

House of Representatives Office of Program Research

2005 Interim Plans

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

June 2005

**Office of Program Research
Washington House of Representatives
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**House of Representatives
Appropriations
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|---|--------------|
| September 15, 2005 | 3:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Balance Sheet Update (2) State Information Technology Projects (3) Update on Savings Assumed in the Budget | Work Session |
| TBA | TBA | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Health Care Cost Containment Efforts (2) Chemical Dependency Treatment Expansion (3) Health Care Initiatives Impacting the Operating Budget | Work Session |
| December 1, 2005 | 3:30 pm | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Progress on Restructuring Child Protection/Neglect Programs in DSHS (2) Education Finance Study (3) Select Committee on Pension Policy Study of Gain Sharing (if completed study is available) (4) State Actuary Retire-Rehire Program Analysis (5) Long-Term Care Task Force (6) Mental Health Task Force (7) 2006 Session Preview | Work Session |

Project Title: Balance Sheet and Other Updates

Project Goal:

Monitor other studies and issues.

Project Description:

The general fund balance sheet will be updated to reflect revenue forecast changes, gubernatorial vetoes, and other updates, and the updated balance sheet will be presented to the Committee.

A variety of committees, councils, and studies were created by the 2005 Legislature that have implications for the operating budget. This project will monitor these and be prepared to update the Committee as needed.

Other items of significance to the budget will be monitored during the interim, including caseload forecasts, legal issues, and budget implementation in general.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Charlie Gavigan, Dave Johnson, Kristen Fraser, and other Appropriations staff

Project Title: State Information Technology (IT) Projects

Project Goal:

Review major state IT projects and discuss strategies to improve the process for approving and completing major IT projects.

Project Description:

Designing, approving, funding, completing, and operating major IT projects is a challenge for both the public and private sectors. The state currently has several major projects in process, some of which face significant problems including OMNI in the Department of Corrections and HRMS in the Department of Personnel. This interim project will review the status of existing IT projects, get an update on the JLARC evaluation of the budget process used for IT projects, and discuss strategies to improve the process for approving and completing major IT projects.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Bernard Dean, David Pringle, and Dave Johnson

Project Title: Savings Assumed in the Budget

Project Goal:

Monitor implementation of various budget saving initiatives assumed in the operating budget.

Project Description:

The 2005-07 operating budget assumed savings from a variety of initiatives. These include: the 1,000 position middle management reduction, the strategic sourcing initiative, proactive measures to manage General Assistance-Unemployable (GAU) caseloads and costs, estate recovery changes, savings in crisis residential centers as well as others across state government. Appropriations Committee staff will monitor implementation of the savings initiatives and may report back to the Appropriations Committee during an interim work session on implementation of these items.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: June 30, 2007

Staff Assigned: Amy Skei, Dave Johnson, Nona Snell, Bernard Dean, and David Pringle

Project Title: Health Care Cost Containment Efforts

Project Goal:

Review and update the Committee on efforts to contain health care costs.

Project Description:

Escalating health care expenditures have been an area of concern at both the state and national level. The 2005-07 budget includes a variety of reports and studies on different aspects of state-purchased health care services and cost containment opportunities. In addition, the budget assumes savings associated with efforts to control utilization of medical services by adopting evidence-based standards, promoting the use of the least costly but equally effective formulations, providing increased access to alcohol and drug treatment services, and working with clients to control over-utilization and inappropriate use of medical services. Finally, the Governor has established a team to take a coordinated, statewide approach to reducing health care cost increases. At the national level, the administration, governors, and legislators are working on recommendations regarding changes to Medicaid eligibility, benefits and financing.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Bernard Dean, Amy Hanson, David Pringle, and Amy Skei

Project Title: Chemical Dependency Treatment Expansion

Project Goal:

Monitor implementation and outcomes of DSHS' expanded chemical dependency treatment efforts.

Project Description:

The 2005-07 operating budget included a total of \$39 million in new funding for a phased-in expansion of drug and alcohol treatment for adults and teens with chemical dependency problems. This represents a significant expansion to the public chemical dependency treatment system; in the case of adults, approximately 11,800 more treatment slots will be available by FY 07 than were available in FY 03 (a 76% increase). Based on the results of a 2002 cost offset study by the DSHS Research and Data Analysis Division, and with additional input from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee, the budget assumes that the treatment expansion for SSI-related and General Assistance-Unemployable (GAU) clients will result in cost offsets in medical assistance and long-term care of \$16.5 million in General Fund-State and \$14.7 million in General Fund-Federal during the FY 2005-07 biennium due to reduced utilization of nursing homes and medical services. The Committee will receive a status report on the Chemical Dependency Treatment Expansion.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Amy Skei

Project Title: Health Care Initiatives Impacting the Operating Budget

Project Goal:

Monitor other health care related studies and bills with fiscal impacts.

Project Description:

There are a variety of health care related bills and studies adopted by the Legislature that impact the operating budget. This project will monitor these bills and studies, including studies of (1) the Basic Health Plan (BHP); (2) Residential Habilitation Center (RHC) clients; (3) the Regional Support Network (RSN) allocation formula for non-medicaid services; (4) the hospital reimbursement system; (5) the health technology assessment pilot project; and (6) strategies for early detection of breast and cervical cancer.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Bernard Dean, Amy Hanson, David Pringle, and Amy Skei

Project Title: Progress on Restructuring Child Protection/Neglect Programs in DSHS

Project Goal:

Monitor progress made on restructuring child protection/neglect programs in DSHS.

Project Description:

The 2005-07 operating budget included \$23.1 million in new funding to implement reform efforts in the DSHS Children's Administration, including a redesigned Child Protective Services/Child Welfare Services (CPS/CWS) model, a new CWS in-home model, chemical dependency specialists, education specialists, and expanded neglect services. Children's Administration must report to the appropriate legislative committees by December 1st of each year regarding the implementation status of these enhancements and regarding outcomes. The Committee will be updated on the status of these efforts.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Amy Skei

Project Title: Education Finance Study

Project Goal:

Monitor the Education Finance Study.

Project Description:

Education finance is a major portion of the operating budget. E2SSB 5441 establishes a study involving early learning, K-12, and higher education. This project will monitor and update the Committee on the study, which is to provide an in-depth review of policy and funding issues and make recommendations in the areas of finance, governance, efficiency, and accountability.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Denise Graham, Brian Enslow, and Amy Skei or Nona Snell

Project Title: Select Committee on Pension Policy's (SCPP) Study of Gain Sharing

Project Goal:

Review the Select Committee on Pension Policy's gain-sharing recommendation.

