Goal:**

**Establish a forum for dialogue with the justices of the Washington Supreme Court in order to facilitate interbranch communications.**

**Project Description:**

The Committee will hold a roundtable meeting with the justices of the Supreme Court to establish a forum for dialogue between the Court and the Legislature on issues affecting the judicial system and the interaction between the legislative and judicial branches.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Edie Adams

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**Project Title: Courts of Limited Jurisdiction**

**Project Goal:**

**Identify improvements to the provision of judicial services in the courts of limited jurisdiction.**

**Project Description:**

The Committee will consider the structure and operation of the courts of limited jurisdiction with the goals of improving access to justice for Washington citizens, ensuring the independence of the judges of the limited jurisdiction courts, and providing cost effective court services. The main component of this project will be to discuss proposals for changing how municipal court services are provided. The Legislature has considered a number of bills over the past several years that specifically authorize municipalities to contract with one another to provide municipal court services. The Supreme Court recently upheld the authority of cities to contract with one another for municipal court services, but other issues surrounding the provision of municipal court services remain, including selection and retention of judges and jurisdictional issues. This project will examine these issues and also consider the operation of the district courts and ways to improve district court services, particularly with respect to subject matter jurisdiction in the district courts. Finally, the project will involve a discussion of proposals for consolidation or regionalization of courts of limited jurisdiction.

This project will be conducted through a work group of several members of the Judiciary Committee and numerous stakeholders involved in the courts of limited jurisdiction.

(1) NOTE: Work Group established by Chair.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Four work group meetings

**Completion Date:** December, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Edie Adams and Trudes Tango

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**House of Representatives  
Local Government  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
June	TBA	Spokane	Full Committee	Integration of Transportation and Land Use Planning	Work Session
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Integration of Transportation and Land Use Planning.	Work Session
November	TBA	Vancouver/TBA	Full Committee	Annexation Policies and Practices.	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) Monitor Initial Efforts of Ruckelshaus Center Examination (SSB 5248) of Agricultural Activities and Critical Area Ordinances. (2) Consideration of Legislation for the 2008 Session.	Work Session

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**Project Title: Integration of Transportation and Land Use Planning**

**Project Goal:**

**Develop a more comprehensive understanding of the interrelationship between transportation and land use planning, as well as related legal issues arising under the Growth Management Act.**

**Project Description:**

The legal and practical intersections between transportation and land use planning continue to challenge policymakers, planners, and the public. Furthermore, the Growth Management Act prohibits local governments from approving certain new development if transportation accommodations are not met concurrently with development - a process known as "concurrency." The Committee will examine transportation and land use planning requirements and integration efforts of local governments; review concurrency requirements, practices, multimodal options, and recent agency reports; and confer with applicable stakeholders.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Two work sessions

**Completion Date:** September 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Ethan Moreno and Thamas Osborn

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**Project Title: Annexation Policies and Practices**

**Project Goal:**

**Develop a fuller understanding of annexation policies and practices in anticipation of possible legislation.**

**Project Description:**

Legislation considered by the Local Government Committee in 2007 (HB 2045) would require greater collaboration between counties and cities in the establishment of urban growth boundaries and development standards. Although the legislation was not enacted, it received considerable attention and was indicative of challenges associated with population growth, service provisions, and changing city boundaries. Additionally, local government actions continue to inspire legislative deliberations about the merits of modifying statewide annexation policies. The Committee will examine annexation policies and practices in local governments; and confer with county and city associations, applicable state agencies, and other stakeholders.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** November 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Ethan Moreno and Thamas Osborn

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**Project Title: Monitor Initial Efforts of Ruckelshaus Center Examination (SSB 5248) of Agricultural Activities and Critical Area Ordinances**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor and report on the initial efforts of the Ruckelshaus Center to examine the conflicts between agricultural activities and critical area ordinances adopted under the Growth Management Act.**

**Project Description:**

Enacted in 2007, SSB 5248 modifies provisions of the GMA pertaining to locally adopted regulations that protect critical areas (critical areas ordinances or "CAOs"). The legislation also obligates the William D. Ruckelshaus Center to conduct an examination of conflicts between agricultural activities and CAOs. The Center must begin the examination by July 1, 2007, and involve and apprise legislators and legislative staff of its efforts. The first of the Center's three examination reports must be submitted to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2007. In completing this project, staff expects to: confer with Center staff about planning and implementation efforts; regularly update legislators and legislative staff of the Center's actions; and plan a Committee work session for November committee assembly week.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Ethan Moreno and Thamas Osborn

**House of Representatives  
Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
August 8, 2007	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	National Incident Management System/Incident Command System Training	Work Session
September Committee Assembly	Morning	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Gang-Related Offenses 2. Electronic Reporting of Methamphetamine Precursor Items	Work Session
November 2007	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	Emergency Preparedness	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Emergency Preparedness & Critical Incident Planning and Mapping Systems	Work Session

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**Project Title: Emergency Preparedness**

**Project Goal:**

To study ways to increase state and local government preparedness in order to respond to public emergency situations.

