



House of Representatives
Office of Program Research

Interim Plans

2008

P.V.

**Office of Program Research
Washington House of Representatives
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**House of Representatives
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 12	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Reducing Barriers to the Direct Marketing of Meat 2. Surface Mining Regulations 3. Management of Freshwater Lakes	Public Hearing/ Work Session
December 5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Hydraulic Project Approvals 2. Restoration of Urban Creeks.	Public Hearing/ Work Session

Project Title: Reducing Barriers to the Direct Marketing of Meat

Project Goal:

Examine methods for reducing barriers to the direct marketing of meat and for streamlining the inspection process to allow for local processing and direct marketing.

Project Description:

The processing of meat and livestock for sale direct to consumers is regulated by both the Washington and the United States departments of Agriculture, depending on the type of sale. There are rules relating to animal identification, branding, disease monitoring, and inspections that regulate how, when, and by whom livestock may be slaughtered, dressed, and sold into the market place. There are local, custom livestock operations in Washington that have explored alternatives to meat processing that allow for access to meat processing where processing facilities are not available or inaccessible to small farmers. The Committee will study successful meat processing models that allow for the state to provide local meat processing and the possibility of replicating successful models in other communities as methods for reducing barriers to the direct market of meat and for streamlining the inspection process to allow for local processing and direct marketing.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Colleen Kerr

Project Title: Surface Mining Regulations

Project Goal:

Develop a greater understanding of surface mining regulation with an the possibility of developing legislation.

Project Description:

Surface mining is regulated in Washington primarily by the Department of Natural Resources. However, other state and local entities also have some degree of regulatory authority. Over time, the Surface Mining Act has been amended to create a number of exceptions and special rules. Many of these exceptions are based not on environmental impacts or resource conservation goals, but on the type of entity that owns the mine. The Committee will examine the history and utility of these exceptions to determine if they are still warranted and if they create unfair competitive business advantages.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Colleen Kerr

Project Title: Management of Freshwater Lakes

Project Goal:

Develop a better understanding of the cause and scope of the water quality problems in freshwater lakes.

Project Description:

There are more than two hundred lakes in Washington that suffer from impaired water quality. Issues facing lakes include phosphorus runoff from lawn fertilizers, invasive species, stormwater infiltration, algal and vegetation blooms, and the discharge of toxic and endocrine disrupting compounds. The Committee will examine the issues facing lakes and explore options for better management, including programmed changes within state agencies and legislative proposals such as limiting the amount of phosphorus allowed in lawn fertilizers.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Jaclyn Ford

Project Title: Hydraulic Project Approvals

Project Goal:

Examine the current process for permitting and enforcing hydraulic project approvals.

Project Description:

Any construction project undertaken within state waters requires a hydraulic project approval to be issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The primary enforcement mechanism for these approvals is a criminal violation. The Committee will learn how and when hydraulic project approvals are required, examine opportunities for streamlining the process to help property owners protect their land from flood damage, and consider if there are more appropriate enforcement mechanisms available, such as stop work orders and non-criminal sanctions.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2008

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Title: Restoration of Urban Creeks

Project Goal:

Explore the limitations and opportunities for improving the environmental conditions facing salmon restoration in urban areas.

Project Description:

The rivers and creeks with the highest potential for salmonid use are located adjacent to marine water bodies. However, the urbanization of the population has also occurred adjacent to these same water bodies. With urbanization came the rerouting and, in some cases, burying of these high-potential creeks. The Committee will examine the negative impacts on salmon that routing creeks through underground pipes can create, investigate whether the current processes for the funding of salmon habitat restoration unduly disfavors urban projects, and explore potential legislative options for improving salmon habitat in urban areas.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2008

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

**House of Representatives
Appropriations
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 11	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update on Enhancements to Child Welfare and Foster Care Programs 2. Update on Funding Related to the December 2007 Floods 3. Update on Advanced Technology Initiatives 	Work Session
December 4	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update on Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance 2. Update on Collective Bargaining 3. 2009 Session Preview 	Work Session

Project Title: Update on Enhancements to Child Welfare and Foster Care Programs

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on the funding enhancements for child welfare and foster care programs.

Project Description:

The 2007 biennial budget added \$26.6 million, and the 2008 supplemental budget added \$9.6 million, to the DSHS Children's Administration for enhancements to child welfare and foster care programs, an overall increase of \$36.2 million. The Committee will be updated on the funding enhancements and the implementation of new programs such as safety assessments and the intensive resource foster home pilot

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Kelci Karl-Robinson

Project Title: Update on Funding Related to the December 2007 Floods.

Project Goal:

Provide an update on the status of the flood recovery and the use of appropriated funds.

Project Description:

Following the severe storms and flooding that occurred in December 2007, the Legislature provided funding in the supplemental budget for response and recovery, debris removal from in and around waterways, and assistance to small businesses affected by the floods. Additional funding was provided for flood mitigation and protection in the Capital Budget. The Committee will be briefed on flood recovery and the use of the appropriated funds.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Wendy Polzin

Project Title: Update on Advanced Technology Initiatives

Project Goal:

Increase the Committee's understanding of state-funded advanced technology initiatives at the University of Washington.

Project Description:

The state has provided funding for the University of Washington (UW) to pursue a variety of Advanced Technology Initiatives (ATI). These funds provide opportunities for research in areas such as photonics, distributed diagnostics for home health care, structural and computational neuroscience, and construction science and education, as well as other technology related topics. The UW will provide an overview of these initiatives which will include total funding by source, accomplishments to date, and future plans.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Debbie Driver

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

Project Goal:

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

Project Description:

A joint task force is reviewing the current basic education definition and funding formulas. The joint task force consists 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 State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) provides primary staffing support, and legislative fiscal staff time will be required to assist in formula development and other technical issues. The Committee will review the work of the task force, with an update and report on its recommendations.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick

Project Title: Update on Collective Bargaining

Project Goal:

Provide an update on funding requests related to the collective bargaining process for the 2009-11 biennium.

Project Description:

The Personnel System Reform Act of 2002 authorized collective bargaining for certain state employees. The Governor's Labor Relations Office bargains with representatives of state employees under the provisions of the Personnel System Reform Act of 2002. The bargaining process typically takes place in the summer and early fall of even-numbered years. State law requires that for consideration by the Governor in her budget proposal, agreements must be reached by October 1 and that the Legislature either approves or rejects funding requests for the agreements included in the Governor's budget proposal. The Committee will be updated on the collective bargaining process for funding requests in the 2009-11 biennium.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: David Pringle

**House of Representatives
Appropriations Subcommittee on Education
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 14	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. K-12 Base Budgets Overview 2. Financial Challenges Presented to School Districts in Maintaining Non-basic Education Programs 3. Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance Update 4. Higher Education Base Budgets Overview 5. Early Learning Base Budget Overview 	Work Session
September 10	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee (Joint with Education)	Analysis and Review of Special Purpose Educational Programs	Work Session
September 12	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance Update 2. Implementation of the Department of Early Learning Programs Funded in the 2007 and 2008 Operating Budgets 	Work Session
December 5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance--Report and Recommendations 2. K-12 Pupil Transportation Funding Study 	Work Session

Project Title: Base Budgets for Selected Education Agencies/Programs

Project Goal:

To better understand the programs that make up education activities and budgets.

Project Description:

The Legislature indirectly reviews base budgets when it considers policy bills that change existing agency programs, budget items that change funding of existing programs, JLARC reports on and audits of existing programs, and other legislative activities. The Subcommittee will directly review selected education base budget programs in more detail for early learning, K-12, and higher education, focusing on the purpose, cost effectiveness, and relative importance of the programs. In addition, financial challenges presented to school districts in maintaining non-basic education programs will be reviewed.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick, Debbie Driver and Kirk Schmidt

Project Title: Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance

Project Goal:

Monitor progress of the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance in reviewing basic education definitions and developing funding formula options.

Project Description:

The Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance is reviewing the current basic education definition and funding formulas. The joint task force consists 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 State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) provides primary staffing support, and legislative fiscal staff time will be required to assist in formula development and other technical issues. The Committee will review the work of the task force, with an update and a report on its recommendations.

Number & Type of Meetings: Three work sessions: July, September and December

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick

Project Title: Analysis and Review of Special-Purpose Education Programs

Project Goal:

Identify the purpose, history, and outcomes of various special-purpose education programs.

Project Description:

Each year, special-purpose education programs are created in the Operating Budget through budget provisos. Some programs are temporary, others are ongoing. Some programs such as Readiness to Learn, the Math Helping Corps, or School Improvement Assistance have been operating for many years based solely on language in proviso without statutory authorization or direction. The House Education Committee and Appropriations Subcommittee on Education will jointly undertake a review and analysis of various special purpose education programs, with a particular focus on those created through budget proviso, to identify their purpose, history, and any reported outcomes. At a joint work session, committee members will discuss common themes and objectives and consider opportunities for streamlining and consolidation.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick

Project Title: Implementation of the Department of Early Learning Programs Funded in the 2007 and 2008 Operating Budgets

Project Goal:

To review the status and impact of the Department of Early Learning programs newly funded in the 2007-2009 biennial and supplemental budgets.

Project Description:

An update will be provided to the Committee covering the funding, spending, implementation, caseloads, and outlook for the Department of Early Learning programs funded in 2007-2009. The update will cover the following programs:

1. Parent, Family, & Caregiver Supports
2. QRIS System
3. Negotiated Rulemaking
4. Early Learning Partnerships with public and private entities, including Thrive by Five
5. ECEAP expansion and enhancements
6. Transfer of the CCDF funds
7. Early Reading Initiatives
8. Child Care R&R networks
9. Career and Wage Ladder
10. Tiered Reimbursement
11. Child Care Safety Positions
12. Washington State Head Start Study
13. Kindergarten Readiness assessment study

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Kirk Schmidt

Project Title: K-12 Pupil Transportation Funding Study

Project Goal:

To examine and understand the two new funding formulas being proposed for Washington.

Project Description:

In 2007 the Legislature required the Office of Financial Management to contract for the development of two options for a new pupil transportation funding formula. The contract was awarded to Management Partnership Services (MPS). MPS has been working since the fall of 2007 to develop two options to better allocate transportation funding to individual districts. The final report from MPS is due in October of 2008, and MPS will be available to present it to the Legislature during the 2009 Legislative session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Kirk Schmidt

**House of Representatives
Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
May 22	10:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	1. State Government Performance Audit Updates and Follow-up 2. Fiscal Notes 3. State FTE's 4. Base Budgets for Selected Natural Resources Agencies/Programs	Work Session
July 9	10:00 AM	Yakima	Full Committee	1. State Government Performance Audit Updates and Follow-up 2. CTED Economic Development Efforts in Eastern Washington. 3. Base Budgets for Department of Agriculture and Other Selected Natural Resources Agencies/Programs (continued).	Work Session
August	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. State Government Performance Audit Updates and Follow-up 2. Base Budgets for General Government Agencies.	Work Session
September 12	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. State Government Performance Audit Updates and Follow-up 2. Base Budgets for Judicial Agencies	Work Session
December 5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. State Government Performance Audit Updates and Follow-up 2. Major State IT projects and the IT Pool 3. 2009 session preview	Work Session

Work Group to Review ITWG Recommendations

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 7	1:00 PM	Olympia	Work Group	Recommendations of the 2007 Interim Joint Legislative IT Work Group	Work Session
August 5	3:00 PM	Olympia	Work Group	Recommendations of the 2007 Interim Joint Legislative IT Work Group	Work Session

Project Title: State Government Performance Audit Updates & Follow-up

Project Goal:

Review the recommendations of the State Auditor's performance audits of state government, focusing on the ongoing implementation of recommendations over time.

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. The Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government and Audit Review will review the recommendations and Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee (JLARC) testimony for current audits, and review the implementation of recommendations in previous audits. The JLARC also holds public hearings on the audits.

Number & Type of Meetings: Five work sessions

Completion Date: December 31, 2008

Staff Assigned: Alex MacBain

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 the OFM before being sent to the Legislature. The Legislature may reject fiscal notes. The Subcommittee will continue its ongoing review of 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: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Dave Johnson

Project Title: State FTEs

Project Goal:

Review management of and accounting for FTEs

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. The Subcommittee will review the role of FTEs in the budget, how they are administered, and how FTEs differ from headcount.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Dave Johnson

Project Title: Base Budgets for Selected Agencies/Programs

Project Goal:

To better understand the programs that make up agency activities and budgets.

Project Description:

The Legislature indirectly reviews base budgets when it considers policy bills that change existing agency programs, budget items that change funding of existing programs, JLARC reports on and audits of existing programs, and other legislative activities. The Subcommittee will directly review selected general government, judicial, and natural resources agencies base budget programs in more detail, focusing on the purpose, cost effectiveness and relative importance of the programs.

Number & Type of Meetings: Four work sessions

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Owen Rowe, Alex MacBain, Alicia Dunkin, Wendy Polzin

Project Title: Community, Trade & Economic Development's Economic Development Efforts in Eastern Washington

Project Goal:

Review CTED's efforts on international trade, economic development, and housing in Eastern Washington.