Project Description:

The Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) is required to study the options available to the Legislature for addressing the liability associated with future gain-sharing benefits. A wide range of options will be examined, and the findings and recommendations must be reported to the legislative fiscal committees no later than December 15, 2005. The Committee will review the SCPP's recommendations.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: David Pringle

Project Title: State Actuary Retire-Rehire Program Analysis

Project Goal:

Review the State Actuary's analysis of the retire-rehire program.

Project Description:

A budget proviso requires the State Actuary to conduct an analysis of the fiscal impact of the retire-rehire program, and to report the findings to the Select Committee on Pension Policy, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Appropriations Committee by December 1, 2005. The analysis will be accompanied by a range of legislative alternatives to the retire-rehire program. The Committee will review the State Actuary's analysis.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: David Pringle

Project Title: Joint Legislative and Executive Task Force on Long-Term Care Financing and Chronic Care Management

Project Goal:

Monitor the activities of the Joint Legislative and Executive Task Force on Long-Term Care Financing and Chronic Care Management (Task Force).

Project Description:

The Task Force will be developing recommendations for public and private mechanisms for financing long-term care and review efficient payment models, disability prevention interventions, chronic care management strategies, and laws and regulations that would reduce the need for long-term care services. The Task Force must submit an initial report no later than January 1, 2006, a report of recommendations no later than January 1, 2007, and a final report no later than June 30, 2007. The Committee will receive a status report on the work of the Task Force.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: June 30, 2007

Staff Assigned: Bernard Dean and Dave Knutson

Project Title: Mental Health Task Force

Project Goal:

Monitor the Joint Legislative and Executive Task Force on Mental Health Services Delivery and Financing.

Project Description:

Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1290 extended the Joint Legislative and Executive Task Force on Mental Health Services Delivery and Financing (Task Force) until June 30, 2007. The Task Force was originally established in the FY04 supplemental budget. The Task Force will make recommendations on the following topics: (1) reorganization of the mental health administrative structure; (2) implementation of the RSN procurement process established in E2SHB 1290; (3) Regional Support Network (RSN) funding distribution methodology; (4) services to non-Medicaid clients; and (5) inpatient psychiatric hospital and community residential bed capacity. The Committee will receive a status report on the work of the Task Force.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Amy Skei

**House of Representatives
Capital Budget
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|--|--------------|
| June | TBA | Olympia | Work Group | Stewardship Comparison of Public and Private Lands and the Fiscal Impact of Payments in Lieu of Taxes | Work Session |
| September | TBA | Olympia | Work Group | Stewardship Comparison of Public and Private Lands and the Fiscal Impact of Payments in Lieu of Taxes | Work Session |
| September 15, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Review of the Predesign Process (2) Ten-Year Capital Plan and Projected Resources | Work Session |
| December 1, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) 2006 Session Preview (2) "Performance Audit of Capital Budget Processes" (3) Update on the Stewardship Comparison of Public and Private Lands and the Fiscal Impact of Payments in Lieu of Taxes | Work Session |

Project Title: Stewardship Comparison of Public and Private Lands and the Fiscal Impact of Payments in Lieu of Taxes

Project Goal:

Research and develop recommendations and findings comparing the stewardship costs to properly manage public lands compared to private lands and the fiscal impacts on counties of purchasing additional public lands.

Project Description:

Section 930 of the 2005-07 Capital Budget (ESSB 6094) directs the Committee to research and develop recommendations and findings comparing the stewardship costs to properly manage public lands compared to private lands and the fiscal impacts on counties of purchasing additional public lands. The Committee will work with the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources, and counties to obtain the necessary information to complete the report. The stewardship comparison component of the report is to include, but not be limited to: weed control, diking and drainage, fencing, signage, and other land management activities. The county fiscal impact component is to include, but not be limited to: a financial analysis determining the difference by county of assessing property taxes on lands acquired under the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program statutes (Chapter 79A.15 RCW) compared to assessing property as open space under Chapter 84.34 RCW.

Number & Type of Meetings: Three work sessions

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson, Jeff Olsen, and Alicia Paatsch.

Project Title: Review of the Predesign Process

Project Goal:

Examine the role of predesign in the capital budget process for major facility projects valued over \$5 million.

Project Description:

Sections 908 and 924 of the 2005-07 Capital Budget (ESSB 6094) direct the Office of Financial Management and the Higher Education Coordinating Board to place a greater emphasis on the early critical review of capital project proposals at the predesign phase, rather than deferring this review to the design or construction phases of a project. According to JLARC's "Performance Audit of Capital Budget Processes," the maximum ability to influence project costs and outcomes occurs in the early planning and design stages of projects. This work session topic will include a discussion of the purpose of a predesign study, requirements, funding standards, benefits of a quality predesign, master plan and policy coordination, as well as a review of select predesigns studies submitted by state agencies.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2005

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson and Marziah Kiehn-Sanford.

Project Title: Ten-Year Capital Plan and Projected Resources

Project Goal:

Review the ten-year capital planning process and projected resources available to fund future capital budgets, including bond capacity under the nine percent constitutional debt limit.

Project Description:

The Washington State Budget and Accounting Act (chapter 43.88 RCW) mandates a long range approach to capital budget planning. The Act requires state agencies and institutions to submit a plan of proposed capital spending for a ten-year period. This long range planning is designed to identify future issues and capital projects proposed to address those issues. The Governor then proposes a ten-year capital plan based on agency proposals and policy considerations. This work session topic will analyze agency ten-year capital plans and review the impact of 2005-07 capital budget decisions and a projection of available resources.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2005

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson and Marziah Kiehn-Sanford.

Project Title: "Performance Audit of Capital Budget Processes"

Project Goal:

Review OFM's plan to address JLARC's "Performance Audit of Capital Budget Processes."

Project Description:

Section 924 of the 2005-07 Capital Budget (ESSB 6094) directs the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to develop a plan, in consultation with the fiscal committees of the Legislature, to address weaknesses identified in the 2005 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee's (JLARC) "Performance Audit of Capital Budget Processes." This work session topic will review the JLARC study conclusions and OFM's plan to strengthen and refine their capital budget processes in response to JLARC's recommendation.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson and Marziah Kiehn-Sanford.

Project Title: Housing Trust Fund Update

Project Goal:

Review and report on the status of the Housing Trust Fund managed by the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.