**Project Description:**

During the 2007 legislation session, the PSEP committee reviewed and considered several issues in relation to responding to state-wide emergency situations. Such issues included: evacuation plans, emergency shelters, emergency prescription refill programs, emergency response survival kits, creating a statewide Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear, Explosive Incident Response Program, funding for reciprocal information exchanges between local, state, and federal emergency response agencies, emergency transportation grants, requiring mandatory back-up generators for various public and private entities, ensuring the availability of vehicle fuel during states of emergency situations, and construction specifications and mapping programs for public schools.

The PSEP will study ways to respond to possible natural or man-made emergencies that could possibly take place in the future. The committee will have several work sessions to study these issues further and to determine whether they are worth pursuing as issues and legislation to be introduced during the 2008 legislative session.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Two work sessions

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Yvonne Walker

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**Project Title: National Incident Management System/Incident Command System Training**

**Project Goal:**

To participate in the National Management System Training in order to learn how various jurisdictions respond to natural disasters, emergencies, and acts of terrorism.

**Project Description:**

The National Incident Management System Integration Center, established by the Secretary of Homeland Security (within the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency), oversees all aspects of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) including the development of compliance criteria and implementation activities at federal, state and local levels. The NIMS was developed so responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines can work together to better respond to natural disasters, emergencies, and acts of terrorism. The NIMS benefits include a unified approach to incident management; standard command and management structures; and emphasis on preparedness, mutual aid and resource management. Training is one of the NIMS implementation activities that Federal, State, Territorial, Tribal, and Local entities must complete as they work towards becoming fully compliant with the NIMS. State, Territorial, Tribal, and Local jurisdictions will be required to meet the fiscal year 2007 NIMS implementation requirements as a condition of receiving federal preparedness funding assistance in fiscal year 2008. Currently, all Washington Department of Corrections (DOC) employees are required to complete NIMS training. The PSEP Committee will participate in the 8-hour introductory course taught by the Federal NIMS and the Washington DOC staff.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Yvonne Walker & Jim Morishima

**Project Title: Gang-Related Offenses**

**Project Goal:**

To study ways to reduce crime and violence connected with the increasing amount of gang-related activity threatening the public safety of citizens throughout Washington.

**Project Description:**

SSB 5987 established a workgroup to evaluate the problem of gang-related crime. The workgroup, under the direction of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) is charged with evaluating and making recommendations regarding legislative measures to combat gang-related crime, the creation of a statewide gang information database, possible reforms to the juvenile justice system for gang-related juvenile offenses, best practices for prevention and intervention of youth gang membership, and the adoption of legislation authorizing a civil anti-gang injunction. The WASPC will be requested to give the PSEP Committee a preliminary report on its findings and recommendations during the September Committee Assembly.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Jim Morishima

**Project Title: Electronic Reporting of Methamphetamine Precursor Items**

**Project Goal:**

To study the possibility of requiring all retailers to install and maintain technology for the scanning of identification cards of persons purchasing ephedrine-type products.

**Project Description:**

In 2005, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2266 was enacted creating a statewide pilot project to require that merchants record transactions involving products that contain any detectable quantity of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine through written or electronic logs or other means. The legislation required the State Board of Pharmacy (Board) to develop a workgroup to evaluate the data received by the pilot project to determine the effectiveness of logs in preventing the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine. During the 2007 legislative session, the PSEP committee reviewed and considered HB 1797 that would have mandated the Board to require all persons who sell or distribute products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine to collect and maintain electronic logs to record such retail transactions. The PSEP Committee will work in conjunction with the Board to study the possibility of requiring all retailers to install technology for the scanning of the identification card of any person purchasing ephedrine-type products and to maintain a central repository of the electronic logs.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Yvonne Walker

**House of Representatives  
Select Committee on Puget Sound  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
August	TBA	Bainbridge Island	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aquatic Lands Management</li> <li>• Impacts of Aquifer Withdrawals on Hood Canal and the Western Puget Sound</li> <li>• Shellfish Protection Districts</li> </ul>	Public Hearing
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Early Implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership and Integration of Existing Puget Sound Programs	Work Session
December	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	New Technologies for Onsite Sewage Systems and the Impacts of Harvest Practices	Work Session

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**Project Title: Impacts of Aquifer Withdrawals on Hood Canal and the Western Puget Sound**

**Project Goal:**

Committee education and possible bill development

**Project Description:**

Wells and other groundwater withdrawals are a common source of potable water for the population living adjacent to the Puget Sound. Current water laws in the state do not limit how much groundwater can be used for a single residence, and in the Puget Sound basin, little is known about just how much groundwater is being used and what degree of connectivity exists between aquifers and the surface waters that feed the Puget Sound. The committee will review the state of the law, common practices, and possible effects on water quality and water quantity that aquifer withdrawals have on the Hood Canal and the western reaches of Puget Sound.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One public hearing