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 six primary divisions that include over 200 programs to support the agency's mission. The Subcommittee will review CTED's programs on international trade, economic development, and housing, focusing on Eastern Washington.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: July 2008

Staff Assigned: Owen Rowe

Project Title: Major State IT Projects and the IT Pool

Project Goal:

Continue deliberations related to State IT projects.

Project Description:

The Subcommittee has focused on IT project planning, approval oversight, coordination, cost, and other IT related issues. The Subcommittee will follow up on the IT discussions, review the implementation of the IT pool, and review implementation of major IT projects.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

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

Project Title: Recommendations of the 2007 Interim Joint Legislative IT Work Group

Project Goal:

To develop a comprehensive response to the recommendations made by the IT Work Group.

Project Description:

The 2007 Joint Legislative Information Technology Work Group (ITWG) submitted a report to the Legislature and the Governor's Office in December 2007 that summarized interim work on recommendations to improve the administration and coordination of state information technologies. The ITWG recommended that further study would be necessary to develop a comprehensive response to its recommendations. The 2008 supplemental operating budget included funds in the House of Representatives' budget to hire an IT consultant for further review of the ITWG's recommendations. This in-depth review of ITWG's recommendations may result in legislation or budget changes during the 2009 Legislative Session. The work group for the 2008 interim will be comprised of two members, one from each caucus and will meet in Olympia two times.

Number & Type of Meetings: 2 work sessions - one in June, one in October.

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Owen Rowe, Kara Durbin, David Pringle

**House of Representatives
Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Services
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 17	10:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and Introductions. 2. Brief Description of the Health and Human Services Agencies/Functional Area. 3. Overview of the Budget Process and FTEs. 4. Overview of the DSHS Medical Assistance Base Budget. 5. Overview of the DSHS Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) Base Budget. 6. Overview of the DSHS Economic Services Base Budget. 	Work Session
September Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of the DSHS Developmental Disabilities (DD) Base Budget. 2. Overview of the DSHS Mental Health Base Budget. 3. Overview of the Department of Health Base Budget. 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of the DSHS Childrens Administration Base Budget. 2. Overview of the Long Term Care Base Budget. 3. Update on the Health Care Reform Studies (SSB 6333). 4. Overview of Other Selected Agencies. 	Work Session

Project Title: Budget Process

Project Goal:

Review the overall budget process, including FTEs.

Project Description:

The budget process begins in the spring of even numbered years, with agencies submitting requests (August/September), the Governor proposing her budget (December), and the Legislature adopting a budget the following spring. The Subcommittee will review budget timelines, processes, and information.

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. The Subcommittee will review the role of FTEs in the budget, how they are administered, and how FTEs differ from headcount.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session.

Completion Date: July 2008

Staff Assigned: Dave Johnson

Project Title: Base Budgets for Selected Agencies/Programs

Project Goal:

To better understand the programs that make up agency activities and budgets.

Project Description:

The Legislature indirectly reviews base budgets when it considers policy bills that change existing agency programs, budget items that change funding of existing programs, JLARC reports on and audits of existing programs, and other legislative activities. The Subcommittee will directly review selected health and human services base budget programs in more detail, focusing on the purpose, cost effectiveness and relative importance of the programs.

Number & Type of Meetings: Three work sessions.

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Carma Matti, Kirk Schmidt, Alex MacBain and Kelci Karl-Robinson

Project Title: Health Care Reform Studies

Project Goal:

Review and understand the fiscal implications of health care reform proposals.

Project Description:

SSB 6333 requires the Legislature to contract for an actuarial evaluation of several alternative approaches to health care reform. The evaluation is to be submitted on December 15.

The Subcommittee will be updated on the implementation of SSB 6333. This includes the required elements of the evaluation, selection of a contractor and, to the extent results are available, the results of the evaluation.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session.

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Kirk Schmidt

**House of Representatives
Capital Budget
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 11	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding. 2. Pierce County Skills Center Budget Evaluation Study Team (BEST) Review. 3. Scoring System for Public Four-Year Higher Education Institution Capital Projects. 4. Chehalis River Basin Flood Hazard Mitigation Project Agreement. 5. Heritage Center/Executive Office Building Project.	Work Session
December 4	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. 2009 Session Preview. 2. Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding. 3. Skills Center Feasibility Studies for Potential Satellite or Branch Campuses. 4. Scoring System for Public Four-Year Higher Education Institution Capital Projects. 5. Higher Education Capital Financing Study. 6. Infrastructure Investment System.	Work Session

Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
May 14	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	1. K-12 Construction Spending and Funding. 2. Phase 1 Recommendations of the Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding. 3. Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance.	Work Session
June 18	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Phase 1 Recommendations of the Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding. 2. K-12 Construction Spending and Funding. 3. Proposed School Environmental Health and Safety Rule Changes.	Work Session
July 16	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Phase 1 Recommendations of the Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding. 2. K-12 Construction Spending and Funding.	Work Session
August 13	9:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	1. K-12 Construction Spending and Funding. 2. Phase 1 Recommendations of the Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding.	Work Session

Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 17	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Phase 1 Recommendations of the Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding. 2. K-12 Construction Spending and Funding.	Work Session
October 15	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Phase 1 Recommendations of the Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding. 2. K-12 Construction Spending and Funding - Development of Preliminary Findings and Recommendations.	Work Session
November 5	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Phase 1 Recommendations of the Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding. 2. K-12 Construction Spending and Funding - Development of Preliminary Findings and Recommendations.	Work Session
December 17	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Phase 1 Recommendations of the Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding. 2. K-12 Construction Spending and Funding - Finalize Recommendations.	Work Session

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:

The Joint Task Force on School Construction Funding includes seven legislators and two members representing school districts. Because they were assigned responsibility for undertaking a comprehensive review of K-12 capital spending and funding issues, the Task Force decided to divide its work over two interims. In this last session, the Legislature acted on many of the recommendations that resulted from phase 1 of its effort, which was considered the "low-hanging fruit." In the second phase, it is anticipated that the Task Force will likely make recommendations regarding significant changes related to school construction funding and spending. The final report is due to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature by January 1, 2009. House Office of Program Research staff and Senate Committee Services staff will continue to provide staff support to the Task Force and draft legislation as necessary.

Number & Type of Meetings: Eight Task Force work sessions and two Capital Budget Committee work session updates

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Nona Snell, Susan Howson, and Steve Masse

Project Title: Pierce County Skills Center Budget Evaluation Study Team (BEST) Review

Project Goal:

Evaluate the findings and recommendations of the BEST review to inform the 2009-11 capital budget request for construction funding on this project.

Project Description:

The BEST review process is an evaluation of a project's program and concept design compared to the project budget, as well as identified program, site, and building alternatives to help establish a budget that is in balance with the project scope. Section 5014 of the 2008 Supplemental Capital Budget (ESHB 2765) appropriates \$3,070,000 for predesign and design of a new Pierce County Skills Center. Proviso language requires the Office of Financial Management to conduct a BEST review on the project prior to the allotment of design funds. The predesign and design of this project must also identify options for construction of the facility in phases. The Committee will receive a briefing on the BEST review.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session update

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Steve Masse

**Project Title: Scoring System for Public Four-Year Higher Education Institution
Capital Projects**

Project Goal:

Work with the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to develop an objective process for analyzing and scoring capital budget projects proposed by the public four-year institutions.

Project Description:

Chapter 205, Laws of 2008 (ESHB 3329) directs the OFM to complete an objective analysis and scoring of all capital budget projects proposed by the public four-year institutions each biennium, beginning in 2008, in consultation with the legislative fiscal committees. The OFM must distribute common definitions, the scoring system, and other information required for project proposals and the scoring process to higher education institutions by July 1, 2008. For 2008, the analysis and scoring process must be completed by November 1. The Committee will receive an update on development of the scoring system.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions updates

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson

Project Title: Chehalis River Basin Flood Hazard Mitigation Project Agreement

Project Goal:

Monitor the development of a project agreement between nonfederal project partners related to flood hazard mitigation projects for the Chehalis River basin.

Project Description:

In December 2007, a series of storms caused flood damage in southwest Washington and on December 8, 2007, the President declared several counties in Washington a major disaster area. Chapter 180, Laws of 2008 (HB 3375) appropriates \$50 million to the OFM, working with and through other state agencies, the Chehalis Basin Flood Control Authority, and other local governments, to participate in flood hazard mitigation projects for the Chehalis River basin. Construction funds may not be allotted by the OFM for flood hazard mitigation projects until a project agreement between non-federal project partners has been signed and submitted to the Governor and the Legislature delineating responsibility for the ongoing operations and maintenance of the projects. The Committee will receive an update on the project agreement.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session update

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson and Nona Snell

Project Title: Heritage Center/Executive Office Building Project

Project Goal:

Monitor the project scope and budget of the combined Heritage Center and Executive Office building project on the Capitol Campus.

Project Description:

Section 1036 of the 2008 Supplemental Capital Budget (ESHB 2765) appropriates \$6 million in design funds for the combined Heritage Center and Executive Office building project. In addition, the certificates of participation authorized for this project were increased. By February 1, 2009, the Secretary of State and the Department of General Administration are required to submit a financial plan for the combined project to the Legislature. The financial plan must include an updated scope of the work for the project, financial projections, a contingency plan in the event fees are insufficient to support the proposed project scope, a plan for managing project risk, and an update on private fundraising activities. This work session topic will provide the Committee with an update on the project.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session update

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Steve Masse

Project Title: 2009 Session Preview

Project Goal:

Provide the Capital Budget Committee with an update on the debt limit, interest rate and revenue forecasts, and agency request capital budgets.

Project Description:

The Committee will be briefed on key capital budget issues for the upcoming legislative session including the debt limit, interest rate and revenue forecasts, and agency priorities as submitted to the Office of Financial Management and the Governor.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session update

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson

Project Title: Skills Center Feasibility Studies for Potential Satellite or Branch Campuses

Project Goal:

Evaluate the potential for the delivery of career and technical education programs in underserved areas of Washington through the use of satellite or branch campuses.

Project Description:

Section 5007 of the 2008 Supplemental Capital Budget (ESHB 2765) appropriates \$475,000 for comprehensive feasibility studies regarding potential skills center satellite or branch campuses in underserved areas of the state. The Committee will receive an update on this effort.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session update

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Steve Masse

Project Title: Higher Education Capital Financing Study

Project Goal:

Consult with the OFM on the design and implementation of the higher education financing study.

Project Description:

Chapter 205, Laws of 2008 (ESHB 3329) directs the OFM to submit a higher education capital facility financing study to the Governor and Legislature by December 1, 2008. In designing and conducting the study, the Office of Financial Management must consult with legislative and fiscal committee leadership, the Department of Revenue, the State Investment Board, the Higher Education Coordinating Board, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and the public four-year institutions of higher education. The Committee will receive a briefing on the study.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session update

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson

Project Title: Infrastructure Investment System

Project Goal:

Begin the process of reevaluating the policy goals and priorities for the allocation of infrastructure assistance funds through the capital budget.

Project Description:

Section 1022 of the 2008 Supplemental Capital Budget (ESHB 2765) requires the OFM to develop options for the organization and coordination of state infrastructure programs into an improved infrastructure investment system. The OFM must complete an analysis and implementation plan in consultation with the Legislature and other stakeholders by December 1, 2008. The Committee will receive a briefing on the plan.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session update

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Nona Snell

Project Title: K-12 Construction Spending and Funding

Project Goal:

Evaluate key policy questions related to K-12 construction spending and funding.

Project Description:

The Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding will review the work it performed during the 2007 interim and establish the scope of work for the 2008 interim. Key policy questions will relate to eligibility requirements and distribution formulae for the school construction assistance program, flexibility needed in the system to address diverse district and geographic needs, potential revenue sources and alternative funding mechanisms for school construction, and other issues as determined by the Task Force.

Number & Type of Meetings: Eight Task Force work sessions

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Nona Snell, Susan Howson, and Steve Masse

Project Title: Phase 1 Recommendations of the Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding

Project Goal:

Monitor and review agency implementation of the 2007 recommendations of the Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding.

Project Description:

The 2008 Supplemental Capital Budget (ESHB 2765) provided legislative direction and funding for several recommendations of the Task Force including the following: (1) a more robust program to provide regional assistance in school construction management and other kinds of technical assistance; (2) methods and options for making the current school construction assistance grant program more transparent in terms of formula components, assumption, and expected funding sources; (3) the feasibility of and options for using existing state trust lands in high growth areas of Washington for future school sites; (4) an evaluation of the accuracy and reliability of the current method used for forecasting school district enrollment for determining eligibility for the school construction assistance program; and (5) an analysis of the cost and other implications of changing the current annual release cycle for the school construction assistance program. The Capital Budget Committee and the Task Force will require updates on these projects from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Department of Natural Resources throughout the interim to include initial project scoping, periodic updates, and final presentations on options and recommendations. Agencies will not be expected to provide an update on all five projects at every scheduled meeting.

Number & Type of Meetings: Eight Task Force work session updates and two Capital Budget Committee work session updates

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Nona Snell and Susan Howson

Project Title: Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance

Project Goal:

Coordinate the work of the Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding with the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance regarding operating issues with facility implications.