Project Description:

The Housing Trust Fund supports community efforts to ensure the availability of safe and affordable housing by providing loans and grants for construction, acquisition and rehabilitation of low-income multi-family and single-family housing. Since 1989, the Legislature has appropriated over \$565 million for the program through the state's Capital Budget, including \$100 million in the 2005-07 Capital Budget. This project will review and report on the implementation of the Housing Trust Fund program.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: September 2005

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson

Project Title: Farm Worker Housing Update

Project Goal:

Review and report on the status of the Farm Worker Housing program managed by the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.

Project Description:

The Farm Worker Housing program provides loans and grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations for the development of housing for migrant and seasonal farm workers. Since 1999, the Legislature has appropriated \$33 million for the program through the state's Capital Budget. This project will review and report on the implementation of the Farm Worker Housing program.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: September 2005

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson

Project Title: North Seattle Community College: Employment Resource Center Update

Project Goal:

Monitor the predesign and design of a colocated one-stop office on the North Seattle Community College campus with the Employment Security Department (ESD), the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), and WorkSource partnering agencies.

Project Description:

Section 852 of the 2005-07 Capital Budget provides \$520,000 for the predesign and design of a facility on the North Seattle Community College campus that will provide integrated services and training to shared clients/students of the two-year college, the DSHS, and the ESD. This project will monitor and report on the progress of this capital project.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson and Marziah Kiehn-Sanford.

Project Title: Study Committee on Outdoor Recreation

Project Goal:

Monitor and staff the Study Committee on Outdoor Recreation. Research and develop findings and recommendations pertaining to outdoor recreational facility needs and funding options.

Project Description:

Section 928 of the 2005-07 Capital Budget created a study committee on outdoor recreation to: (1) review local government responses to accommodating population growth and the resulting recreational facility needs; (2) study infrastructure funding issues pertaining to recreational facilities; (3) compile and review information about publicly owned properties that may be suitable for recreational use; and (4) compile an inventory of youth athletic fields and facilities purchased with revenues connected to major league sports stadiums. This project will be staffed jointly by OPR and SCS. A report is due to the Legislature by January 1, 2006.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson, Jeff Olsen, Alicia Paatsch, and Senate Committee Services.

Project Title: 63-20 Financing

Project Goal:

Monitor the work of the State Treasurer's office and an advisory committee on its evaluation of 63-20 financing.

Project Description:

Section 934 of the 2005-07 Capital Budget directs the State Treasurer to conduct an evaluation of IRS revenue ruling 63-20 relating to bond financing contracts for capital construction projects. This project will monitor the work of the State Treasurer's office and an advisory committee consisting of 4 legislators, an OFM representatives, and 1 person appointed by the Governor. Based on the evaluation, the State Treasurer will make recommendations on the use of 63-20 financing to the Legislature and Governor by December 1, 2005.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson

Project Title: Snohomish, Skagit, and Island County Higher Education Needs Assessment and Siting Study

Project Goal:

Monitor the work of the Higher Education Coordinating Board and its advisory committee in assessing the higher education needs in Snohomish, Skagit, and Island counties and in developing solutions to address the identified needs.

Project Description:

Section 615 of the 2005-07 Capital Budget directs the Higher Education Coordinating Board to: 1) assess the higher education needs in the Snohomish, Skagit, and Island counties; 2) evaluate alternative organizational models for meeting identified needs and recommend the type of institution(s) to be established; 3) assess sites for establishment of an institution; and 4) identify costs and process for completing a master plan for higher education expansion in the study area. The HECB will provide an interim report to the Legislature and the Governor by January 15, 2006, and a final report by December 1, 2006.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson and Marziah Kiehn-Sanford.

**House of Representatives
Children and Family Services
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|---|----------------|
| June 13 | 3:00 pm | Cle Elum | Full Committee | Foster Care | Public Hearing |
| September 15, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Foster Care Licensing by Tribes (2) Aging out of Foster Care (3) Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare (4) Faith-based and Community-based Social Services | Work Session |
| October | TBA | Seattle | Full Committee | Children's Mental Health (Joint Meeting with Joint Legislative and Executive Task Force on Mental Health Services and Financing) | Work Session |
| December 1, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Autism: Delivery and Coordination of Services (2) Administrative Structure for the Delivery of Social & Health Services to Children & Families (3) Residential Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (4) Early Learning: Statewide Organization, Voluntary Rating System, and Tiered Reimbursement System (5) Child Safety: Improving the Health, Safety & Welfare of Children receiving Child Protective Services or Child Welfare Services | Work Session |

Project Title: Foster Care

Project Goal:

Consider recommendations from the public concerning the state's foster care system.

Project Description:

The Committee will hold a public hearing in central Washington to hear from residents of the state about issues of concern relating to the state's foster care system. Foster care is one of the most important elements of the state's child welfare system, as it provides children and youth, who are unable to live with their families as a result of child abuse or neglect, with the family connections essential to child and adolescent development. There are a total of nearly 6,300 foster homes available across the state to care for children and youth, which is inadequate to the level of need, particularly in some communities, and represents a decrease in recent years of the number of available foster homes.

Number & Type of Meetings: One public hearing

Completion Date: December 15, 2005

Staff Assigned:

Project Title: Foster Care Licensing by Tribes

Project Goal:

Make recommendations for possible legislation relating to the authority of Indian tribes to license foster and adoptive homes.

Project Description:

The Committee will consider policy options relating to the authority of Indian tribes to license foster and adoptive homes. State law recognizes the authority of Indian tribes within the state to license foster and adoptive homes located within the boundaries of a federally recognized Indian reservation, and provides that the Department of Social and Health Services and state licensed child-placing agencies may place children in tribally licensed facilities if background checks are completed. HB 2148 (2005), which was heard in the House Children and Family Services Committee, would have expanded the authority of Indian tribes to include homes located on or near the boundaries of a reservation.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 15, 2005

Staff Assigned: Sonja Hallum

Project Title: Aging Out of Foster Care

Project Goal:

Make recommendations for possible legislation addressing issues facing youth "aging out" of foster care.

Project Description:

The Committee will consider issues facing youth "aging out" of foster care. Children and youth may be placed in out-of-home care as a result of abuse, neglect, abandonment, or family conflict. If and when children and youth become dependents of the state, they remain state dependents until they move to a permanent placement or until they reach 18 years of age. In 2002, 470 youth "aged out" of foster care.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 15, 2005

Staff Assigned:

Project Title: Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare

Project Goal:

Consider recommendations addressing racial disproportionality in the child welfare system.