**Completion Date:** July

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan

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**Project Title: Shellfish Protection Districts**

**Project Goal:**

Possible bill development

**Project Description:**

The shellfish industry is an important component of the economy in many Puget Sound communities. It is also an important partner in the enhancement and recovery of Puget Sound's water quality. The 2007 Legislature debated many bills related to protecting shellfish beds from contamination. In the end, one bill was passed. However, many questions were raised and it became clear that there is interest in exploring this area further. The Committee will develop a deeper understanding of how shellfish protection districts function with an eye towards the development of legislation for the 2008 session.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One public hearing

**Completion Date:** July

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan

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**Project Title: Early implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor the early stages of implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership legislation**

**Project Description:**

The 2007 Legislature created a new agency to coordinate the recovery of the Puget Sound called the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP). The Committee will monitor the early stages of the PSP's implementation with an eye towards any unforeseen technical issues that may arise, and become educated about other collaborative efforts underway to restore Puget Sound and their relationship with the PSP. The Committee will also receive any early recommendations from the PSP for future legislation or budget requests.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One public hearing

**Completion Date:** September

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan

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**Project Title: Integration of Existing Puget Sound Programs**

**Project Goal:**

**Possible bill development**

**Project Description:**

The legislation that created the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) attempted to integrate some of the existing recovery programs into the new agency. However, there remains many state government initiatives that will effect the recovery of Puget Sound. The committee will examine policy programs and funding streams that impact Puget Sound recovery, determine if the existing programs can be coordinated with the PSP, research possible ways to increase compliance with existing regulations, and examine strategies to ensure long-term adequacy and stability in the funding of the programs that support the recovery of Puget Sound.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One public hearing

**Completion Date:** September

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan

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**Project Title: New Technologies for Onsite Sewage Systems**

**Project Goal:**

Committee education and monitoring

**Project Description:**

Non-point pollution in general, and the impact of onsite sewage systems in particular, have a profound impact on the water quality of the Puget Sound. Many landowners in the Puget Sound basin, especially in the rural areas, rely on onsite sewage systems. The Growth Management Act discourages the extension of public sewer systems into rural areas, meaning that the development of new onsite technologies that treat wastewater for phosphates and other environmental pollutants is an important step in the recovery of the Puget Sound. The Committee will learn about new onsite sewage technologies and monitor the process of approving new technologies for use currently underway at the Departments of Health and Ecology.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One public hearing

**Completion Date:** December

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan

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**Project Title: Impacts of Harvest Practices**

**Project Goal:**

Possible bill development

**Project Description:**

There have been deliberations before the Committee, and its predecessor committee, about the impacts of fisheries harvest within Puget Sound, and Hood Canal in particular. The Committee will examine the level of existing harvest within the Hood Canal, develop a deeper understanding of the interactions of state and tribal fisheries, examine the current methods and processes for harvesting wild stock geoducks, monitor ongoing studies in this area (including studies focused on geoduck efficacy), and consider possible legislation for the 2008 session.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One public hearing

**Completion Date:** December

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan

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**House of Representatives  
State Government & Tribal Affairs  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
TBA	TBA	Colville Indian Reservation	Full Committee	Colville Indian Reservation	Work Session
July 12	TBA	Kirkland	Full Committee with Election Law Issues Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee		Work Session
TBA	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	Indian Law	Work Session
September Committee Assembly	Morning	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Veterans Programs: Overview of Veterans' Innovation Program and the Veteran Owned Business Program 2. Mail Elections: Changes in Practices and Procedures	Work Session
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Review of Recent Accountability Legislation: Status of the Citizen Accountability Board, presentation by the Governor's Government Management, Accountability and Performance (GMAP) Office; presentation by the State Auditor on the Status of Performance Audits. 2. Update on the Progress of the Public Records Exemptions Accountability Committee 3. Voter Outreach Programs	Work Session

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**Project Title: Colville Indian Reservation**

**Project Goal:**

**Educate the committee on essential government services and community/tribal relations**

**Project Description:**

The work session will focus on issues introduced during the 2007 session, such as forest excise tax enforcement on non-tribal property within the reservation, coordinated background checks for BIA funded schools, and essential government services. Government to government relations and community/tribal relations will also be discussed.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Colleen Kerr

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**Project Title: Election Laws**

**Project Goal:**

**Examine election law issues introduced during the 2007 legislative session and discuss possible legislation for 2008.**

**Project Description:**

In the 2007 legislative session, the Committee considered numerous election-related issues. The work sessions will focus on the following issues:

- Processing absentee ballots upon receipt and safeguards that exist to prevent early disclosure of election results;
- The assignment of unique identifiers to ballots and secrecy concerns;
- Absentee ballot secrecy;
- Storing ballots after an election;
- Voter registration on election day.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Two work sessions

**Completion Date:** July 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Marsha Reilly, Colleen Kerr

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**Project Title: Veterans' Programs**

**Project Goal:**

To update the committee on the progress of recently enacted veterans' programs.