Project Description:

The 2007 Legislature created a Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance to review the definition of basic education and all current basic education funding formulas (SB 5627). Its task is to develop options for a new funding structure and all the necessary formulas, and propose a new definition of basic education. The Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance will complete its work by December 1, 2008. To the extent that its recommendations have facility implications, the Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding will take this information into consideration as it evaluates potential changes to the school construction funding formula and financing options.

Number & Type of Meetings: One Task Force work session update

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson and Nona Snell

Project Title: Proposed School Environmental Health and Safety Rule Changes

Project Goal:

Monitor the implementation of the proposed environmental health and safety rules and consider implications related to school construction funding.

Project Description:

The Washington State Board of Health (Board) has organized a series of workshops to review proposed rule changes related to school environmental health and safety. Key participants include local environmental health managers and school facilities managers, school administrators, local public health administrators, parents, teachers, school architects and state agencies. The Department of Health (DOH) and Board staff have been working on revised language intended to resolve many concerns heard from stakeholders. The DOH and the Board will use input from the workshops to finalize a draft proposal. The Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding will receive an update on their progress.

Number & Type of Meetings: One Task Force work session update

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Nona Snell

**House of Representatives
Commerce and Labor
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 11	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Use of Workers' Compensation Funds 2. Sunrise Review of Residential Contractors	Work Session
December 4	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Unemployment Insurance	Work Session

Joint Legislative Task Force on the HVAC/R Industry

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
June 10	1:30 PM	Olympia	Task Force	Task force organization.	Public Hearing/ Work Session
September 10	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	TBA	Public Hearing/ Work Session
October 1	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	TBA	Public Hearing/ Work Session
November 13	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	Discussion and approval of final report.	Public Hearing/ Work Session

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

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
May 28	9:00 AM	Olympia	Task Force	1. Review of 2008 legislation. 2. Updates from agencies. 3. Update from Benchmark Advisory Committee. 4. Review of 2007 agenda items postponed until 2008. 5. Stakeholder recommendations for Task Force Activity in 2008. 6. Public comment.	Public Hearing/ Work Session
September 10	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	TBA	Public Hearing/ Work Session
October 1	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	TBA	Public Hearing/ Work Session
November 13	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	Discussion and approval of final report	Public Hearing/ Work Session

Joint Select Committee on Beer and Wine Regulation

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
June 10	10:00 AM	Olympia	Select Committee	Select committee organization	Public Hearing/ Work Session

Joint Select Committee on Beer and Wine Regulation

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 9	TBA	Olympia	Select Committee	TBA	Public Hearing/ Work Session
September 30	TBA	Olympia	Select Committee	TBA	Public Hearing/ Work Session
November 14	TBA	Olympia	Select Committee	Discussion and approval of final recommendations	Public Hearing/ Work Session

Project Title: Use of Workers' Compensation Funds

Project Goal:

Monitor agency and stakeholder discussions and consider possible legislation for 2009.

Project Description:

The Department of Labor and Industries submitted a report to the Legislature on the use of Worker's Compensation Funds in December of 2006. The Committee will work with stakeholders and the Department of Labor and Industries to respond to this report.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 1, 2009

Staff Assigned: Alison Hellberg and Joan Elgee

Project Title: Sunrise Review of Residential Contractors

Project Goal:

Monitor the sunrise review of residential contractors conducted by the Department of Labor and Industries and the Department of Licensing.

Project Description:

The Department of Labor and Industries and the Department of Licensing will conduct a sunrise review of the need for regulation of certain residential contractors pursuant to a pair of budget provisos. The Committee will meet once to receive and discuss the sunrise review during the 2008 interim.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 1, 2009

Staff Assigned: Alison Hellberg

Project Title: Unemployment Insurance

Project Goal:

Monitor agency and stakeholder discussions and consider possible legislation for 2009.

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 2008 interim, the Committee will meet once to receive an update from the Employment Security Department on this work.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 1, 2009

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth

Project Title: Joint Legislative Task Force on the HVAC/R Industry

Project Goal:

Prepare a report of findings and recommendations related to contractor registration and mechanic certification in the HVAC/R industry by December 1, 2008.

Project Description:

ESSB 5831 created the Joint Legislative Task Force on the Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVAC/R) Industry. The task force will review: requirements for certifying mechanics; methods of registering contractors who qualify for two or more registrations or licenses; establishing at least three levels of mechanics, including HVAC, refrigeration, and gas piping specialties; experience requirements; methods of obtaining training certificates; exemptions; and other factors.

The task force will also prepare a report of findings and recommendations.

Number & Type of Meetings: Four public hearings/work sessions

Completion Date: January 1, 2009

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth and Alison Hellberg

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

Project Goal:

Prepare a final report regarding 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.

Project Description:

SB 5926, enacted in 2007, created a Joint Legislative Task Force on the Underground Economy in the Construction Industry. The task force met over the 2007 interim. At its final meeting of 2007, the task force made a number of recommendations which were enacted in 2008 in 2SSB 6732 and SHB 3122. The task force also identified several items for further discussion and possible action during the 2009 session. One of the recommendations was to continue the work of the task force, and 2SSB 6732 extends the task force for another year.

The task force will also prepare a final report. The task force will contract with the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to provide assistance.

Number & Type of Meetings: Four public hearings/work sessions

Completion Date: December 31, 2008

Staff Assigned: Joan Elgee and Alison Hellberg

Project Title: Joint Select Committee on Beer and Wine Regulation

Project Goal:

Review laws relating to the manufacture, distribution, and sale of beer and wine to determine whether the laws should be continued in their present form or revised to decrease the number of bills introduced each year.

Project Description:

Many of the laws governing the manufacture, distribution, and sale of beer and wine have not been substantially amended since their enactment in 1933, or have been amended in a disjointed piecemeal manner. The Legislature has spent significant time on numerous bills that create many small exemptions from provisions governing beer and wine sales and the tied house laws.

The select committee will review the laws governing the manufacture, distribution, and sale of beer and wine and make recommendations as to whether the laws should be continued in their present form or modified.

Number & Type of Meetings: Four public hearings/work sessions

Completion Date: December 1, 2008

Staff Assigned: Joan Elgee and Jill Reinmuth

**House of Representatives
Community & Economic Development & Trade
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
June 17	All Day	Spokane	Full Committee	The Inland Empire: Spokane's Economic and Community Development Strengths and Challenges in 2008	Roundtable Work Session
November or December	1 Day	Seattle and Tacoma	Full Committee	The Ports of Seattle and Tacoma: Contributions, Opportunities and Challenges	Roundtable Work Sessions
September 11	Morning, 8:30 - 9:30 AM	Olympia	Full Committee (Joint with Housing Committee)	Workforce Housing and Economic Development	Work Session
September 12	Morning, 10 - 11:55 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	Economic Stimulus 101: Stimulating the Economy as a Community/Economic Development Strategy	Work Session
December 5	Morning, 10 - 11:55 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	Next Washington: Presentations of Strategic Plans by the State's Key Economic Development Organizations	Work Session

Project Title: The Inland Empire: Spokane's Economic and Community Development Strengths and Challenges in 2008

Project Goal:

To familiarize the Committee with Spokane area community and economic development objectives, needs, and accomplishments, and with opportunities for the state to assist.

Project Description:

At a roundtable work session, leaders of major business clusters, government, education, and labor will present an overview of economic and community development opportunities and needs in the Spokane region. Economic clusters including manufacturing, aerospace, health sciences, information technology/communications, clean technology, and digital media will be represented. Updates will also be given on asset development, micro-enterprise development, and other local priorities that fall within the scope of the CEDT Committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: One roundtable work session

Completion Date: June 2008

Staff Assigned: Meg Van Schoorl

Project Title: The Ports of Seattle and Tacoma: Contributions, Opportunities and Challenges

Project Goal:

To educate the Committee about the role of the two largest Washington ports in trade and economic and community development, and how the state can assist their efforts.

Project Description:

The Ports of Seattle and Tacoma make significant economic contributions to the state and to local communities through their leadership in international trade, domestic freight mobility, industrial development, air and cruise travel, and recreation. They are unique in their nature and powers as public sector bodies with private sector objectives. This one-day combination of meetings, one half day at each port, will educate Committee members about the multi-faceted roles of ports in economic development, the extent of their impacts, the opportunities for future growth, challenges that impede their progress, and how the state can assist.

Number & Type of Meetings: One day total - half day at each port for meeting

Completion Date: November or December 2008

Staff Assigned: Meg Van Schoorl

Project Title: Workforce Housing and Economic Development

Project Goal:

To define the need and identify solutions to address the shortage of appropriate workforce housing in Washington state.

Project Description:

Washington state economic development organizations identify availability of affordable housing as a major factor impacting business recruitment, retention and expansion. The committee, jointly with the House Housing Committee, will discuss the relationship between the availability of workforce housing and economic and community development. The committees will identify information related to the need for workforce housing and initiatives proposed or enacted by different regions of the state to address workforce housing issues, determine the interplay between workforce housing and economic development, and identify the extent to which workforce housing is addressed in economic development planning efforts.

Number & Type of Meetings: One joint work session, September 11, 8:30 - 9:30 AM

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Meg Van Schoorl (CEDT); Robyn Dupuis (Housing)

Project Title: Economic Stimulus 101: Stimulating the Economy as a Community/Economic Development Strategy.

Project Goal:

To become familiar with the types of actions the public sector can take to stimulate community and economic development in an uncertain economy.

Project Description:

When the economy is in a period of uncertainty, public sector economic stimulus packages are often proposed to reinvigorate economic growth, spur community development, and create new jobs. This work session will look at the theory and reality of government-run economic stimulus programs that target businesses and consumers through rebates, incentives, and preferences. Possible speakers: Chief Economists for the Economic Forecast Council and Employment Security Department; Department of Revenue; and Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session, September 12, 10 - 11:55 AM

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Meg Van Schoorl

Project Title: Next Washington: Presentations of Strategic Plans by the State's Key Economic Development Organizations

Project Goal:

To become familiar with major economic development strategies proposed by key policy bodies and discuss recommendations for legislative action in 2009.

Project Description:

The Economic Development Commission will report to the Committee on its 2008 deliverables, including an initial economic development program inventory, an updated state comprehensive development plan, recommendations on the appropriate state role in economic development, economic development performance measures, and any recommendations for legislative action in 2009.

The Tourism Commission will present its six year strategic plan, its plans for capitalizing on the 2010 Olympics in British Columbia, and any recommendations for legislative action in 2009.

The DCTED, local zone administrators, WSU, and the UW will report on activities and outcomes of the Innovation Partnership Zones and the STARS Program recruitments, as well as any recommendations for legislative action in 2009.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session, December 5, 10 - 11:55 AM

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Meg Van Schoorl

**House of Representatives
Early Learning & Children's Services
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
June 12	1 Day	Seattle	Full Committee (Joint w/Higher Education Committee)	Teacher Preparation and Support	Work Session
September 11	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee (joint with Human Services)	1. Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare 2. Children of Incarcerated Parents	Work Session
	Half Day	Olympia	Full Committee	Housing and Child Welfare	Work Session
	TBA	SeaTac	Full Committee	Early Learning Quality Rating and Improvement Systems	Work Session
December 4	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Children's Mental Health 2. Responding to Allegations of Child Neglect 3. Foster Care Strategic Planning	Work Session

Project Title: Teacher Preparation and Support

Project Goal:

Enhance knowledge of the approaches to programs designed to increase the number of well-qualified and trained early learning professionals and teachers and explore options for legislation during the 2009 legislative session.

Project Description:

The Committee will discuss various issues relating to how early learning professional and teacher preparation programs are structured, what skills, knowledge, and abilities early childhood teachers should have, and the ways in which pre-schools, K-12 schools, and universities work together to continue to support and mentor early childhood and other educators. The Committee will hear in-depth presentations from various content experts offering different perspectives on these issues in an effort to inform any proposed legislation during the 2009 session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: June 30

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare

Project Goal:

Receive the first report from the advisory committee convened by the Department and Social and Health Services under Chapter 465 Laws of 2007(SHB 1472).

Project Description:

In 2007 the Legislature enacted SHB 1472 to address racial disproportionality and disparity in the state's child welfare system. A preliminary report due June 1, 2008, will examine and analyze:

- (1) the level of involvement for children of color in the state's child welfare system;
- (2) the number of children of color in low-income or single-parent families involved in child welfare;
- (3) the structures of families involved in child welfare; and
- (4) the outcomes for children in the existing system.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session during September Committee Assembly

Completion Date: September 30

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Children of Incarcerated Parents

Project Goal:

Receive a report from the advisory committee convened by the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development under Chapter 384 Laws of 2007 (E2SHB 1422).

Project Description:

In 2007 the Legislature enacted E2SHB 1422 addressing the needs of children of incarcerated parents and directing the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development to establish an advisory committee to monitor, guide, and report on recommendations relating to policies and programs for children and families with incarcerated parents. Among other tasks, the advisory committee is to identify areas of need and develop recommendations for the Legislature, the Department of Social and Health Services, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Early Learning, and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to better meet the needs of children and families of persons incarcerated in department of corrections facilities.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session (joint with Human Services)

Completion Date: September 30

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Housing and Child Welfare

Project Goal:

Explore the connections between housing and improved child welfare outcomes, and consider options for addressing issues raised in the 2008 JLARC report.