Project Description:

The Committee will consider recommendations by the King County Coalition on Racial Disproportionality (Coalition) addressing racial disproportionality in the child welfare system. The Coalition was formed in 2002 to reduce the disproportional negative outcomes experienced by children of color in the King County child welfare system. The Coalition commissioned a study to identify: where disproportionality exists and to what extent; and factors that contribute to racial disproportionality. Following the release of that report in late 2004, the Coalition convened a design team to provide recommendations to address the issues identified in the report. Those recommendations are due to be made public during the summer of 2005.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 15, 2005

Staff Assigned:

Project Title: Faith-Based and Community-Based Social Services

Project Goal:

Make recommendations for possible legislation to increase federal funding for the provision of social services by faith-based and community-based organizations in the state.

Project Description:

The Committee will consider approaches to securing federal funding for the provision of social services by faith-based and community-based organizations across the state. The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and the Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives located in seven federal executive agencies seek to empower faith-based and other community organizations to apply for federal social service grants. Under the President's Faith-Based and Community Initiative, a total of \$2 billion in competitive grants was awarded to faith-based organizations in the last federal fiscal year.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 15, 2005

Staff Assigned:

Project Title: Children's Mental Health

Project Goal:

Make recommendations for possible legislation relating to the provision of mental health services for children and youth.

Project Description:

In coordination with the work of the Joint Legislative and Executive Task Force on Mental Health Services and Financing (Task Force), the Committee will consider policy options relating to the provision of mental health services to the children and youth of the state. The accessibility, quality, and range of mental health services available for children and youth across the state, including not only crisis services but also prevention and early intervention services, is an ongoing issue of concern. The committee will conduct a joint work session on this topic with the Task Force. HB 2039 (2005), which was heard in the House Children and Family Services Committee, would have expanded the list of priority populations for access to treatment through regional or county community mental health programs to include children at risk of becoming severely emotionally disturbed.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 15, 2005

Staff Assigned:

Project Title: Early Learning

Project Goal:

Consider recommendations concerning statewide organization of early learning and monitor development of the voluntary rating system and the tiered-reimbursement system for licensed child care.

Project Description:

The Committee will consider recommendations from the Washington Early Learning Council (Council) concerning statewide organization of early learning and monitor the Council's development of the voluntary rating system and tiered reimbursement system. The Council is established by E2SHB 1152 to provide vision, leadership, and direction to the improvement, realignment, and expansion of early learning programs and services for children birth to 5 years of age in order to better meet the early learning needs of children and their families. The Council is to serve as the Advisory Committee on Early Learning to the Comprehensive Education Study Steering Committee, created in E2SSB 5441, and is to have input on the recommendations developed by the Steering Committee. Membership of the Council includes two members of the Senate, one from each party, appointed by the President of the Senate, and two members of the House of Representatives, one from each party, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Council is required to make recommendations to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature concerning statewide organization of early learning by November 15, 2005, and complete initial development of the voluntary rating system and the tiered-reimbursement system by December 1, 2005.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned:

Project Title: Autism in Washington

Project Goal:

Consider recommendations concerning the growing incidence of autism and ways to improve the delivery and coordination of autism services in the state.

Project Description:

The Committee will receive a status report from the Caring for Washington Individuals with Autism Task Force (Task Force) established by SB 5311 (2005). The Task Force will study and make recommendations to the Legislature regarding the growing incidence of autism and ways to improve the delivery and coordination of autism services in the state. Membership includes two members of the Senate, one from each major caucus, appointed by the President of the Senate, and two members of the House of Representatives, one from each major caucus, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Department of Health is the lead agency in providing staff needed for the performance of the work of the Task Force, but may seek additional staff assistance from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the committee staff of the Legislature. The Task Force is required to complete its review and submit its recommendations to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature and the Governor by December 1, 2006.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff Assigned:

Project Title: Administrative Structure for Delivery of Social and Health Services to Children and Families

Project Goal:

Consider recommendations concerning the most appropriate and effective administrative structure for delivery of social and health services to the children and families of the state.

Project Description:

The Committee will consider the recommendations from the Joint Task Force on Social and Health Services to Children and Families (Joint Task Force) established by ESSB 5872 (2005). The Joint Task Force will determine the most appropriate and effective administrative structure for delivery of social and health services to the children and families of the state. Membership includes two members of the Senate, one from each major caucus, appointed by the President of the Senate, and two members of the House of Representatives, one from each major caucus, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Staff support for the Joint Task Force will be provided by the House Office of Program Research and Senate Committee Services. The Joint Task Force will report its recommendations to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2005.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned:

Project Title: Residential Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Project Goal:

Consider recommendations concerning a preferred system of residential services for persons with developmental disabilities and a plan to implement that system within four years.

Project Description:

The Committee will consider recommendations from the Advisory Council on Residential Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (Council) established in the 2005-07 operating budget. The Council will identify a preferred system of residential services for persons with developmental disabilities and a plan to implement the system within four years. Membership includes two members of the Senate, one from each major caucus, appointed by the President of the Senate, and two members of the House of Representatives, one from each major caucus, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Staff support will be provided by the Department of Social and Health Services, the Developmental Disabilities Council, the Office of Financial Management, the House Office of Program Research, and Senate Committee Services. Recommendations must be provided by January 1, 2006.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2006

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Child Safety

Project Goal:

Consider recommendations on improving the health, safety, and welfare of Washington children in Child Protective Services or Child Welfare Services.

Project Description:

The Committee will receive a status report from the Joint Task Force on Child Safety (Joint Task Force) established by SHB 2156 (2005). The Joint Task Force will review and make recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor on improving the health, safety, and welfare of Washington children in Child Protective Services or Child Welfare Services. Membership includes two members of the Senate, one from each major caucus, appointed by the President of the Senate, and two members of the House of Representatives, one from each major caucus, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Two of the legislative members will serve as co-chairs of the Joint Task Force. The Joint Task Force will use legislative facilities and staff from Senate Committee Services and the House Office of Program Research. The Joint Task Force will report its preliminary findings and recommendations to the Legislature by December 31, 2005, and provide a final report by September 1, 2006.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2006

Staff Assigned: Sonja Hallum

Project Title: Child Care Market Rate Surveys

Project Goal:

Make recommendations for possible legislation relating to child care market rate surveys conducted in the state.