**Project Description:**

In 2006, the Veterans Innovations Program (VIP) was created for the purpose of providing veterans who served in recent military action with crisis and emergency relief, as well as education, training, and employment assistance. In 2007, legislation was enacted requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop and maintain a registry of veteran-owned businesses; to make the list available on its web site, and to create a decal to identify veteran-owned businesses. The work session will provide the Committee with information on the progress of these two programs.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** one work session

**Completion Date:**

**Staff Assigned:** Marsha Reilly

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**Project Title: Mail Elections: Changes in Practices and Procedures**

**Project Goal:**

Review of changing practices and procedures due to mail elections and discussion of the need for statutory modifications.

**Project Description:**

To date, 36 of the 39 counties have made the decision to conduct elections entirely by mail. The committee will review the effects of moving to all mail elections, including precinct sizes, the role of party-identified election workers, sites for ballot drop boxes, and discuss identified best practices for conducting all mail elections.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** work session

**Completion Date:** September 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Marsha Reilly

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**Project Title: Review of Accountability Legislation**

**Project Goal:**

**Provide the Committee with an understanding of how the different pieces of legislation work together and to identify statutory changes that may be needed.**

**Project Description:**

In 2005, several pieces of legislation were passed relating to government accountability. The Citizen Oversight Board was created to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability in state government. That legislation requires a collaborative effort by the Board, the State Auditor, and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Board for performance audits of state government. Another bill required state agencies to develop and implement a quality management, accountability, and performance system and to integrate all quality management, accountability, and performance systems undertaken through executive order or other authority. And finally, Initiative 900 authorized the state auditor to conduct performance audits of state and local governments. The Committee will hear from the Governor's Government Management, Accountability and Performance (GMAP) Office and the State Auditor on the progress of these accountability measures.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** one work session

**Completion Date:** November 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Colleen Kerr

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**Project Title: Public Records Exemptions Accountability Committee**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor the progress of the Public Records Exemptions Accountability Committee and receive recommendations.**

**Project Description:**

SSB 5435 established the Public Records Exemptions Accountability Committee to review exemptions from public disclosure. The Committee, staffed by the Office of Financial Management and the Office of the Attorney General, is charged with developing and publishing criteria and setting a schedule to review each public disclosure exemption. The Committee will transmit recommendations for the continuation, modification, or termination of an exemption to the State Government and Tribal Affairs Committee by November 15th of each year.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** November 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Colleen Kerr

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**Project Title: Indian Law**

**Project Goal:**

Continuation of Committee Education on Indian Law

**Project Description:**

In January 2007, Professor Robert Anderson from the University of Washington presented information on Indian law to the committee, and this is a continuation of that work session. The session will focus on tribal issues and the corresponding case law. The presentation will cover the legal precepts of government-to-government relations and the federal-state-tribal relationship, the three types of federally recognized tribes, and tribal sovereignty. It will also address issues regarding the status of tribally owned land, state-tribal tax issues, essential government services, and human remains.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** November 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Colleen Kerr

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**Project Title: Voter Outreach Programs**

**Project Goal:**

Educate the committee on voter outreach programs.

**Project Description:**

Presentation of voter outreach efforts in other states, as well as a presentation of the programs undertaken by the Secretary of State and county auditors.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** November 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Marsha Reilly

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**House of Representatives  
Technology, Energy and Communications  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
August	TBA	Puget Sound	Full Committee	Ocean Wave and Tidal Power.	Work Session
September	TBA	Seattle	Full Committee	Transportation Fuel Prices, Supplies and the Role of Biofuels and Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles.	Work Session
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1) Ocean Wave and Tidal Power. The Committee will hold a follow-up work session on wave and tidal energy. 2) Vegetation Management for Utility Lines Located Outside Utility Rights-of-Way.	Work Session
October 18, 2007	TBA	Seattle	Full Committee Joint with Higher Education	Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property.	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1) Coordination of Information Technology. 2) Climate Change and Clean Energy Policy Development.	Work Session

**Project Title: Ocean Wave and Tidal Power.**

**Project Goal:**

Examine issues related to the development of wave and tidal power in Washington.

**Project Description:**

Wave energy is generated by wind on the surface of the ocean. Tidal energy occurs from the movement of water as caused by the gravitational forces of the sun and the moon. There are a number of devices in use or in development that extract the energy from these renewable resources.

As of April 2007, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has issued nine preliminary permits to study the development of tidal power in Washington. Eight of the nine permits are for proposed projects in Puget Sound and the remaining permit is for a proposed project in Willapa Bay. Currently, FERC has not issued any development licences in the state.