Project Description:

A 2008 report from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) identified the loss of housing as one consequence of a dependency filing, according to approximately half of parents responding to the survey. The Committee will gather more information about the reasons for loss of housing and will examine possible options to address housing needs for families involved in the child welfare system. The Committee will invite members of the House Housing Committee to the work session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One half-day work session.

Completion Date: December 1

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Early Learning Quality Rating and Improvement System

Project Goal:

Examine progress underway in Washington and other states to implement quality rating systems for early learning programs.

Project Description:

In 2007, the Legislature enacted E2SSB 5828, directing the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to implement a voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The DEL began implementing the QRIS design phase in November 2007. In anticipation of implementing the QRIS pilot phase in Washington, the Committee will work with the NCSL, Thrive by Five Washington, and other partners in order to learn about the progress of similar early learning quality rating initiatives being implemented in other states. The NCSL will assist by bringing to WA technical experts from other states who can share information and lessons learned as those states have implemented a QRIS. The Committee will be seeking a central meeting location to accommodate the experts flying in from other states.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 1

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Children's Mental Health

Project Goal:

Receive a briefing regarding implementation of C 359 Laws of 2007 (2SHB 1088).

Project Description:

The 2007 Legislature enacted 2SHB 1088, regarding children's mental health, establishing the Children's Mental Health Evidence-Based Practice Institute (EBP Institute) at the University of Washington, and creating wraparound pilot programs to serve children with serious emotional or behavioral disturbance. The legislation also addressed access-to-care standards; protocols for care coordination and medication management; and Medicaid eligibility and juvenile confinement. Committee staff will work with agency staff and the EBP Institute to structure a work session on the implementation of the various components of the law.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session during December Committee Assembly

Completion Date: December 31

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Responding to Allegations of Child Neglect

Project Goal:

Receive a briefing regarding implementation of Chapter 512 Laws of 2005 (ESSB 5922 - the Justice and Raiden Act).

Project Description:

The 2005 Legislature enacted ESSB 5922, addressing investigations of child abuse and neglect. Section 6, now codified at RCW 26.44.195, established procedures for responding to negligent treatment or maltreatment of children and took effect January 1, 2007. The bill as enacted included a requirement for a report to the Legislature prior to implementation regarding any change over previous years in the number and type of child abuse and neglect referrals received and investigations conducted, any change in in-home and out-of-home dependency placements and/or filings, any increased service costs, barriers to implementation, and an assessment of the fiscal and workload impact on the Department of Social and Health Services. This section, however, was vetoed and therefore the Committee did not receive a report prior to implementation. Committee staff will work with agency staff to develop a briefing for the Committee regarding implementation of the procedures for responding to and preventing chronic neglect.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session during December Committee Assembly

Completion Date: December 31

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Foster Care Strategic Planning

Project Goal:

Consult with the public-private partnership at the University of Washington regarding relevant research to inform strategic planning regarding the state's foster care system, including preventing children's entry into foster care when appropriate; using time in foster care to improve well-being of children who do enter care; and moving more efficiently towards the permanency plans for children who are in foster care.

Project Description:

Partners for our Children (POC) is a public-private collaboration established in 2007 between the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), the University of Washington (UW), and the private sector, and dedicated to making positive changes in the state's foster care system. POC's 2008 priorities include: 1) recruitment and retention of foster parents and kinship caregivers; 2) evaluation of the DSHS Children's Administration practice model; 3) identifying promising practices for timely family reunification; and 4) understanding child and system factors impacting placement mobility in foster care. The Committee will consult with the POC regarding possible legislation to inform and support strategic planning to improve the foster care system.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 1

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

**House of Representatives
Ecology & Parks
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
June 30	1 Day	Suquamish reservation on Kitsap Peninsula	Full Committee	Oil Spill Response	Work Session
July	TBA	TBA	Full Committee	Development of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan	Work Session
September 12	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Development of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan 2. Dredged Material Management Program	Public Hearing/ Work Session
December 5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Oil Spill Response 2. Development of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan 3. The Implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda	Public Hearing/ Work Session

Project Title: Oil Spill Response

Project Goal:

Consider recommendations from the Oil Spill Advisory Council and the JLARC oil spill prevention and response program study for future legislation.

Project Description:

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee will complete a study on the oil spill prevention and response program this year. The Committee will consider the recommendations from the JLARC study, as well as from the Oil Spill Advisory Council, for future legislation.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: November 2008

Staff Assigned: Jaclyn Ford

Project Title: Development of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan

Project Goal:

Monitor the issues relating to the development of the Department of Ecology's greenhouse gas reduction plan. Understand and monitor the discussions on the implications for the forestry and agricultural industries within the DOE's greenhouse gas reduction plan. Educate committee members on the Western Climate Initiative process, and how a cap and trade system works. Monitor the work of the Climate Advisory Team and the suggestions emerging from that process.

Project Description:

The Committee will monitor the work of the Department of Ecology (DOE) as it identifies proposed actions in the state's greenhouse gas reduction plan, tracking which actions will use existing statutory authority to implement, and which will require new legislative authority to implement. Agriculture and forestry issues will be tracked, as they relate to the DOE's greenhouse gas reduction plan, such as the implications for the forestry and agricultural industries in a cap and trade program. The Committee will be updated on the Western Climate Initiative process and the suggestions emerging from that process. In addition, the Committee will track the progress of the Climate Advisory Team and the proposed recommendations emerging from that process.

Number & Type of Meetings: Three work sessions

Completion Date: December 1, 2008

Staff Assigned: Jaclyn Ford

Project Title: Dredged Material Management Program

Project Goal:

Review and monitor the Dredged Material Management Program

Project Description:

The Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) includes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Seattle District, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10, the Washington Department of Ecology, and the Department of Natural Resources. They provide oversight of all disposal activities occurring on the public's state-owned aquatic lands. The Committee will review and monitor the DMMP in order to make sure the program is efficient and accomplishing its mission. In addition, the Committee will monitor the DMMP discussion relating to polychlorinated biphenyls in dredge materials and consider recommendations for future legislation.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Title: The Implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda

Project Goal:

Follow and review the implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda, and consider potential legislation that would support the long-term implementation of the Action Agenda.

Project Description:

The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) is finalizing its Action Agenda this year. The Committee will follow and review the Action Agenda in order to discuss implementation and the long-term goals of the PSP. Discussions will focus on providing recommendations for potential legislation that might be introduced in order to support the long-term implementation of the PSP Action Agenda.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2008

Staff Assigned: Jaclyn Ford

**House of Representatives
Education
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 1	Half Day	Spokane	Full Committee/ Joint with Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education	Association of Washington School Principals/Washington Association of School Administrators Summer Conference (Morning)	Work Session
September 10	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee/ Joint with Appropriations Subcommittee on Education	Analysis and Review of Special- Purpose Education Programs	Work Session
September 11	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Programs and Strategies for Students Who Don't Graduate on Time	Work Session
December 4	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Major Reports and Updates 1. Mathematics 2. Teacher Preparation 3. Interstate Compact on Military Children	Work Session

Project Title: Association of Washington School Principals/Washington Association of School Administrators Summer Conference

Project Goal:

Monitor implementation of the Washington Leadership Academy and receive input from principals and school administrators on topics related to high school education.

Project Description:

Each summer, the Association of Washington School Principals and the Washington Association of School Administrators host a major statewide conference for principals, superintendents, and other school and district administrators. Meeting jointly, the House and Senate Education Committees will attend the final day of the conference, receive an update and briefing on the Washington Leadership Academy which was created in 2007 (2SSB 5955) to design and implement a system of professional development for administrators, and host an open forum on topics related to high school education. At the forum, Committee members will have an opportunity to discuss with school and district administrators across the state such questions as "What is being done to assist students who are not ready to graduate on time, and what more could be done?", "What programs and services will be provided to these students as a result of 2008 legislation (E2SSB 6673) and enhanced funding in the 2008 supplemental budget?," and "What will be the impact of proposed changes to graduation requirements, especially in mathematics?"

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: July 2008

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain, Susan Mielke (Senate Committee Services)

Project Title: Analysis and Review of Special-Purpose Education Programs

Project Goal:

Identify the purpose, history, and outcomes of various special-purpose education programs.

Project Description:

Each year, special-purpose education programs are created in the operating budget through budget provisos. Some programs are temporary; others are ongoing. Some programs such as Readiness to Learn, the Math Helping Corps, or School Improvement Assistance have been operating for many years based solely on proviso language without statutory authorization or direction. The House Education Committee and Appropriations Subcommittee on Education will jointly undertake a review and analysis of various special purpose education programs, with a particular focus on those created through budget proviso, to identify their purpose, history, and any reported outcomes. At a joint work session, Committee members will discuss common themes and objectives and consider opportunities for streamlining and consolidation.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain, Ben Rarick, Cece Clynych

Project Title: Programs and Strategies for Students Who Don't Graduate on Time

Project Goal:

Monitor implementation of new strategies and programs to assist students with completing a high school diploma.

Project Description:

Each year approximately 7 percent of seniors return to high school the following school year (or summer) because they were not ready to graduate on time. Until now, these students returned to enroll in required courses because they had not yet earned a sufficient number of credits or because they were eligible for ongoing special education and transition services. Beginning with the class of 2008, however, a new focus will be on providing additional educational experiences for students so they can meet the state academic standards in reading, writing, and (eventually) mathematics. Some of these students will have earned all of their required course credits, so high schools will need to design new learning opportunities and strategies. Legislation enacted in 2008 (Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 6673) directed school districts to create such opportunities. The policy legislation was supplemented by a significant enhancement in funding for remediation through the Learning Assistance Program. The House Education Committee will convene a work session to hear from high school principals and school district administrators about the types of programming they have created with these resources, particularly for returning students in the Class of 2008, and discuss ongoing challenges with increasing overall high school completion rates, particularly for students not ready to graduate on time.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain

Project Title: Major Reports and Updates

Project Goal:

Review the status of various issues from the 2008 Legislative session, including Mathematics, Teacher Preparation, and the Interstate Compact on Military Children.

Project Description:

The 2008 Legislature directed a number of studies and reports on major issues. The Professional Educator Standards Board must review supply and demand for mathematics and science teachers, as well as teacher competencies in teaching English Language Learner students. A task force was directed to examine the Interstate Compact on Military Children and identify possible implications of Washington joining the compact. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education have a number of tasks regarding mathematics standards, curriculum, end-of-course assessments, and high school graduation requirements. The House Education Committee will convene a work session to review these issues in preparation for possible actions during the 2009 Session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain, Cece Clynych

**House of Representatives
 Select Committee on Environmental Health
 Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 12	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Chemical and Children's Product - Department of Ecology Preliminary Report 2. Review of upcoming legislation	Work Session
December 5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Chemicals and Children's Products - Department of Ecology Preliminary Report 2. Review of upcoming legislation	Work Session

**Project Title: Chemicals and Children's Products - Department of Ecology
Preliminary Report**

Project Goal:

Review Department of Ecology preliminary report regarding chemicals and children's products.

Project Description:

During the 2008 legislative session, the Legislature enacted E2SHB 2647, which prohibits manufacturers, retailers, and wholesalers from manufacturing, selling, offering for sale, distributing for sale, or distributing for use a children's product or product component that contains a certain concentration of lead, cadmium, or phthalates. E2SHB 2647 also requires the Department of Ecology (DOE) to identify high priority chemicals and, of those, chemicals that are of high concern for children. DOE must submit a report on chemicals of high concern and the children's products or product categories they identify to the appropriate standing committees of the Legislature by January 1, 2009.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Ashley Pedersen

**House of Representatives
Finance
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 12	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Final Report of the Electronically Delivered Products/Digital Products Study 2. Property Tax Shifts and Property Tax Exemptions 3. Current Use Taxation: Back Taxes and Transfers to Tax Exempt Status 4. Property Tax Exemptions for Nonprofit Hospitals and Nursing Homes	Public Hearing/ Work Session
November (late) 2008	10:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee (Joint with Housing)	1. Addressing the Cost of Affordable Housing Development	Work Session
December 5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Report on Recommendations of the Joint Task Force on Local Financing Options within King County 2. Economic and Revenue Forecast 3. Progress report on the implementation of the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement including destination sourcing	Public Hearing/ Work Session

Project Title: Final Report of the Electronically Delivered Products/Digital Products Study

Project Goal:

Hear final report and recommendations from the electronically delivered products/digital products study committee.

Project Description:

The operating budget directed the Department of Revenue to conduct a study of the taxation of electronically delivered products. The 2007 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 established a study committee. The study committee is reviewing 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 final report and recommendations of the study committee will be presented to the Committee.

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

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Jeff Mitchell and Rick Peterson

Project Title: Property Tax Shifts and Property Tax Exemptions

Project Goal:

Review property tax shift issues related to expanding tax exemptions.