Project Description:

The Committee will consider approaches to conducting child care market rate surveys, including the current methodology applied by the Department of Social and Health Services as well as alternative methodologies. Federal regulations require states to conduct market rate surveys at least once every two years and to use the results of those surveys to inform their child care subsidy reimbursement rate structures. Federal regulations do not specify a particular approach or methodology to be used by states in conducting their market rate surveys. The design and implementation of market rate surveys are critical to obtaining results that accurately capture all relevant data that will be representative of the child care marketplace and will assist in developing a system of reimbursement.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Funding of Evidence-Based Child Welfare Services

Project Goal:

Monitor funding of evidence-based child welfare services and programs.

Project Description:

The Committee will monitor funding of evidence-based child welfare services and programs in the state. The 2005-07 operating budget includes a provision that, within funds appropriated for the Children and Family Services program in the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), priority must be given to proven intervention models, including evidence-based prevention and early intervention programs identified by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy and the DSHS, and the DSHS must include information on the number, type, and outcomes of the evidence-based programs being implemented in its reports on child welfare reform efforts.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Safety of Child Protective Services and Child Welfare Services Staff

Project Goal:

Monitor development of policies and protocols to address the safety of Child Protective Services and Child Welfare Services staff.

Project Description:

The Committee will monitor the development of policies and protocols to address the safety of Child Protective Services and Child Welfare Services staff. HB 2189 (of 2005) requires the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to establish a work group to develop policies and protocols to address the safety of Child Protective Services and Child Welfare Services Staff. The DSHS is required to provide the developed recommendations, policies, and protocols to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2005.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned:

Project Title: Flexible Family Support for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Project Goal:

Monitor implementation of the Flexible Family Support pilot program.

Project Description:

The Committee will monitor implementation of the Flexible Family Support pilot program. The 2005-07 operating budget establishes a Flexible Family Support pilot program for families who are providing care and support for family members with developmental disabilities. The program is to provide funding for support services such as respite care, training and counseling, assistive technologies, transition services, and assistance with extraordinary household expenses. The Department of Social and Health Services is required to provide a status report on the pilot program, as well as recommendations on strategies for integrating state-funded family support programs into a single program, to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature by November 1, 2006.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: November 2006

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: WorkFirst

Project Goal:

Make recommendations for possible legislation relating to administration of the WorkFirst program.

Project Description:

The Committee will consider policy and funding options relating to the future administration of the WorkFirst program. The state's WorkFirst program is facing shortages in funding that require both short-term and long-term decision making concerning the direction of the program. There is also the potential of changes in policy and funding of the program on the federal level within the next year, which will likewise require assessment of the configuration of the state program.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned:

**House of Representatives
Commerce and Labor
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|--|--------------|
| TBA | TBA | Olympia | Full Committee | Workplace Safety - Construction Sites | Work Session |
| TBA | Two days | Yakima | Full Committee | Workplace Safety - Agricultural Operations | Work Session |
| TBA | TBA | Olympia | Full Committee | Review of Centers of Occupational Health and Education | Work Session |
| September 15, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | Oversight of the Washington State Lottery | Work Session |
| December 1, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | Progress Report from Joint Legislative Task Force on State Contracts Performed Outside the United States Progress Report from Joint Legislative Task Force on Unemployment Insurance Benefit Equity | Work Session |

Project Title: Oversight of the Washington State Lottery

Project Goal:

Examine the mission, functions, and administrative structure of the Washington State Lottery.

Project Description:

The Committee will hold a work session to examine the Washington State Lottery, including a review of the State Lottery's mission and organization. The organization review will include the State Lottery's administrative structure, business plan and game development, and budget.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2005

Staff Assigned: Chris Cordes

Project Title: Task Force - State Contracts Performed Outside the United States

Project Goal:

Receive a report from the Joint Legislative Task Force on State Contracts Performed Outside the United States by January 1, 2006.

Project Description:

ESCR 8407 (2005) established the Joint Legislative Task Force on State Contracts Performed Outside the United States, as well as an Advisory Committee to the Task Force.

The Task Force is charged with evaluating: (1) The extent to which the performance of state contracts in other countries results in the creation or loss of jobs; (2) the degree to which the performance of contracts outside the United States helps Washington's economy and its companies remain competitive globally; (3) the extent to which state agency contracts being performed in other countries creates a need for adjustment assistance and retraining programs to ensure that Washington's business climate, its employers, and its workers remain competitive globally; (4) the degree to which state contracts and subcontracts are being performed at locations outside the United States; (5) the extent to which state contracts performed at locations outside the United States involve personal information, as well as a review of laws regarding the privacy of personal information; (6) subject to available funding, the economic costs and benefit of awarding state contracts and subcontracts to Washington companies; (7) the applicability of international trade agreements and federal law to state procurement policies; (8) the extent to which legislative authority over state procurement is adequately protected; and (9) the reasons Washington businesses choose to locate operations outside the United States.

The Committee will receive a progress report on the Task Force and its activities.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 1, 2006

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth and Chris Cordes

Project Title: Task Force - Unemployment Insurance

Project Goal:

Receive a report from the Joint Legislative Task Force on Unemployment Insurance Benefit Equity to the Legislature by January 1, 2006.

Project Description:

The Joint Legislative Task Force on Unemployment Insurance Benefit Equity was established in Engrossed House Bill 2255. The Task Force is charged with reviewing the unemployment insurance system, including whether the benefit structure is equitable, whether the structure fairly accounts for changes in workforce and industry work patterns, including seasonality, and claimant work patterns, whether the tax structure equitably distributes taxes, and whether the trust fund is adequate in the long term.

The Committee will receive a progress report on the Task Force and its activities.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 1, 2006

Staff Assigned: Chris Cordes and Jill Reinmuth

Project Title: Workplace Safety - Construction Sector

Project Goal:

Examine workplace safety in the construction sector.

Project Description:

In recent years the construction sector has had one of the highest numbers of fatal workplace injuries, as well as significant numbers of nonfatal workplace injuries. According to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the construction industry employs one in 17 of the nation's workers, but accounts for one of every six fatal work injuries. Construction exposes workers to slippery surfaces, falls from heights, heavy lifting, power tools, traffic accidents, and other occupational hazards.

During the 2005 interim the House Commerce & Labor Committee will hold a work session on workplace safety in the construction sector. The Committee will examine the numbers and rates of fatal and nonfatal injuries, the Department of Labor and Industries' consultation and compliance activities, and the underground economy's role.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 1, 2006

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth and Chris Cordes

Project Title: Workplace Safety - Agricultural Operations

Project Goal:

Examine workplace safety in agricultural operations.