The Committee will hold two work sessions on the status of proposed wave and tidal projects in Washington, the identification of barriers to the development of wave and tidal energy technologies and how the state may assist the wave and tidal energy sector.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Two work sessions

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

**Project Title: Transportation Fuel Prices, Supplies and the Role of Biofuels and Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles**

**Project Goal:**

**Examine the relationship between high transportation fuel prices and supplies and the role of biofuels and plug-in hybrids vehicles may play in reducing fuel costs.**

**Project Description:**

Over the past three years, Washington consumers have experienced high transportation fuel prices. For example, in May 2007, the average price per gallon for gasoline in Washington hit an all-time high in nominal dollars, reaching \$3.44.

In April 2007, the Attorney General, the Governor and the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development announced that they would be conducting an investigation into factors that influence gas prices in the state. Findings from the first phase of this investigation will be published in July and followed by a series of public forums in the fall.

In recent years, the Legislature has passed legislation that creates state renewable fuel standards for ethanol and biodiesel (biofuels), provides incentives to support the development of appropriate infrastructure to increase consumption of biofuels in the state and promotes the use of plug-in hybrid vehicles. With the expected increase of consumption of biofuels and use of plug-in hybrid vehicles in Washington, it is not clear what influence these trends will have on the price of transportation fuels.

The TEC Committee will hold a work session to examine the rising price of transportations fuels, the relationship of these prices to fuel supplies and what influence the use of biofuels and plug-in hybrid vehicles will have on the price of transportation fuels.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

**Project Title: Vegetation Management for Utility Lines Located Outside Utility Rights-of-Way.**

**Project Goal:**

Explore ways to encourage landowners to remove or pare hazardous trees.

**Project Description:**

On February 8, 2006, the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) held a one-day public workshop to examine the utilities' preparation, response, and recovery from the December 13-14, 2006 wind storm. One of the topics considered during the workshop was vegetation management. In particular, it was noted at the workshop that utilities do not have the authority to remove or prune trees that are outside their rights-of-way without permission of the property owners.

The committee will continue discussions with interested parties, stakeholders, and the UTC on this issue. Committee work may include briefings from the UTC and/or utility representatives. As part of these discussions, the committee will explore various policy approaches to encourage landowners to remove or pare trees that may be hazardous to distribution and/or transmission lines.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Kara Durbin

**Project Title: Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property**

**Project Goal:**

Receive information on technology transfer and the role and potential benefit to the state.

**Project Description:**

A primary purpose of the two state research universities is to conduct research, and both of them have technology transfer offices focused on moving from research into product development. This project involves visiting the technology transfer office at the University of Washington to increase the knowledge and understanding of the types of research and product development stimulated from state universities. Faculty and administrators will share information on how state-based institutions conduct tech transfer, what do they do to secure benefits to the state through agreements, and how SHB 1806 (from 2005, relating to encouraging the ethical transfer of technology for the economic benefit of the state) has influenced decision making.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One joint work session with Higher Education Committee

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Kara Durbin

**Project Title: Coordination of Information Technology**

**Project Goal:**

Participate in a workgroup on improving state strategies, administration, and coordination of information technology.

**Project Description:**

As part of the 2007-2009 Operating Budget, the Legislature directed the Office of Financial Management (OFM), the Department of Information Services (DIS), and the Legislature to form a 2007 interim workgroup on improving state strategies, administration, and coordination of information technology.

The TEC Committee will monitor the progress of the workgroup and consider whether legislative action is necessary.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Briefing at December Committee Assembly.

**Completion Date:** December 2007.

**Staff Assigned:** Kara Durbin

**Project Title: Climate Change and Clean Energy Policy Development**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor issues related to climate change and clean energy policy development on the state and federal levels.**

**Project Description:**

During the 2007 Legislative session, the Legislature enacted ESSB 6001 that establishes state greenhouse gases emissions reduction goals for the state and a greenhouse gases emissions performance standard for electric utilities entering into long-term financial commitments for baseload electric generation. By June 2008, the directors of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council and the Department of Ecology will adopt rules in coordination with each other to implement and enforce the greenhouse gases emissions performance standard. The Committee will monitoring rulemaking processes to establish the greenhouse gases emissions performance standard.

In addition, the Committee will monitor other provisions of ESSB 6001 that require the Governor to make recommendations to the Legislature, for consideration in the 2008 Legislative session, regarding:

- how market mechanisms would assist in achieving greenhouse gases emissions reduction goals;
- how geologic injection, forest sequestration, and other carbon sequestration options could be used to achieve state greenhouse gases emissions reduction goals;
- a process for replacing the highest emitting thermal electric plants that have exceeded their expected useful life with newer technologies that have lower greenhouse gases emissions levels;
- methods to utilize indigenous resources, such as landfill gas, geothermal resources, and other assets that might reduce greenhouse gases emissions;
- how regulatory and tax policies for electric utilities could be improved to help achieve greenhouse gases emissions reduction goals in a manner that is equitable for electric utilities and consumers.