Project Description:

Property tax exemptions reduce the value placed on the tax rolls and result in higher tax rates for those properties still paying taxes. This process results in taxes being shifted from the beneficiaries of the tax exemption to other property owners. The Committee will look in more detail at the tax shifts created by the senior property tax exemptions program, current use taxation program, public property exemptions, and exemptions for nonprofit organizations.

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

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Mark Matteson

Project Title: Current Use Taxation: Back Taxes and Transfers to Tax Exempt Status

Project Goal:

Review the laws related to the collection of back taxes when current use property is transferred into tax exempt status.

Project Description:

Property that is placed in the current use program receives reduced property taxes. When the property leaves the current use program, back taxes are collected from the owner based on the tax benefit received. Generally the sale of a property into tax exempt status triggers the payment of back taxes. However, there are numerous exemptions to the collection of back taxes, and these are not consistent among the current use programs. Recent legislation has been introduced to allow an exemption to the payment of back taxes when property is transferred to a government or conservation group for the purpose of protecting the land. The Committee will review the laws related to the collection of back taxes when current use property is transferred into tax exempt status.

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

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Mark Matteson

Project Title: Property Tax Exemptions for Nonprofit Hospitals and Nursing Homes

Project Goal:

Develop legislation related to establishing a public benefit test for the property tax exemptions provided to nonprofit hospitals and nursing homes.

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. In 2007, the first round of tax preference audits were completed. The audits relating to nonprofit hospitals and nursing homes contained recommendations related to the establishment of a public benefit test for the property tax exemption. The Committee will develop legislation related to a public benefit test for nonprofit hospitals and nursing homes.

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

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Mark Matteson

Project Title: Addressing the Cost of Affordable Housing Development

Project Goal:

To explore tax incentives and other possible strategies that have the potential to reduce the cost of affordable housing development in order to increase the production of affordable housing.

Project Description:

The development of affordable housing is a challenge given escalating land and construction costs. The Housing and Finance Committees will explore opportunities to reduce the cost of affordable housing development through strategies including tax incentive programs and others in order to increase the availability of such housing to income eligible families. The Committees will discuss the effect such strategies will have on local government operations and the local housing market.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Jeff Mitchell

Project Title: Report on Recommendations of the Joint Task Force on Local Financing Options within King County

Project Goal:

Brief committee on recommendations of the joint task force on local financing options for affordable housing, arts, cultural, education, civic center, Puget Sound restoration and preservation, youth recreation, and community development projects within King County. Consider proposed legislation.

Project Description:

Included in the capital budget bill (ESHB 2765) is a seven member joint task force made up of House and Senate members and a representative of the Governor. The task force will review King County specific taxes used for the funding of Safeco Field, Quest Field, and the financing of the Kingdome debt including taxes on admissions, car rentals, hotels/motels, and restaurants. By December 1, 2008, the task force will report to the Committee on its recommendations on local financing options for affordable housing, arts, cultural, education, civic center, Puget Sound restoration and preservation, youth recreation, and community development projects within King County.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Rick Peterson, Jeff Mitchell, and Mark Matteson

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 November update.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Rick Peterson and Mark Matteson

Project Title: Progress report on the implementation of the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement including destination sourcing.

Project Goal:

Brief the Committee on the progress of implementing destination sourcing under the retail sales tax.

Project Description:

On July 1, 2008, the sales tax for delivered goods will change from being sourced at the place from which the product is delivered (origin based method) to the place to which the product is delivered to the consumer (destination based method.) This is Washington's final step to conform with the national Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (SSUTA). The Committee will be briefed on Washington's status as a full member and will be updated on recent developments regarding the SSUTA.

The Committee will be briefed on the activity of the Department of Revenue's outreach and education program that prepared taxpayers for the destination sourcing change over. The Legislature approved tax credits for small businesses to help offset implementation costs. The Committee will be briefed on the utilization of these tax credits. The change in sourcing rules will shift local sales tax revenues among local jurisdictions; some jurisdictions will gain revenues while others will see a loss. To ease the hardship on negatively impacted jurisdictions, the streamlined sales tax statute (Chapter 6, Laws of 2007 (SSB 5089)) included a provision to mitigate local losses in revenue. The Committee will be briefed on the implementation of this mitigation program.

The Committee will hear from the Department of Revenue, representatives of large and small businesses, and local governments expected to receive mitigation.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Jeff Mitchell

**House of Representatives
Health Care & Wellness
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 29 & 30 November November	TBA	Wenatchee & Spokane Seattle Seattle	Chair, Ranking Member, & up to 2 members of each Caucus	Implementation of Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care	Stakeholder Discussions
September 12		Olympia	Full Committee (Joint with Higher Education)	1. Health Care Provider Shortages and Training	Work Session
December 5		Olympia	Full Committee	1. School Health Task Force Report 2. Analysis of Health Care Reform Proposals 3. Implementation of the Health Insurance Partnership - Update	Public Hearing/ Work Session

Project Title: Implementation of Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care

Project Goal:

Identify progress in implementing strategies to improve the health of Washingtonians.

Project Description:

The Chair, Ranking Member, and up to two members from each caucus of the Health Care & Wellness Committee will schedule up to four meetings in communities around the State to review implementation of the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care that were included in E2SSB 5930. This will include stakeholder discussions with local participants. This activity will be coordinated with the Senate Health and Long-Term Care Committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: July 29 & 30 in Wenatchee & Spokane; 2 in November in Seattle

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Health Care Provider Shortages and Training

Project Goal:

Identify efforts to increase the supply of health care providers in Washington.

Project Description:

During the 2008 legislative session, the Committee held a joint work session with the Economic Development Committee to learn about the impact of the health care sector as a source of job opportunities. In addition, HB 3277 was referred to the Committee last session and would have required that the Department of Health review cross-credentialing opportunities for rural areas of Washington.

The Committee will continue its review of the supply of health care professionals by holding a joint hearing with the Higher Education Committee. The Committee will receive updates on Washington's plan to address health care provider shortages, recent findings from the Health Workforce Survey enacted two years ago, and the status of the incumbent worker training initiative funded in the budget. In addition, the Committee will assess the need in rural areas for health care specialists with cross-training in identified specialty services, and will review educational and regulatory barriers to, and options and opportunities for, achieving cross-training or credentialing appropriate to addressing rural health care needs.

Number & Type of Meetings: September Committee Assembly work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake, Chris Cordes

Project Title: School Health Task Force Report

Project Goal:

Understand school health service delivery models, health issues that affect students, and the link between school health and academic performance.

Project Description:

The Select Interim Legislative Task Force on Comprehensive School Health Reform was established in 2SSB 5093 (2007) 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 Task Force is to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by October 1, 2008.

The Committee will monitor the Task Force's activities and recommendation development.

Number & Type of Meetings: December Committee Assembly work session

Completion Date: October 2008

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake, Chris Cordes

Project Title: Analysis of Health Care Reform Proposals

Project Goal:

Identify the elements of a health care reform proposal that will provide affordable, accessible, and quality health care for Washingtonians.

Project Description:

The Committee will monitor the work of an Independent Contractor who will analyze the Health Care Reform proposals contained in SB 6333. The results of the econometric analysis will be used by a citizen's work group on health care reform and the Legislature to explore future options for reforming the health care delivery and financing system.

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

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Implementation of the Health Insurance Partnership

Project Goal:

Develop a program to offer affordable health coverage for employees of small business.

Project Description:

The Committee will monitor the implementation of the Health Insurance Partnership (HIP) through the Health Care Authority. This will include the development of a mechanism to finance group health coverage for employees of small business through contributions of employers, employees, and the State. The implications of including the individual health insurance market and small group health insurance market in the HIP will also be reviewed and analyzed.

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

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Glucagon Emergencies

Project Goal:

Receive information to assist the Committee's consideration of glucagon legislation.

Project Description:

Glucagon is an injectible drug that is used by diabetics to treat emergency hypoglycemic conditions. SB 6223 would have required all ambulance and aid vehicles to carry glucagon and allowed emergency medical technicians to administer it. Currently the only injectible drugs that emergency medical technicians may administer is epinephrine.

The Committee staff will consult the EMS and Trauma Care Steering Committee for its analysis of the safety of authorizing emergency medical technicians to administer glucagon as well as the community need for access to glucagon and the costs of supplying emergency vehicles with the drug and training personnel in its use.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Primary Care Collaboratives

Project Goal:

Monitor the implementation activities related to HB 2549

Project Description:

The Committee staff will monitor the creation of a primary care medical home collaborative program. This will include following the study of strategies to change the reimbursement system for publically funded health coverage programs to make primary care practices more financially viable.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Regional Support Network Designation

Project Goal:

Identify an entity to perform the functions of a Regional Support Network for Pierce County

Project Description:

The Committee staff will monitor the request for proposal process and the selection of an entity to perform the functions of a Regional Support Network for Pierce County.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: December, 2008

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Registered Counselor Rulemaking

Project Goal:

Monitor the rulemaking activities related to the implementation of 2SHB 2674.

Project Description:

The establishment of higher credentialing standards for registered counselors has been the subject of several bills over the past two sessions as well as two separate interim work groups. With the passage of 2SHB 2674, the registered counselor profession will be divided into eight different categories of behavioral health professionals.

The Committee staff will monitor the rulemaking activities to implement 2SHB 2674.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Self-Referral Practices

Project Goal:

Develop policy options to encourage appropriate referral practices among health care providers.

Project Description:

Both state and federal laws restrict certain referral practices between physicians and medical facilities where the physician may have a financial interest. These restrictions are intended to limit the potential for unnecessary utilization of services by removing financial incentives for health care providers. During the 2008 session, the Committee held a work session on HB 2691 (2008) which would have restricted referral practices among health care providers in Washington.

The Committee staff will review state and federal legislation related to the referral practices of health care providers and the impact that it has on the use of health care services and expenditures for those services. The Committee will explore various policy options to reduce inappropriate referrals through legal restrictions and purchasing strategies.

Number & Type of Meetings: Informal meetings with stakeholders

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Sickle Cell Disease

Project Goal:

Identify best practices related to sickle cell disease.

Project Description:

Last session SB 6205 was introduced which would have created a joint select committee to review screening, diagnosis, treatment and education practices related to sickle cell disease.

The Committee staff will study current public health activities related to sickle cell disease and identify gaps in Washington in best practices and which ones require legislation.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

**House of Representatives
Higher Education
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
May 1	1 Day	Web Dialogue	Full Committee	Web Dialogue on Teacher Preparation and Support	Web Dialogue
June 12	1 Day	Seattle	Full Committee (Joint with Early Learning & Children's Services)	Teacher Preparation and Support	Work Session
September 12	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee (Joint with Health Care and Wellness Committee)	Health Care Provider Shortages & Training	Work Session
December 5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Major Reports and Updates	Work Session

Project Title: Web Dialogue on Teacher Preparation and Support

Project Goal:

Increase knowledge and understanding of programs and practices that promote teacher quality.

Project Description:

The internet-based dialogue is broken into three different subject areas relating to teacher preparation. Each subject area will have a panel that includes 5-7 subject area experts. The moderator for each panel will pose several "key questions" that will be the subject of the panels discussion. The panels and questions include:

Panel One: Teacher Prep: Program Design and Institutional Support

- ~ What are the promising new approaches to educator preparation? What if teachers were prepared like doctors and did a longer term "residency"?
- ~ How do we address teacher shortages?
- ~ How do colleges and universities actively support teacher preparation?

Panel Two: Teacher Preparation: Skills and Knowledge

- ~ What essential skills and knowledge do new teachers need?
- ~ What are the new approaches in colleges of education to keep faculty up-to-date on the best practices in K-12 education and the current needs of today's classrooms? What kinds of faculty professional development programs are out there?
- ~ How can connections between faculty and K-12 schools be strengthened? Is there a need/desire for faculty to spend more time in K-12 classrooms? What are the incentives/disincentives for doing so?

Panel Three: Teacher Success

- ~ What are the promising practices and new approaches to support and mentor teachers already in the classroom?
- ~ How should teacher preparedness be assessed in terms of success in the classroom? (what is the feedback loop informing the content of teacher prep programs?)
- ~ What is the continued role of higher education in partnering with schools in support of beginning teachers?
- ~ What are the barriers to recruiting and retaining high quality teachers?

Number & Type of Meetings: One internet-based meeting

Completion Date: May 2008

Staff Assigned: Andi Smith

Project Title: Teacher Preparation and Support

Project Goal:

Increase knowledge of the approaches and programs that increase the quantity and quality of teachers and explore options for legislation during the 2009 legislative session.

Project Description:

This meeting builds on the discussion held via the Web dialogue in early May. The Committee will discuss various issues raised in the Web dialogue related to how early learning professional and teacher preparation programs are structured, what skills, knowledge and abilities beginning teachers must have, and the ways in which pre-schools, K-12 schools, and universities work together to continue to support and mentor educators.

This topic is multi-faceted and complex. As such, there are many opinions on how teacher preparation programs should be taught, what the content should be, and how quality should be assessed. The Committee will hear in-depth presentations from various content experts that will offer different perspectives on these issues in an effort to inform any necessary legislation during the 2009 session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: June 2008

Staff Assigned: Andi Smith

Project Title: Health Care Provider Shortages & Training

Project Goal:

Increase knowledge of efforts to educate adequate numbers of health care professionals in shortage areas and explore options for legislation during the 2009 session.