Project Description:

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reports that thousands of farm workers are injured and hundreds more die in farming accidents every year. According to the OSHA, over the last 20 years, agriculture has emerged as the most hazardous occupation. Farm workers are exposed to many hazards, including chemicals/pesticides, heavy machinery and equipment, and silos and wells.

During the 2005 interim the House Commerce & Labor Committee will hold a work session on workplace safety in agricultural operations. The Committee will examine the numbers and rates of fatal and nonfatal injuries, as well as the Department of Labor and Industries' consultation and compliance activities.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 1, 2006

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth and Chris Cordes

Project Title: Review of Centers of Occupational Health and Education (COHE)

Project Goal:

Learn about the Department of Labor and Industries' occupational health services project, and review the Centers of Occupational Health and Education.

Project Description:

Several years ago, the Department of Labor and Industries initiated an occupational health services project to improve the outcomes for workers, enhance the skills of providers, and improve satisfaction among workers, employers, and providers. This project led to the creation of two Centers of Occupational Health and Education (COHEs) at Valley Medical Center in Renton and Auburn, and at St. Luke's Rehabilitation Institute in Spokane.

During the 2005 interim, the House Commerce & Labor Committee will hold a work session to examine the operations of the existing COHEs, learn about the expansion of the Spokane COHE pursuant to a proviso in the 2005-07 operating budget, and receive an evaluation of the occupational health services project from the University of Washington.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 1, 2006

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth

**House of Representatives
Criminal Justice and Corrections
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|--|--------------|
| September 16, 2005 | 10:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | Judicial and Prosecutorial Discretion in the Determinate Sentencing Scheme Criminal Background Check Processes | Work Session |
| December | TBA | Seattle | Full Committee | Judicial and Prosecutorial Discretion in the Determinate Sentencing Scheme | Work Session |
| December 2, 2005 | 10:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | Sex Offender Management State Public Recreational Lands and Public Safety | Work Session |

Project Title: Judicial and Prosecutorial Discretion in the Determinate Sentencing Scheme

Project Goal:

Monitor SB 5477 and review the current practices surrounding judicial and prosecutorial decisions used in determinate sentencing under the Sentencing Reform Act.

Project Description:

Washington has used determinate sentencing since the Sentencing Reform Act (SRA) went into effect in 1984. Under this system, an offender's sentence is calculated based on the seriousness level of the crime for which he or she was convicted and on the offender's criminal history (or "offender score"). This calculation results in a standard sentencing range, and any sentence imposed that falls within that range may not be appealed.

Until 2004, a judge could impose a sentence above the standard sentence range (an aggravated exceptional sentence) based upon aggravating circumstances the judge found by a preponderance of the evidence. In 2004, in *Blakely v. Washington*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that imposing aggravated exceptional sentences in this manner violated an offender's constitutional right to a jury trial. According to the Court, an aggravated exceptional sentence may only be imposed based on circumstances found by a jury beyond a reasonable doubt. The Legislature enacted SB 5477 in response to the *Blakely* decision. The legislation creates a statutory mechanism under which aggravated exceptional sentences can be imposed based on circumstances found by a jury beyond a reasonable doubt. The legislation also requires the Sentencing Guidelines Commission to study the SRA as it relates to the sentencing grid, all provisions providing for exceptional sentences both above and below the standard sentencing ranges, and judicial discretion in sentencing.

The Committee will monitor the work of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission as it studies whether changes need to be made to the current determinate sentencing structure as it relates to the sentencing of felony offenders.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima and Yvonne Walker

Project Title: Criminal Background Check Processes

Project Goal:

To review and make recommendations regarding how to improve the state's criminal background check process.

Project Description:

The Joint Task Force on Criminal Background Check Processes (Task Force) was created by the passage of ESHB 2556 during the 2004 legislative session. During the 2005 legislative session, the legislature passed SHB 1681 which extended the work of the Task Force for one additional year. The Task Force must review the following issues:

- What state and federal statutes require regarding criminal background checks.
- What criminal offenses are currently reportable through the criminal background check program.
- What information is available through the Washington State Patrol and the Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal background check systems.
- What are the best practices among organizations for obtaining criminal background checks on their employees and volunteers.
- What is the feasibility and costs for businesses and organizations to do periodic background checks.
- What is the feasibility of requiring all businesses and organizations, including nonprofit entities, to conduct criminal background checks for all employees, contractors, agents, and volunteers who have regularly scheduled supervised or unsupervised access to children, developmentally disabled persons, or vulnerable adults.
- What are the benefits and obstacles of implementing a criminal history record information background check program created by the National Child Protection Act of 1993.
- What is the feasibility of establishing a state registration program for private youth sports coaches under which some or all of such persons are required to obtain and disclose to prospective clients and employers a copy of the results of their fingerprint-based criminal background checks.
- A review of the practices of the Department of Social and Health Services with respect to checking the backgrounds of its employees, applicants for employment, and candidates for promotion.

The Committee will monitor the work of the Joint Task Force on Criminal Background Check Processes and will request the Task Force to provide a report on its review and recommendations regarding how to improve the state's criminal background check processes.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 31, 2005

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker

Project Title: Sex Offender Management

Project Goal:

Monitor the work of the Joint Task Force on Sex Offender Management as it studies the issues surrounding community safety and management of sex offenders.

Project Description:

SHB 1147 established a Joint Task Force on Sex Offender Management (Task Force) to examine issues of community safety and the management of sex offenders in the community. The Task Force is charged with studying the: 1) Effectiveness of community protection zones and other strategies to promote community safety, including recommendations on proactive and reactive approaches to sex offender residence locations and any statutory, constitutional, or practical limitations on the state's ability to address sex offender housing requirements; 2) standardization of the community sex offender notification process; 3) applicability of the Public Disclosure Act to sex offender information sharing; 4) training needs of law enforcement, criminal justice staff, and school personnel to increase community safety in relationship to sex offender notification and management strategies; and 5) impact and advisability of pre-notification of local government officials related to sex offender residence location.

The Committee will monitor the work of the Joint Task Force on Sex Offender Management and will request the Task Force to provide a report on its review of the issues surrounding the management of sex offenders released from prison.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima and Yvonne Walker

Project Title: State Public Recreational Lands and Public Safety

Project Goal:

To review the law enforcement issues surrounding the state's public parks and lands.

Project Description:

In 2005, the Legislature passed ESHB 1799 creating a Task Force on State Public Recreational Lands and Public Safety (Task Force). The Task Force must review the law enforcement issues in and around state parks and lands, including: (1) The extent to which illegal activity in and around state parks threatens public safety and natural resources; and (2) The ability of the current state and local law enforcement to respond to illegal activity on or near public recreational lands.