Also, the Committee will monitor activities related to Executive Order 07-02. As part of the Executive Order, the Governor is convening the Climate Advisory Team (CAT) to consider the full range of policies and strategies for the state of Washington to adopt or undertake to reduce greenhouse gases emissions, grow the clean energy economy, and move toward energy independence.

In addition, the Committee will monitor progress on the implementation of HB 1303, passed during the 2007 session. HB 1303 calls for certain actions related to clean energy and climate change such as requiring all state and local fleets to satisfy their fuel needs with either electricity or biofuels by the year 2015; developing increased access to alternative fueling stations for the public along newly designated Green Highways; and authorizing the purchase of power at state expense to recharge plug-in electrical vehicles at state office locations.

On the federal level, there are a number of policy proposals being considered to address climate change and promote clean energy. The Committee will monitor the development of these policies and assess how these policies relate to Washington policies.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards and Kara Durbin

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## STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

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### Project Title: Renewable Portfolio Standard

#### Project Goal:

Review efforts to develop rules related to the Initiative 937 (Renewable Portfolio Standard)

#### Project Description:

In 2006, Initiative 937 (I-937) was approved by the voters of the state. I-937 requires electric utilities with 25,000 or more customers to meet targets for energy conservation and use of renewable energy resources or pay penalties.

The Committee will monitor and review efforts to develop rules related to I-937 and continue discussions with interested parties, stakeholders, and agency representatives on this issue.

#### Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff Assigned: Scott Richards

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### Project Title: Interoperability

#### Project Goal:

Monitor activities of the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC).

#### Project Description:

In 2003, the Legislature established the Washington State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC). In 2005, the SIEC released its Technical Implementation Plan (TIP), which provides guidance for the state to move forward with the development of a statewide interoperable public safety communications system.

In 2006, the Washington State Patrol (WSP) was designated as the lead agency for implementation of the TIP. Currently, the WSP is making preparations to develop interoperability coverage in Region 1, which covers a north-south geographic area between the US-Canadian border and the Snohomish County border and an east-west geographic area between Blaine and Sumas.

The Committee will monitor the work of the SIEC and the WSP as it moves forward in implementing the TIP. In addition, the Committee will continue discussions with interested parties and stakeholders on interoperability issues, which includes gaining a better understanding of the path forward from the current agency-based public system radio systems to a standards-based, frequency-independent, multiple subsystems technology architecture.

#### Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2007

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin

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**Project Title: Legislative Task Force on National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor the negotiation of the terms of an interstate compact that establishes a regional process for siting national interest electric transmission corridors satisfactory to the national Energy Policy Act of 2005.**

**Project Description:**

HB 1038 (2007 session) establishes a legislative task force to negotiate the terms of a regional interstate compact for the siting of new cross state borders electrical transmission lines in accordance with the national Energy Policy Act of 2005. HB 1038 specifies that the task force will work to ensure that the compact reflects as close as possible the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council model and its procedures to ensure appropriate adjudicative proceedings and mitigation of environmental impacts. The task force will negotiate the terms of the compact through processes established and supported by the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) for which the state of Washington is a member.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** To be determined.

**Completion Date:** September 2008

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

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**Project Title: Broadband Technologies**

**Project Goal:**

**Examine issues related to the availability of broadband technologies in the state.**

**Project Description:**

In the 2007-2009 Operating Budget, the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) was directed to conduct a survey to identify factors preventing the widespread availability and use of broadband technologies.

The Committee will review the results of the survey conducted by the UTC and determine whether legislative action is warranted.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Kara Durbin

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**Project Title: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Residential Exchange Program**

**Project Goal:**

Examine issues related to BPA's Residential Exchange Program and the impacts on residential and small-farm ratepayers in the state.

**Project Description:**

On May 3, the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals found that certain Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) actions in entering residential exchange settlements with the investor-owned utilities providing residential exchange benefits are not consistent with the Northwest Power Act. Through the residential exchange program, BPA distributes financial benefits of the federal Columbia River power system through lower rates to residential and small-farm ratepayers served by investor-owned utilities.

On May 21, the BPA suspended payments to Northwest investor-owned utilities due to the legal uncertainty created by the Ninth Circuit Court rulings. As a result of the suspension of payments, it is estimated that individual customer electricity bills may increase as much as \$10 per month.

The TEC Committee will examine the impact this decision may have on residential and small-farm ratepayers of investor-owned utilities in the state.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Kara Durbin and Scott Richards

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**Project Title: Integrated Resource Planning**

**Project Goal:**

Review efforts to develop rules related to Integrated Resource Plans and review electric utility efforts to implement these rules.

**Project Description:**

During the 2006 session, HB 1010 was enacted that specifies how certain utilities with more than 25,000 customers that are not full requirements customers of the Bonneville Power Administration must integrate into demand forecasts descriptions of the mix of resources and efficiency measures that will meet current and future needs at the lowest reasonable cost to the utility and ratepayers. Also, HB 1010 requires all other utilities to submit a Resource Plan to the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.