Project Description:

The Committee will review the supply of health care professionals by holding a joint hearing with the Health Care and Wellness Committee. The committees will receive updates on Washington's plan to address health care provider shortages, recent findings from the Health Workforce Survey enacted two years ago, and the status of the incumbent worker training initiative funded in the budget. In addition, the committees will assess the need in rural areas for health care specialists with cross-training in identified specialty services and will review educational and regulatory barriers to, and options and opportunities for, achieving cross-training or credentialing appropriate to addressing rural health care needs.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Andi Smith and Cece Clynh

Project Title: Major Reports and Updates

Project Goal:

Receive updates from various agencies and institutions on projects assigned to them during the previous legislative session.

Project Description:

The Committee will hear reports from the Higher Education Coordinating Board, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the Workforce Board, and some two- and four-year institutions regarding various tasks laid out in the Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education. Presentations will likely include reports on detailed enrollment targets and plans, a study of the physical, technological, and programmatic capacity needs, and a systematic framework for increasing the number and percent of students, staff, and faculty of color.

The HECB may also be asked to provide a progress report on the development of performance agreements under EHB 2641 enacted during the 2008 session. Several other agencies or institutions have also been tasked with reporting on various projects. Other subjects that might be included in the meeting include the study on adult literacy from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy and a report from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges on eLearning standards and best practices.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Andi Smith and Cece Clynch

**House of Representatives
Housing
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
June 11	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Lynnwood	Full Committee	Sustainable Construction Practices & Housing	Work Session
September 11	8:30 am to 9:30 am	Olympia	Full Committee (Joint with Community & Economic Development & Trade)	Workforce Housing and Economic Development	Work Session
September 12	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Housing Reform Policies	Work Session
November (late) 2008	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Olympia	Full Committee (Joint with Finance)	Addressing the Cost of Affordable Housing Development	Work Session
December 5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Housing Key Indicators	Work Session

Project Title: Sustainable Construction Practices and Housing

Project Goal:

To better understand the intersection between state housing policy and the integration of sustainable housing construction practices in Washington.

Project Description:

Green building practices are becoming more and more prevalent in the construction industry. The Committee will examine opportunities that arise through the development of state policies to further encourage and develop sustainable housing construction activities. The Committee will hear from developers employing innovative green building tactics in South Snohomish County, North King County and Bellingham.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Robyn Dupuis

Project Title: Workforce Housing and Economic Development

Project Goal:

To define the need and identify solutions to address the shortage of appropriate workforce housing in Washington state.

Project Description:

Washington state economic development organizations identify the availability of affordable housing as a major factor impacting business recruitment, retention and expansion. The Committee, jointly with the House Community & Economic Development & Trade Committee, will discuss the relationship between the availability of workforce housing and economic and community development. The committees will identify information related to the need for workforce housing and initiatives proposed or enacted by different regions of the state to address workforce housing issues, determine the interplay between workforce housing and economic development, and identify the extent to which workforce housing is addressed in economic development planning efforts.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Robyn Dupuis

Project Title: Housing Reform Policies

Project Goal:

To identify policy reforms with the potential to promote affordable housing.

Project Description:

A discussion among the Committee and stakeholders to identify policy and procedure reforms to increase efficiency and effectiveness in affordable housing development and to further the goals of fulfilling the housing needs of the state. The work may include a discussion of possible legislation.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: July 2008

Staff Assigned: Robyn Dupuis

Project Title: Addressing the Cost of Affordable Housing Development

Project Goal:

To explore tax incentives and other possible strategies that have the potential to reduce the cost of affordable housing development in order to increase the production of affordable housing.

Project Description:

The development of affordable housing is a challenge given escalating land and construction costs. The Housing and Finance Committees will explore opportunities to reduce the cost of affordable housing development through strategies including tax incentive programs and others in order to increase the availability of such housing to income eligible families. The Committees will discuss the effect such strategies will have on local government operations and the local housing market.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2008

Staff Assigned: Robyn Dupuis

Project Title: Housing Key Indicators

Project Goal:

To understand and analyze the "Housing Dashboard Report" and identify additional key indicators to be incorporated in additional report updates.

Project Description:

The Committee will analyze the selected indicators in the "Housing Dashboard Report" and solicit suggestions from stakeholders for additional indicators to be added in the future with an eye toward indicators with readily available information (or a determination of the cost of accessing such information) and timely replicability of statistics.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Robyn Dupuis

**House of Representatives
Human Services
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
June 12	One day	Seattle	Full Committee	Girls in the Juvenile Justice System	Work Session
June 30	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	The Working Age Adult Policy for individuals with Developmental Disabilities	Work Session
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee (Joint with Early Learning & Children's Services)	Children of Incarcerated Parents	Work Session
September 10	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee (Joint with Judiciary)	Attorney Representation of Juveniles in the Juvenile Justice System	Work Session
September 12	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Offenders with Developmental Disabilities	Work Session
December 5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	The Working Age Adult Policy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities	Work Session

Project Title: Girls in the Juvenile Justice System

Project Goal:

Examine the programs that are available to girls in the Juvenile Justice System.

Project Description:

Girls represent a higher percentage of the total number of arrests in Washington State than they did 15 years ago. In 1992, girls represented 25.2 percent of the total arrests, while in 2006, 28.7 percent of the arrests were of girls. The percentage of girls admitted to juvenile detention has also increased over the past several years. In 1992, 17.6 percent of juveniles admitted to detention were girls. In 2005, 29.2 percent were girls.

The Committee will examine the programs that are available for girls in the juvenile justice system beginning at the point of admission into detention through the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: The Working Age Adult Policy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Project Goal:

Review the Working Age Adult Policy to assess how it is working and what policy options should be examined.

Project Description:

In 2004 the Department of Social and Health Services adopted an employment policy for individuals with developmental disabilities receiving services funded by the state. The policy was based on a review and recommendations made by stakeholders. This policy, called the Working Age Adult Policy, requires adults with developmental disabilities who are aged 21 to 63 to be employed or seeking employment. With limited exceptions, state funded services are available to these individuals only if the services are related to the employment goal.

The Committee will review the policy to assess how the policy has been implemented, what exceptions have been used, whether the policy is achieving its goals, what are current stakeholder views, and, if change is indicated, what policy options could be considered.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Attorney Representation of Juveniles in the Juvenile Justice System

Project Goal:

Examine the current state of representation of juveniles in the Juvenile Justice System.

Project Description:

Many county systems for the representation of indigent juveniles are underfunded and poorly resourced, resulting in the failure to appoint attorneys for all court appearances and excessive caseloads. In 17 Washington counties, public defenders are often unavailable to represent juveniles at arraignment. The representation of juveniles in the state remains inconsistent and, in some jurisdictions, substandard.

The Committee, jointly with the Judiciary Committee, will review the current state of representation of juveniles and assess the need for possible policy changes to provide consistent, competent representation

Number & Type of Meetings: One joint work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle, Trudes Tango

Project Title: Children of Incarcerated Parents

Project Goal:

Receive a report from the advisory committee convened by the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development under Chapter 384 Laws of 2007 (E2SHB 1422)

Project Description:

In 2007 the Legislature enacted E2SHB 1422 addressing the needs of children of incarcerated parents and directing the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development to establish an advisory committee to monitor, guide, and report on recommendations relating to policies and programs for children and families with incarcerated parents. Among other tasks, the advisory committee is to identify areas of need and develop recommendations for the Legislature, the Department of Social and Health Services, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Early Learning, and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to better meet the needs of children and families or persons incarcerated in department of corrections facilities.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session, joint with House Early Learning & Children's Services Committee, during September Committee Assembly

Completion Date: September 30

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Offenders with Developmental Disabilities

Project Goal:

Assess the status of the treatment of offenders who have developmental disabilities.

Project Description:

The Committee will examine issues related to offenders with developmental disabilities who are in Department of Correction or Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration facilities. Issues may include how these offenders are identified, what accommodations are provided, and how these offenders are treated from the time they are charged with an offense through any period of probation.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

**House of Representatives
Insurance, Financial Services & Consumer Protection
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 12	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. 1031 Exchange Regulation 2. Mortgage Lending	Work Session
December 5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Payday Lending 2. Credit scoring in Insurance 3. Steering in Auto Insurance	Work Session

Project Title: 1031 Exchange Regulation

Project Goal:

Refine draft legislation on 1031 exchange regulation and facilitators.

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 and participants 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. There have been issues with a few facilitators facing allegations involving fraud and bankruptcy. The Committee will discuss 1031 exchange issues concerning facilitators. In 2008, a bill was introduced on the subject of 1031 exchange regulation. The Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) and the 1031 exchange industry asked that the Committee not consider that bill to allow for further discussion and refinement of the proposal. The Committee will hold a work session on the topic with the goal of introducing legislation.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

Project Title: Mortgage Lending

Project Goal:

Committee education and update on mortgage lending and possible draft legislation.

Project Description:

In 2008, the Legislature passed a number of bills related to mortgage lending. Several of the bills required the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) to adopt rules. The Committee will be briefed on the current state of the market and any new or pending federal changes in regulation. The DFI will also update the Committee on its development of mortgage lending rules.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard & Alison Hellberg

Project Title: Payday Lending

Project Goal:

Possible draft legislation on payday lending.

Project Description:

The Committee will look at the underlying reasons why consumers take out payday loans and how to best improve the financial literacy of consumers to ensure that they make the best choices for their financial situation. The Committee will review recent payday lending legislative and regulatory activity around the country. The Committee may discuss possible legislative proposals.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Alison Hellberg

Project Title: Credit Scoring in Insurance

Project Goal:

Possible draft legislation on credit scoring in insurance.

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 specifically consider how consumers can better understand their credit score, the use of credit scores in insurance, and how a credit score can be impacted by the actions of the consumer. The Committee may discuss possible legislation for the 2009 session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

Project Title: Steering in Auto Insurance

Project Goal:

Possible draft legislation addressing steering in auto insurance.

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. A recent law provided some additional consumer protections regarding the replacement of auto glass. Despite the existing statute and rule, the committee has received a variety of complaints from some stakeholders. The complaints include statements that consumers do not understand their rights, allegations of noncompliance by insurers and their third-party administrators, and allegations of the illegal practice of "steering." In 2008, the House passed a bill to address this subject. The bill did not pass the Senate. The Committee will review the industry practices and the 2008 legislation. The Committee will review how to best ensure that consumers actually receive the benefits that are paid for in their insurance contracts.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

**House of Representatives
Judiciary
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 10	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee (Joint with Human Services)	Attorney Representation of Juveniles in the Juvenile Justice System.	Work Session
September 12	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Preliminary Report from the Dissolution Task Force	Work Session
December 5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Report from the Office of Civil Legal Aid on its Survey of Legal Representation for Children in Dependencies	Work Session

Project Title: Attorney Representation of Juveniles in the Juvenile Justice System

Project Goal:

Examine the current state of representation and to assess what needs to be done to provide consistent, competent representation of juveniles.

Project Description:

Many county systems for the representation of indigent juveniles are underfunded and poorly resourced, resulting in the failure to appoint attorneys for all court appearances and excessive caseloads. In 17 Washington counties, public defenders are often unavailable to represent juveniles at arraignment. The representation of juveniles in the state remains inconsistent and, in some jurisdictions, substandard.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date:

Staff Assigned: Trudes Tango

Project Title: Preliminary Report from the Dissolution Task Force

Project Goal:

Receive a preliminary report of the work of the Dissolution Task Force.

Project Description:

The Committee will receive a report from the Dissolution Task Force established in 2007 when the Legislature passed 2SSB 5470 regarding dissolution proceedings. The Task Force is charged with developing statewide protocols for dissolution cases and, in particular, must develop: Clear and concise dispute resolution proceedings; a sexual assault training curriculum, in conjunction with the Office of Crime Victims' Advocacy; consistent standards for parenting evaluators; and a domestic violence training curriculum for individuals making evaluations in dissolution cases. The Task Force will also make recommendations regarding specialized evaluators for dissolution cases, dissolution forms and procedures, fees, venue for filing and modifying petitions, and creating a position that will serve as the initial point of contact for people filing dissolution or separation petitions.

The Task Force has been meeting regularly and expects to have a preliminary report for the Legislature by September 1, 2008. The final report and recommendations will be completed by December 1, 2008.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Trudes Tango

Project Title: Report from the Office of Civil Legal Aid on its Survey of Legal Representation of Children in Dependencies

Project Goal:

Review the findings of the Office of Civil Legal Aid survey and assessment of existing practices relating to the provision of legal representation for children involved in dependency proceedings.

Project Description:

Last session, the Judiciary Committee heard, but the Legislature did not pass, HB 3048, which would have established a pilot program for some counties to provide legal representation to children ages 12 and older in dependency proceedings. Statutory and court rule provisions authorize the appointment of counsel for youth in these cases, but the practice of appointing counsel varies greatly throughout the state. There is no official data on which counties regularly appoint counsel for children and how often counsel is appointed in dependency cases. In addition, a provision in ESSB 6792, which the Legislature passed in 2008, establishes a pilot program for children ages 12 and older who are the subject of dependency proceedings to have certain rights with respect to the hearings, such as the right to be present at the hearings and to be personally heard. This pilot program does not provide for legal representation of these children.

The Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA) is required to periodically report to the Legislature on the status of access to the civil justice system for low-income people eligible for state-funded legal aid. The OCLA plans to work with representatives of the Supreme Court's Commission on Children in Foster Care, the University of Washington's Children and Youth Advocacy Clinic, the Washington Defender Association, and advocates for youth involved in dependency proceedings to design and undertake an assessment of the status of existing practices and the level of unmet need for legal representation of youth in these proceedings on both a statewide and county-by-county basis. The OCLA will report the findings of its survey to the Judiciary Committee in December 2008.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Trudes Tango

**House of Representatives
Local Government
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 12	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Governance Transition Issues 2. Planning Costs: The Effects of Land Use Regulations on Housing Prices	Work Session
December 5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Monitoring the Ruckelshaus Center's Examination of Conflicts Between Agricultural Activities and Critical Area Ordinances 2. Agricultural Structure Permits 3. Consideration of Legislation for the 2009 session	Work Session

Project Title: Governance Transition Issues

Project Goal:

Examine governance transition issues, including related impacts on service provision obligations and objectives.

Project Description:

Washington's growing population uniquely affects local governments and special purpose districts. Annexations, incorporations, and other actions resulting from population growth and new development often result in governance transition issues that must be addressed by counties, cities, and other service providers.

In completing this project, the Committee will examine governance transition issues pertaining to assumptions of water/sewer districts and annexations, confer with public and private sector individuals with relevant expertise, and hold a work session during the September Committee Assembly Week.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno and Thamas Osborn

Project Title: Planning Costs: The Effects of Land Use Regulations on Housing Prices

Project Goal:

Examine the effects that land use regulations have on housing prices.

Project Description:

Housing data indicates that between 1989 and 2006, the median inflation-adjusted price of a Seattle house rose from \$221,000 to \$447,800. According to a recent study by the University of Washington, \$200,000 of the cost increase is attributable to land use regulations.

This project will include an examination of the effects that land use regulations have on housing prices. In completing this project, the Committee will review literature examining housing price increases, including literature that considers regulatory and non-regulatory factors, confer with public and private sector individuals with relevant expertise, and hold a work session during the September Committee Assembly Week.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Thamas Osborn and Ethan Moreno

Project Title: Monitoring the Ruckelshaus Center's Examination of Conflicts Between Agricultural Activities and Critical Area Ordinances

Project Goal:

Monitor and report on ongoing efforts of the Ruckelshaus Center to examine the conflicts between agricultural activities and critical area ordinances.

Project Description:

Enacted in 2007, SSB 5248 charges the William D. Ruckelshaus Center with conducting a multi-year examination of conflicts between agricultural activities and regulations to protect critical areas that local jurisdictions must adopt under the Growth Management Act. The Center began its examination in 2007 and completed an initial status report in late 2007. The second of the Center's of three legislatively mandated reports must be submitted to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2008.

In completing this project, the Committee will: receive staff briefings about the implementation meetings of the Center; correspond with Center staff about its planning and implementation efforts; and receive a formal briefing from the Center at the December Committee Assembly Week.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno and Thamas Osborn

Project Title: Agricultural Structure Permits

Project Goal:

Examine and consider modifications to permitting requirements for certain agricultural structures.

Project Description:

Legislation introduced in 2008 (HB 2767 and SB 6609) proposed exempting qualifying agricultural structures from the state building code. Subsequent versions of the legislation proposed establishing building permit charge limits for specialty agricultural structures, and convening a legislative task force on agricultural structure permits, but neither approach was adopted.

In completing this project the Committee will review policy options considered in the 2008 legislation, research perspectives on and effects of proposed alternatives, confer with public and private sector individuals with relevant expertise, and plan a work session for the December Committee Assembly Week.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno and Thamas Osborn

**House of Representatives
Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
May 21	10:00 am - 12:30 pm	Olympia	Full Committee	Increasing Threshold Values for Crimes Against Property	Work Session
September 12	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Northwest Warning Alert and Response Network 2. Public Safety Funding and Local Governments	Work Session
October	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear, or Explosive Incident Response Program	Work Session
December 5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority 2. Prevention, Intervention, and Suppression of Criminal Street Gangs	Work Session

Project Title: Increasing Threshold Values for Crimes Against Property

Project Goal:

Evaluate and make recommendations for increasing threshold values for crimes against property.

Project Description:

The penalties for property crimes are generally based on the dollar value of the property stolen or damaged. During the 2008 legislative session, the Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee considered SB 5343. The bill would have increased the dollar threshold values for the property crimes of malicious mischief, theft, unlawful issuance of checks or drafts, theft of rental, leased, or loaned property, and possessing stolen property. Those in support of the bill stated that the threshold values for crimes of property have not been increased in thirty years and that the proposed legislation merely involves an inflationary change and that the proposed statutory language does not affect the substance of the crimes. Other stakeholders stated that there is no benefit to raising the limits and that doing so would just cause well organized thieves to steal up to that new amount. The Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee will work in conjunction with the appropriate stakeholders to determine a resolution to dealing with the inflationary values for crimes against property.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2009

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker & Jim Morishima

Project Title: Northwest Warning Alert and Response Network

Project Goal:

Overview of the Northwest Warning Alert and Response Network that allows for the reciprocal exchange of critical information and intelligence sharing of information.

Project Description:

The Pacific Northwest Economic Region is a regional U.S. and Canadian forum dedicated to encouraging global economic competitiveness and preserving world-class natural environment. The organization operates the Northwest Warning Alert and Response Network (NWWARN). The NWWARN is a collaborative effort between government and private sector partners with the goal of maximizing real-time sharing of situational information without delay and providing immediate distribution of intelligence to those in the field who need to act on it. The NWWARN uses readily available communication methods to rapidly disseminate actionable information between the members of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region. The development of NWWARN began in Washington and is expanding to Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, and the Yukon Territory. The Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee will invite the Pacific Northwest Economic Region to provide an overview of the NWWARN program that allows for the reciprocal exchange of critical information and intelligence sharing of information.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker & Jim Morishima

Project Title: Public Safety Funding and Local Governments

Project Goal:

Receive an update on the types and uses of public safety funding for local governments.

Project Description:

During the 2008 legislative session, the Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness committee reviewed and considered several issues in relation to responding to state-wide emergency situations. Such issues included: evacuation plans, emergency shelters, 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, establishing specifications for emergency preparedness kits, ensuring the availability of vehicle fuel during states of emergency situations, and construction specification and mapping programs for public universities and colleges.

The Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee will invite the Washington State Association of Counties to discuss public safety mandates that local jurisdictions are required to uphold and the state and federal funding that they receive for public safety purposes.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker & Jim Morishima

Project Title: Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear, or Explosive Incident Response Program

Project Goal:

Study ways to establish a chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear, or explosive incident response program.

Project Description:

Various state and local governmental entities in Washington are involved in emergency management and preparedness. During the 2008 legislative session, the Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee considered HB 2790 that would have created a statewide chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear, or explosive (CBRNE) program. Under the bill, the Director of Fire Protection (DFP) in the Washington State Patrol would be responsible for establishing and maintaining a statewide CBRNE incident response program. The DFP would:

- divide the state into CBRNE response regions;
- establish a network of regional teams to respond to CBRNE incidents within their regions and to operate outside their regions in cooperation with other regional teams;
- standardize training, equipment, and procedures for regional teams and others;
- establish procedures for reimbursing regional teams for costs incurred in approved responses; and
- establish procedures for recovering response costs from parties responsible for causing a CBRNE incident.

Several implementation and funding questions were brought forward during the public hearing on the bill. The Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee will review the bill and work with the necessary affected parties to work out many funding and implementation issues prior to the 2009 legislative session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2009

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker & Jim Morishima

Project Title: Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority

Project Goal:

Receive an update on the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority's study of motor vehicle theft crimes in Washington.

Project Description:

In 2007, HB 1001 was enacted that established the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority (WATPA) within the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. The WATPA was charged with reviewing and making recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor regarding motor vehicle theft crimes in Washington. As part of the study, the WATPA is required to annually prepare a report and recommendations on:

- the scope of the problem of motor vehicle theft, including particular areas of the state where the problem is the greatest;
- the various methods of combating the problem of motor vehicle theft;
- the development and implementation of a plan of operation for addressing motor vehicle thefts in Washington; and
- the development and implementation of a financial plan.

The Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee will invite the WATPA to provide an update on its study and recommendations regarding the scope of the problem of motor vehicle theft crimes in Washington.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker & Jim Morishima

Project Title: Prevention, Intervention, and Suppression of Criminal Street Gangs

Project Goal:

Review the implementation of the 2008 criminal street gang legislation and study opportunities for gang prevention/intervention funding.

Project Description:

During the 2008 legislative session, HB 2712 relating to criminal street gangs was enacted. Among a number of things, the act:

- Increased penalties for gang members that commit crimes or recruit juveniles to commit felony offenses on behalf of a gang.
- Established a local grant program to help fund special law enforcement emphasis targeting gang crime and a grant program to support local graffiti and tagging abatement programs.
- Created a statewide criminal street gang database for tracking gang members.
- Required community custody for gang members convicted of an offense involving a firearm.
- Created a new Criminal Street Gang Tagging and Graffiti crime.
- Authorized special civil penalties and costs that may be recovered from offenders that damage or destroy property.
- Established a witness relocation assistance program.
- Required the Department of Corrections to study ways to reduce gang involvement and recruitment among its incarcerated offenders.

The Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee will follow-up on the implementation of the criminal street gang legislation as well as review ways to possibly provide localities with grant funding during the 2009 legislative session for the prevention, intervention, and suppression of street gangs and gang violence.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2009

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker & Jim Morishima

**House of Representatives
State Government & Tribal Affairs
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 12	Morning	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Vote by Mail 2. Dates for Special Elections	Public Hearing/ Work Session
December 5	Morning	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Update on Further Work Relating to Human Remains 2. Public Works Bid Limits	Work Session

Project Title: Vote by Mail

Project Goal:

Legislation for 2009 session relating to voting by mail.

Project Description:

All but one county has elected to conduct elections entirely by mail. However, state statutes do not adequately address the vote-by-mail process and changes are needed to: 1) address how precinct sizes are determined; 2) define and describe voting centers, ballot drop off sites, and accessible voting sites; 3) describe processes at voting centers, including such things as transferring a registration, voting a provisional ballot, signing-in to vote, processing of ballots to counting center, etc.

The Committee will work with the county auditors, the Office of the Secretary of State, and political party representatives to develop the legislation.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Marsha Reilly

Project Title: Dates for Special Elections

Project Goal:

Possible legislation on special election dates.

Project Description:

The Committee has heard several proposals to eliminate some to all special elections. Currently, special elections may be held in February, March, April, and May, as well as on the days of the primary and general election.

County auditors have addressed their concerns about counting ballots from one special election at the same time that they are updating voter registrations and preparing ballots for the next special election. When a county has an election nearly every month, as in some of the smaller counties, housekeeping becomes a real issue. Earlier bills have eliminated two special elections.

The education community has addressed its concerns about eliminating special elections. They are concerned that if two of the spring special election dates are eliminated, all school tax issues will be on the same ballots which they believe will result in schools competing with each other, particularly for bond levies which still require a super majority to pass.

The Committee heard SB 5271 during the 2008 session. This bill would have eliminated the special elections held in March and May. The primary stakeholders were in agreement, and one group still had concerns.

The Committee will work with the stakeholders to try to come to a consensus on eliminating two dates for special elections.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Marsha Reilly, Tracey Taylor

Project Title: Update on Further Work Relating to Human Remains

Project Goal:

Update the committee on further work needed on, and possible legislation relating to, inadvertent discoveries of human remains.

Project Description:

The Committee will be updated on issues relating to E2SHB 2624, Human Remains, and will review follow-up work needed to clarify processes and to outline responsibilities for inadvertent discoveries of human remains.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Tracey Taylor

Project Title: Public Works Bid Limits

Project Goal:

Educate the committee on public works self-performance limits and competitive bid thresholds.

Project Description:

State agencies and municipalities are subject to various state laws regarding contracting. These laws include self-performance limits and competitive bid thresholds for different types of contracts. Over the years, various entities have sought legislative approval for increases in such limits and thresholds. As a result, there are great variances in these laws. In light of the ongoing legislative requests for changes in self-performance limits and competitive bid thresholds as well as the impact of inflation in the construction industry, the Committee will examine the state of the current law and the efficacy of the current limits and thresholds.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Tracey Taylor and Marsha Reilly

**House of Representatives
Technology, Energy and Communications
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. High-Speed Internet Deployment	Work Session
September 12	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Life Science Discovery Fund 2. High-Speed Internet Deployment 3. Renewable Fuels	Work Session
November	All Day	Spokane	Full Committee	Waste-to-Energy	Work Session
November	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Vegetation Management near Utility Rights-of-Way	Work Session
December 5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Wave, Tidal, and Offshore Wind Energy Development 2. Energy Independence Act of 2006 3. Enhanced 911 Funding	Work Session

Project Title: High-speed Internet Deployment

Project Goal:

Monitor agency and stakeholder discussions and consider possible legislation for 2009.