The Committee will monitor the work of the Task Force on State Public Recreational Lands and Public Safety and will request the Task Force to provide a report on its study of the law enforcement issues surrounding state parks in Washington.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 31, 2005

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima & Yvonne Walker

**House of Representatives
Economic Development, Agriculture and Trade
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---|--|--------------|
| June 23 | 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM | Kennewick | Full Committee (Joint with the Local Government Committee) | Tools for the Toolbox: A Review of Legislation Considered by the Local Government Committee and the Economic Development, Agriculture and Trade Committee in 2005 and Thoughts for 2006 | Work Session |
| Fall | TBA | Rural Washington | Full Committee | Joint Meeting with the Technology, Energy, and Communications Committee and the Higher Education Committee | TBA |
| September 16, 2005 | 8:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Economically Targeted Investment Strategies in Other States (2) Drought Response (3) Livestock Nutrient Management Program Update | Work Session |
| December 2, 2005 | 8:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Economically Targeted Investment Policies (Update from the Washington State Investment Board) (2) Columbia River Task Force (3) Livestock Nutrient Management: Water Quality Protocol and Program Update (4) Washington Stadia Financing | Work Session |

Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (DCTED) Work Group

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|---|-------------|
| September 14, 2005 | TBA | Olympia | DCTED Work Group | (1) Briefing on the DCTED's Mission and Budget (2) Review of the DCTED's Divisions (3) Identification of Areas for Improvement and Program Efficiencies | TBA |
| November 30, 2005 | TBA | Olympia | DCTED Work Group | (1) Review of the Department's Mission, Programs, and Budget (2) Consideration of any Legislative Initiatives Related to DCTED Structure, Mission or Budget | TBA |

Project Title: Rural Economic Development

Project Goal:

Understand the needs of Washington's rural communities and the tools currently used for economic and community development in rural Washington.

Project Description:

The needs of rural Washington will be examined through briefings and public meetings. The Committee will take advantage of its oversight of both economic development and agriculture to engage several communities in a conversation regarding the challenges faced, the economic development tools utilized, and the future needs of the community.

Number & Type of Meetings: Public hearings

Completion Date: October 2005

Staff Assigned: Tracey Taylor, Meg Van Schoorl, and Caroleen Dineen

Project Title: Tools for the Toolbox-- A Review of Legislation Considered by the Local Government Committee and the Economic Development, Agriculture and Trade Committee in 2005 and Thoughts for 2006

Project Goal:

Provide cities with an update of relevant legislation from the 2005 session and solicit public comments from city representatives.

Project Description:

The Committee will hold a joint work session with the Local Government Committee. The work session, which will be held in the Tri-Cities at the annual Association of Washington Cities conference in June, will include an overview of relevant legislation considered by the committees in 2005, a discussion of future legislative objectives, and public comments from city representatives.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: June 2005

Staff Assigned: Tracey Taylor, Ethan Moreno, Thamas Osborn, Meg Van Schoorl, and Caroleen Dineen

Project Title: Economically Targeted Investment Policies

Project Goal:

Understand the debate about economically targeted investment policies utilizing state pension and other trust funds.

Project Description:

During the past three legislative sessions, the Committee has considered legislation requiring the Washington State Investment Board to target a set amount of pension and other trust fund moneys to Washington companies. Several other states have implemented similar policies. A small work group of Committee members will: examine the programs in other states and the current status of these programs; further study the advantages and disadvantages of such a policy in Washington; monitor the Washington State Investment Board's progress in implementing the current economically targeted investment policy; and review the impact of the Washington State Investment Board's current initiatives regarding increased investment in the state.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Tracey Taylor

Project Title: Drought Response

Project Goal:

Review of drought conditions and the state's drought response.

Project Description:

The Committee will monitor the activities of the Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought established during the 2005 legislative session. The Committee also will review information regarding drought conditions and monitor the activities of state agencies with respect to drought response. The Committee also will consider any recommendations from the Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought, state agencies, or others regarding drought response.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Caroleen Dineen

Project Title: Livestock Nutrient Management Program

Project Goal:

Understand livestock nutrient management and its relationship to water quality, including federal and state laws and rules, relevant court cases, and required legislative actions.

Project Description:

During the 2005 session, the Legislature considered SB 5602/HB 1615 regarding livestock nutrient management. Industry and environmental stakeholders raised concerns with the initial legislation, particularly after a mid-session ruling by the US Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, vacated and remanded several fundamental program aspects. The issue is complex due to the technical nature of nutrient management, the similarities and differences between state and federal laws and regulations, and the transfer of responsibilities from DOE to WSDA. Although the Governor vetoed Section 2 of SSB 5602, the Committee will have two members on the program's Development and Oversight Committee (DOC) to monitor the program transition, emerging issues, and potential legislation. It is anticipated that there will be three or four meetings of the DOC during the interim.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Meg Van Schoorl

Project Title: A Review of the Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development (DCTED Work Group)

Project Goal:

Understand the mission, programs, and funding of the Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development.

Project Description:

The Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development is the state's leader for economic development programs. It also houses a great deal of other programs that interface and impact economic development in Washington. A small work group of six members of the Committee will examine and analyze the department's mission, program, and budget. The work group may make recommendations to the Committee and the Legislature regarding any efficiencies or improvements that may be made. The work group members also may meet with various department staff and the Economic Development Commission.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work group meetings (6 members)

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Tracey Taylor and Nona Snell

Project Title: Columbia River Task Force

Project Goal:

Participate in and monitor the activities of the Columbia River Task Force.

Project Description:

The Governor has convened the Columbia River Task Force, with executive and legislative members, to study and review issues related to Columbia River water resources and to identify possible legislative and/or regulatory approaches to Columbia River water management. The Columbia River Task Force will hold several meetings during the summer and may schedule a public involvement process and additional Task Force meetings during the fall. Several Committee members will participate as members of the Task Force, and the Committee will monitor Task Force activities and receive a status report during the legislative assembly days.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Caroleen Dineen

Project Title: Washington Stadia Financing

Project Goal:

Understand the role of community baseball stadiums, arenas, and other venues in the community's economic development. Understand the current needs of community baseball stadiums, arenas, and other venues as well as the financing options for improvements.