The Committee will monitor efforts to develop rules related to HB 1010 and continue discussions with interested parties, stakeholders, and agency representatives on this issue. The Committee will consider how information generated by energy forecast reporting requirements in HB 1010 may inform the development of rules related to Initiative 937 (Renewable Portfolio Standard).

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** December 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

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**House of Representatives  
Transportation  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September 2007	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Update on Vessel Procurement. Mega-Project Update.	Work Session
December 2007	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Washington State Ferries Study Update. Freight Revenue Study Update. Tolling Update.	Work Session

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**Project Title: Update on Vessel Procurement**

**Project Goal:**

Keep the committee informed on the status of building new ferry vessels.

**Project Description:**

The 2003 and 2005 Legislatures authorized the construction of four replacement ferry vessels. With SHB 2378, the 2007 Legislature revisited the vessel design-build procurement statutes to allow a joint proposal from the shipyards and to allow the Department of Transportation/Washington State Ferries to negotiate a fair value contract if a single best qualified bidder emerges from the procurement process. The Governor's Office and the Department of Transportation/Washington State Ferries will present the latest status of the procurement.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** September 2007 Committee Assembly

**Staff Assigned:** David Munnecke

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**Project Title: Mega-Project Update**

**Project Goal:**

Keep the committee informed on the Department of Transportation's progress of mega-project design and mitigation plans.

**Project Description:**

The 2003 and 2005 revenue packages allowed major state investments (\$2.5 billion) in two bridges in the Seattle area: the Alaskan Way Viaduct (AWV) and the SR 520 Bridge. Both facilities are the subject of intense debate about final design and mitigation of the impacts of the new structures. The 2007 legislature took action on these projects on a number of fronts. The Committee will hear about progress on the requirements described below.

For the AWV, the transportation budget, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1094, and the associated 16-year construction plan, provides funding for a series of preliminary projects that are common to any design alternative, including relocation of two electrical transmission lines, Battery Street Tunnel safety upgrades, viaduct removal from Holgate to King Street, and the development of transit enhancements to mitigate congestion during construction. The budget also directs the Governor to convene a collaborative process involving key state and regional leaders to determine the final project design and sets a deadline of December 31, 2008, for a final design decision.

For the SR 520 Bridge Replacement project, the legislature passed Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6099, which, among other things, directs the Office of Financial Management to hire a mediator and appropriate planning staff to develop a project impact plan for addressing the impacts of the project design on Seattle city neighborhoods and parks, including the Washington park arboretum, and institutions of higher education. The mediator must make a progress report to the Governor and Legislature by August 1, 2007.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** September 2007 Committee Assembly

**Staff Assigned:** Jeff Olsen

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**Project Title: Washington State Ferries Finance Study Update**

**Project Goal:**

**Update Committee on the ferry system's progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2006 Joint Transportation Committee Ferry Finance Study.**

**Project Description:**

The 2006 supplemental transportation budget required the Joint Transportation Committee, in collaboration with the Office of Financial Management, to conduct a study of the ferry system finances. The particular financial problem faced by the ferry system stems from the loss of dedicated financial support of the capital construction program with the passage of Initiative 695 and the concurrent need to replace aging terminals and vessels. This combination has resulted in structural imbalance in revenues and expenditures.

The 2006 study focused more on the spending side of the problem, highlighting planning and design practices of the ferry system which may increase and enhance the size and functionality of the proposed new terminals. As a result the study made a series of specific recommendations relating to ridership forecasting, life cycle cost modeling, level of service standards, and design review. The 2007 legislature responded by delaying terminal construction expenditures while directing the ferry system to reexamine these assumptions.

Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2358, approved by the 2007 Legislature, directs the state ferry system to revise certain standards and practices which influence ferry terminal size and cost. The Joint Transportation Committee will report on its review of the Washington State Ferries' progress on these tasks.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007 Committee Assembly

**Staff Assigned:** Teresa Berntsen

**Project Title: Freight Revenue Study Update**

**Project Goal:**

Develop options for funding freight improvements.

**Project Description:**

Substitute Senate Bill 5207 directs the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) to conduct a study, guided by a stakeholder advisory group, to identify revenue options for funding improvements to freight rail systems and highways that function as freight corridors. The presentation will provide members an opportunity to comment on the JTC's draft final report.

The JTC study will: (i) evaluate federal, state, incentive, and other project specific fees; (ii) analyze current taxes and fees paid by the freight industry and the projects the taxes and fees fund; (iii) assess other nonfreight-related fees and taxes that could be used to pay for freight congestion relief investments; (iv) assess how other states and countries pay for freight congestion relief investments; (v) discuss the various approaches and their impacts on Washington competitiveness in freight movement; (vi) assess the imposition of a shipping container-based fee, port-related user fees, or other funding mechanisms on the demand elasticity of the movement of freight goods through Washington's container ports at various rates as well as forecast diversion of marine cargo at various price points; (vii) measure the return on investment in freight rail and highway-based infrastructure supported by the user fee and its impact on forecast growth in shipping container traffic and the movement of freight goods; and (viii) recommend the structure of a future project recommendation body including its membership, process, and selection criteria.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007 Committee Assembly

**Staff Assigned:** Jerry Long

**Project Title: Tolling Update**

**Project Goal:**

Prepare for tolling policy discussions in the upcoming session.