Project Description:

During the 2008 Legislative Session, the Legislature passed E2SSB 6438, which related to statewide high-speed internet deployment and adoption. The bill directs the Department of Information Services, in consultation with the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development and the Utilities and Transportation Commission, to convene a work group to prepare a high-speed internet deployment and adoption strategy for the state.

During the interim, the Committee will: (1) monitor the work group's efforts in developing such a strategy; and (2) consider possible legislation on the issue for 2009.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: December 1, 2008

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin

Project Title: Life Sciences Discovery Fund

Project Goal:

Monitor activities of the Life Sciences Discovery Fund Authority.

Project Description:

In 2005, the Legislature established the Life Sciences Discovery Fund (LSDF) Authority as an instrumentality of the state. The LSDF Authority is authorized to distribute up to \$350 million over 10 years to support life sciences research in the state.

The Committee will monitor the activities of the LSDF Authority and will receive a briefing during September Committee Assembly on the recent grant awards.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 1, 2008

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin

Project Title: Renewable Fuels

Project Goal:

Monitor the implementation of the minimum renewable fuel content requirement; examine policies to assist in the development of distribution infrastructure for renewable fuels; and examine the market potential of by-products from the production of renewable fuel.

Project Description:

In recent years, the Legislature has passed legislation that promotes the increased production and use of renewable fuels such as biodiesel and ethanol. These policies include: (1) establishing a minimum renewable fuel content requirement; (2) providing grants and low-interest loans to support the development of renewable fuel processing facilities; (3) requiring state government to use certain amounts of renewable fuel in state vehicles; and (4) creating the Green Energy Incentive Account to be used for renewable fuel refueling station development.

The Committee will examine how these policies are being implemented and consider possible legislation on these issues for 2009. Also, the Committee will examine the market potential of by-products from the production of renewable fuel.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 1, 2008

Staff Assigned: Scott Richards

Project Title: Waste-to-Energy

Project Goal:

Examine issues relating to the development of waste-to-energy facilities.

Project Description:

Energy may be derived from various sources of waste, such as municipal solid waste, landfill methane, wastewater treatment plants, animal feeding operations, and agricultural crops.

The Committee will examine issues surrounding the development of waste-to-energy facilities in the state.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2008

Staff Assigned: Scott Richards

Project Title: Vegetation Management near Utility Rights-of-Way

Project Goal:

Explore state policies to manage potentially hazardous vegetation located near electrical facilities.

Project Description:

In general, electric utilities do not have the authority to remove or prune vegetation that is located outside of the utility's right-of-way, unless the utility secures permission from the property owner. If certain conditions are met, state law provides electric utilities with immunity from liability for removal of hazardous or imminently hazardous vegetation located near electrical facilities.

During the 2008 Legislative Session, the Committee held a work session to explore the issues surrounding vegetation located near electrical facilities. The Committee will continue discussions with interested parties, stakeholders, and the Utilities and Transportation Commission on this issue and explore potential legislative options to improve electric reliability in the state.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 1, 2008

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin

Project Title: Wave, Tidal, and Off-Shore Wind Energy Development

Project Goal:

Monitor wave and tidal energy activities and examine the potential of offshore wind energy resource development.

Project Description:

Currently, there are seven tidal power projects and one wave power project under development in Washington. In recent months, a Washington-based company has filed a preliminary permit application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a 400 MW wind and wave project in coastal waters near Grays Harbor.

The Committee will continue to monitor wave and tidal energy development and examine the potential of Washington's offshore wind resources and efforts to develop these resources.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Scott Richards

Project Title: Energy Independence Act of 2006

Project Goal:

Monitor implementation of the Energy Independence Act of 2006 (Initiative 937).

Project Description:

The Energy Independence Act (Act) of 2006 requires electric utilities serving more than 25,000 customers in Washington to obtain, by 2020, 15 percent of their electricity from new renewable energy resources and undertake cost-effective energy conservation. Before 2020, these electric utilities must meet interim targets for new renewable energy resources of three percent in 2012 and nine percent in 2016.

During the 2008 interim, the Committee will monitor the implementation of the Act and hold a work session during December Committee Assembly on its status.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff Assigned: Scott Richards

Project Title: Enhanced 911 Funding

Project Goal:

Examine the sustainability of E-911 funding in the state.

Project Description:

Currently, wireline and wireless telecommunications providers must collect a state Enhanced 911 (E-911) excise tax on each telecommunications line. These funds must be deposited into the state E-911 Account. Similarly, wireline and wireless telecommunications providers must collect a county E-911 excise tax on each telecommunication line, if the county in which the telecommunications line is primarily used is a county that has imposed a county E-911 excise tax.

The Committee will review: (1) the current fund balance of the state E-911 Account; (2) the projected fund balance over the next biennium; (3) the overall health of county E-911 funding; (4) the projected cost for state and county governments to upgrade and maintain existing E-911 systems in the state; and (5) the number and type of telecommunications providers that currently pay state and county E-911 excise taxes.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 15, 2008

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin

**House of Representatives
Transportation
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 11	3:30 PM	HHR B	Full Committee	1. State Funding of Local Transportation Projects 2. State Route 520 Bridge Accelerated Construction and Finance Plan 3. Update on Joint Transportation Committee Study on Coordinating Special Needs Transportation 4. Update on Joint Transportation Committee Study of Light Rail Impacts on Interstate 90 Bridge	Work Session
December 5	3:30 PM	HHR B	Full Committee	1. Update on Joint Transportation Committee Study on Freight Investment 2. Update on Joint Transportation Committee Study on the Multimodal Concurrency Pilot Project 3. Update on Joint Transportation Committee Study on Ferry System Costs 4. Update on Transportation Commission Study on Potential Ferry Dedicated Revenue Sources 5. Funding High-Priority Transportation Projects in Washington State	Work Session

Project Title: State Funding of Local Transportation Projects

Project Goal:

Inform members about funding of local transportation projects and how new projects could be funded through existing programs.

Project Description:

The Committee will receive a briefing which addresses:

How to distinguish the difference between state and local transportation projects;

Revenue and resources used at the state and local levels for funding local transportation projects; and

Descriptions of state pass-through funding options, grants, and programs including:

- Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board;
- Transportation Improvement Board;
- County Road Administration Board;
- Department of Transportation Local Programs (Program Z);
- Regional Transportation Planning Organizations; and
- Federal funding.

The September meeting will also include a panel discussion of local funding agencies to discuss how they select, prioritize, and monitor their projects.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Christie Parker, Jerry Long, Teresa Berntsen

Project Title: State Route 520 Bridge Accelerated Construction and Finance Plan

Project Goal:

Monitor the progress in developing a construction and finance plan for the replacement of the State Route 520 bridge.

Project Description:

The State Route 520 (SR 520) bridge replacement project is estimated to cost approximately \$4 billion and was originally assumed to be open to traffic in 2018. In March 2008, the Governor announced the project would be open to traffic in 2014, four years ahead of the current schedule. Mediation efforts are under way to develop a design and mitigation plan for the replacement project. In addition, the 2008 Supplemental Transportation Budget directed the Washington State Department of Transportation to develop early improvements on the Eastern portion of the SR 520 project and report these recommendations to the Joint Transportation Committee by September 1, 2008.

During the September Committee Assembly, the Committee will receive an update on the progress of refining the design, project timelines, costs, early improvements on on the Eastside, and financing of the SR 520 bridge replacement project.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jeff Olsen

Project Title: Update on Joint Transportation Committee Study on Coordinating Special Needs Transportation

Project Goal:

Inform members of progress made in the study of improving effective coordination of special needs transportation.

Project Description:

The Committee will receive an update on the Joint Transportation Committee's (JTC) study of coordinating special needs transportation.

The Legislature directed the JTC to conduct a study of legal and programmatic changes and best practices necessary for providing effective coordination of special needs transportation at the sub-regional level. The JTC has awarded a contract to a consultant firm to assist in the study.

The study is intended to, among other things:

- provide a comprehensive survey of existing services;
- identify opportunities for improving coordination through a uniform system of measuring trip costs, provider agreements and reporting, and other relevant information;
- make recommendations for improving access to customer services; and
- address federal and state funding and program barriers to improving coordination and cost sharing.

Two of four public forums have been scheduled for May 2008. The consultant group has begun its efforts to interview the stakeholders and gather data.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Kathryn Leathers

Project Title: Update on Joint Transportation Committee Study of Light Rail Impacts on Interstate 90 Bridge

Project Goal:

Advise and inform members about light rail impacts on I-90.

Project Description:

The 2008 supplemental budget appropriates up to \$550,000 for an independent technical review of light rail impacts on the Interstate 90 (I-90) - Homer Hadley Floating Bridge. This review is to be overseen by the Joint Transportation Committee. The intent is to complement Sound Transit's current and planned engineering design work to expand light rail on I-90.

The Committee will receive a briefing on the findings of this technical review.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2008 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Christie Parker, Kathryn Leathers

Project Title: Update on Joint Transportation Committee Study on Freight Investment

Project Goal:

Provide an update on the Joint Transportation Committee Freight Mobility Study and the results and recommendations of the study.

Project Description:

Washington is experiencing growth in the shipping of goods in the state. The Joint Transportation Committee has contracted with a consultant to analyze potential funding options to pay for freight mobility improvements, including looking at container fees and the possible freight diversions from Washington to other ports. The study is also looking at who benefits from the improvements and who should be paying for those improvements.

The information to be provided to the Committee includes:

- An overview of the study;
- A briefing on the revenue options available, along with recommendations for freight congestion projects; and
- An overview of the freight congestion projects identified and the analysis to identify the projects with the highest benefits.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jerry Long, Teresa Berntsen

Project Title: Update on Joint Transportation Committee Study on the Multimodal Concurrency Pilot Project

Project Goal:

Provide an update on the status of a multimodal concurrency pilot project conducted by the Puget Sound Regional Council and the City of Bellevue.

Project Description:

The Committee will receive a brief review of multimodal concurrency, followed by a description and status update of the multimodal concurrency pilot program conducted by the Puget Sound Regional Council and the City of Bellevue.

The purpose of the pilot program is to demonstrate how a specific type of multimodal concurrency analysis can be used to broaden and strengthen local concurrency programs. The specific type of multimodal concurrency analysis that is intended to be used in this pilot program will:

- analyze total trip needs for a regional growth center based on adopted land use plans;
- identify the number of trips which can be accommodated by planned roadway, transit service, and non-motorized investments; and
- identify gaps for trips that cannot be served and strategies to fill those gaps.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Kathryn Leathers

Project Title: Update on Joint Transportation Committee Study on Ferry System Costs

Project Goal:

Provide an update on the progress of the Joint Transportation Committee Ferries Finance Study, Phase III, and explain how the information will inform decisions during the 2009 legislative session.

Project Description:

The purpose of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Ferries Finance Study, which began in 2006, is to help the Legislature make policy and budget decisions regarding Washington State Ferries (WSF). The WSF is at an important financial crossroads. Historically, a significant portion of WSF's budget was funded through the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET), which was repealed in 2000. Since that time fares have been raised substantially and ridership has declined. At the same time, WSF faces rising fuel and labor costs and rising capital costs as its fleet of vessels and its terminals age. Recently, several vessels had to be taken out of service, leading to service disruptions.

A presentation to the Committee will provide a review of the progress of the JTC Ferries Finance Study and will explain how the information will inform decisions during the 2009 legislative session. Elements of the study include:

- results of review of WSF operating and capital costs;
- updated ridership demand forecast;
- results of rider survey; and
- proposed operating and pricing strategies.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Teresa Berntsen

Project Title: Update on Transportation Commission Study on Potential Ferry Dedicated Revenue Sources

Project Goal:

Identify funding options available to provide funding for ferry operating and capital costs.

Project Description:

A presentation to the Committee will provide an overview of the study being conducted by the Washington Transportation Commission (WTC) to identify potential revenue options for the Washington State Ferries. The study must:

- Model and assess the revenue generating potentials of feasible alternative funding sources;
- Develop revenue forecasting models that will be dynamic, with the ownership being retained by the WTC; and
- Identify revenue recommendations that will be equal to or greater than the funding level that is needed as identified by the study being conducted by the Joint Transportation Committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Teresa Berntsen, Jerry Long

Project Title: Funding High-Priority Transportation Projects in Washington State

Project Goal:

Educate and inform members about selected major transportation projects throughout the state.

Project Description:

The Committee will be provided with an overview of selected high-priority state highway and ferry projects. The projects to be discussed are likely to include the Columbia River Crossing, North Spokane Corridor, Snoqualmie Pass, State Route 167, Highway 2, Belfair Bypass, Cross Base Highway, Interstate 405 projects, Highway 12 widening, Yelm loop, ferry vessel replacements, and ferry terminal upgrades.

The December meeting will also include a panel of Washington State Department of Transportation representatives to provide detailed information about the Columbia River Crossing and North Spokane Corridor projects.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2008 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Christie Parker, Jeff Olsen

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