**Project Description:**

The Washington Transportation Commission is currently engaged in the process of setting the toll rates for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, with the tolls scheduled to go into effect as of the opening of the new span on July 15, 2007. While the Transportation Commission is the organization responsible for setting the tolls for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, the collection of these tolls will be overseen by the Department of Transportation.

The Department of Transportation, Puget Sound Regional Council, and King County have formed the Lake Washington Urban Partnership to apply for Federal Transit Administration funds for congestion management programs in the cross-Lake Washington corridor, which would include intelligent transportation systems, value pricing (or tolling), and new transit services.

The financing plan for the construction of a new floating bridge on State Route 520 across Lake Washington will most likely include some level of tolling. The Department of Transportation, the Transportation Commission, and others will report on the toll setting process for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and the details of the Urban Partnership grant proposal. The information and lessons learned from these sources will be considered as the legislature moves forward with financing decisions for the replacement State Route 520 Bridge.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2007 Committee Assembly

**Staff Assigned:** David Munnecke, Jeff Olsen

## Standing Committee Assignments

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### House Agriculture & Natural Resources

Brian Sullivan, *Chair*  
Brian Blake, *V. Chair*  
Joel Kretz\*  
Judy Warnick\*\*  
Mary Dickerson  
William Eickmeyer  
Bill Grant  
Steve Hailey  
Ruth Kagi  
Patricia Lantz  
John McCoy  
Dan Newhouse  
Ed Orcutt  
Chris Strow  
Kevin Van De Wege

### House Appropriations

Helen Sommers, *Chair*  
Hans Dunshee, *V. Chair*  
Gary Alexander\*  
Barbara Bailey\*\*  
Larry Haler\*\*  
Glenn Anderson  
David Buri  
Bruce Chandler  
Eileen Cody  
Steve Conway  
Jeannie Darneille  
Jim Dunn  
Mark Ericks  
Bill Fromhold  
Bill Grant  
Kathy Haigh  
Bill Hinkle  
Sam Hunt  
Ross Hunter  
Ruth Kagi  
Phyllis Kenney  
Lynn Kessler  
Joel Kretz  
Kelli Linville  
Joe McDermott  
Joyce McDonald  
Jim McIntire  
Dawn Morrell  
Eric Pettigrew  
Skip Priest  
Shay Schual-Berke  
Larry Seaquist  
Pat Sullivan  
Maureen Walsh

### House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

Kathy Haigh, *Chair*  
Pat Sullivan, *V. Chair*  
Skip Priest\*  
Glenn Anderson\*\*  
Don Barlow  
Jim Dunn  
Hans Dunshee  
Bill Fromhold  
Larry Haler  
Ross Hunter  
Fred Jarrett  
Ruth Kagi  
Phyllis Kenney  
Joe McDermott  
Timm Ormsby  
Dave Quall  
Larry Seaquist  
Deb Wallace

### House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government & Audit Review

Kelli Linville, *Chair*  
Mark Ericks, *V. Chair*  
Mike Armstrong\*  
Mary Skinner\*\*  
Judy Warnick\*\*  
Brian Blake  
Bruce Chandler  
Larry Crouse  
Joel Kretz  
Patricia Lantz  
Mark Miloscia  
Jeff Morris  
Dave Upthegrove  
Kevin Van De Wege  
Brendan Williams

\* denotes Ranking Minority Member

\*\* denotes Assistant Ranking Minority Member

## Standing Committee Assignments

### House Capital Budget

Bill Fromhold, *Chair*  
Timm Ormsby, *V. Chair*  
Shay Schual-Berke, *V. Chair*  
Joyce McDonald\*  
Dan Newhouse\*\*  
Brian Blake  
Maralyn Chase  
Hans Dunshee  
William Eickmeyer  
Dennis Flannigan  
Roger Goodman  
Shirley Hankins  
Bob Hasegawa  
Troy Kelley  
Jim McCune  
Ed Orcutt  
Kirk Pearson  
Jamie Pedersen  
Mike Sells  
Mary Skinner  
Chris Strow  
Dave Upthegrove

### House Commerce and Labor

Steve Conway, *Chair*  
Alex Wood, *V. Chair*  
Cary Condotta\*  
Bruce Chandler\*\*  
Larry Crouse  
Tami Green  
Jim Moeller  
Brendan Williams

### House Community & Economic Development & Trade

Phyllis Kenney, *Chair*  
Eric Pettigrew, *V. Chair*  
Barbara Bailey\*  
Joyce McDonald\*\*  
Maralyn Chase  
Jeannie Darneille  
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Christine Rolfes  
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