Project Description:

During the past legislative session, several communities requested funding improvements to community baseball stadiums, arenas, and the arts. A small work group of Committee members will examine the role of these venues in the area's economic development. In addition, the work group will examine the capital needs of these venues and analyze various financing options for the communities to underwrite capital improvements.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Tracey Taylor, Rick Peterson, and Susan Howson.

Project Title: Weights and Measures

Project Goal:

Develop a fee structure for a statewide weights and measures program that increases inspection frequency, reduces general fund support, and is equitable to businesses.

Project Description:

HB 1440 would have given cities that operate weights and measures programs the authority to charge fees in excess of the statutory fee schedule. The bill inadvertently highlighted discrepancies between the programs operated by Washington State Department of Agriculture and by the cities in terms of inspection frequency and device failure rates, and raised the potential issue that businesses outside city limits would pay higher fees than those within.

The Committee will monitor the Weights and Measures work group formed by the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Number & Type of Meetings: None.

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Meg Van Schoorl

Project Title: Farm Policy

Project Goal:

Understand the role of a farm policy in promoting the development of agriculture and related industries.

Project Description:

Despite the significance of agriculture to the state's economy, Washington has no official "farm policy" that guides legislative and executive branch policies, programs, and funding decisions. To begin the discussion of issues around a farm policy, the Committee and staff will research other states' farm policies, both official and unofficial, as benchmarks for comparison. A list of concepts, elements, and issues will be developed for future discussions regarding the development of a Washington farm policy.

Number & Type of Meetings: None.

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Meg Van Schoorl

Project Title: Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) for Agricultural Products

Project Goal:

Understand the concept of country-of-origin-labeling for agricultural products and its applicability at the state level.

Project Description:

Mandatory country-of-origin-labeling (COOL) for agricultural commodities has proven controversial at the federal level. Implementation of mandatory COOL for all but fish and shellfish has been delayed until September 2006. COOL advocates assert: consumers' right to know; food safety and quality assurance; and support for US producers. Opponents counter: increased regulation and costs for producers, processors, and retailers; increased consumer costs; and expanded protectionism in trade. Interest in state-level COOL during the 2005 session was impeded by these issues and by unanswered questions of state versus federal authority. Staff will research and report to the Committee on: COOL concepts, pros and cons, federal program status, and applicability at the state level.

Number & Type of Meetings: None.

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Meg Van Schoorl

**House of Representatives
Education
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| June 28 | TBA | Spokane Convention Center | Full Committee (Meeting at annual conference of principals and Superintendents) | Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2008. | Public Hearing |
| September 14, 2005 | TBA | Olympia | Full Committee | Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2008, including the Certificate of Academic Achievement and Alternatives to the WASL | Work Session |
| September 15, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | Overcoming the Achievement Gap | Work Session |
| November 30, 2005 | TBA | Olympia | Education | Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2008 -- Options for the Certificate of Academic Achievement and Other Graduation Requirements. | Work Session/Public Hearing |
| December 1, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The final report of the House/Senate joint subcommittee on governance. 2. An interim report from the Joint Select Committee on Secondary Education. 3. A progress report on the comprehensive education study created by E2SSB 5441. | Work Session |

Project Title: Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2008

Project Goal:

Prepare legislation on the achievement levels that students must meet on the WASL to graduate in 2008.

Project Description:

Under current law, students will be required to reach the proficient level on the high school WASL in order to graduate from a public high school in 2008. In preparation for legislation to be considered during the 2006 session, the Committee will explore:

1. Other levels that could be required of students in order to meet the graduation requirement;
2. Alternatives that could be used in lieu of the WASL to meet the requirement; and
3. The experience of other states and nations that have instituted high stakes testing requirements for graduation.

Number & Type of Meetings: Three meetings

Completion Date: January 2006

Staff Assigned: Susan Morrissey

Project Title: Overcoming the Achievement Gap

Project Goal:

Exploring ways the state can eliminate the achievement gap and increase culturally effective instruction in the public schools.

Project Description:

The Committee will review issues associated with the achievement gap and will explore programs that have proven effective in substantially reducing or eliminating the gap. The review will include, programs and best practices that include as at least one component, culturally effective instruction. This project includes one work session to learn about programs in the Yakima Valley that have been successful in raising the achievement of bilingual and other students.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2006

Staff Assigned: Susan Morrissey

Project Title: Education Governance

Project Goal:

Consider any recommendations of the Joint Subcommittee on Governance of the legislative committees responsible for education policy.

Project Description:

During September, a joint subcommittee of the House Education and the Senate Early Learning, K-12, and Higher Education Committees will develop recommendations on the possible redistribution of the remaining duties of the State Board of Education. In December, the House Education Committee will review and consider any recommendations developed by the joint subcommittee.

Number & Type of Meetings: work session

Completion Date: December, 2005

Staff Assigned: Morrissey;

Project Title: Secondary School Redesign

Project Goal:

Consider any recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Secondary Education.

Project Description:

Through the passage of HCR 4408, a joint select committee was created to study the design and restructuring efforts of middle and high schools. The committee is expected to complete its work by January 15, 2006. The Education Committee will receive an interim report from the joint select committee and will review any recommendations the joint select committee has developed for consideration by the 2006 legislature.

Number & Type of Meetings: work session

Completion Date: January 2006

Staff Assigned: Morrissey; McLain

Project Title: Comprehensive Education Study

Project Goal:

Receive a progress report on the comprehensive education study created by E2SSB 5441.

Project Description:

A comprehensive study on education and funding was created by the passage of E2SSB 5541. The study will cover early learning, K-12, and higher education policies. The steering committee coordinating the study is required to provide interim reports to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature by November 15, 2005 and June 16, 2006. The final report and recommendations of the steering committee must be submitted by November 15, 2006. During its December meeting, the Education Committee will review the first interim report prepared by the steering committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Morrissey and Denise Graham

**House of Representatives
Finance
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| September 16, 2005 | 8:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | Local Government Finance | Public Hearing/ Work Session |
| October | | Eastern Washington | Full Committee | Local Government Finance | Public Hearing/ Work Session |
| October or November | | Western Washington | Full Committee | Local Government Finance | Public Hearing/ Work Session |
| December 2, 2005 | 8:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | Tax Incentives for Alternative Fuel Vehicles | Public Hearing/ Work Session |

Project Title: Local Government Finance

Project Goal:

Conduct a comprehensive review of trends in local government finance, with emphasis on recent changes in traditional sources of revenue.

Project Description:

Cities and counties report problems of declining revenues and growing costs. This project will review existing revenue sources and capacity for local governments, and examine trends in revenue collections. The project will also look at a broad array of questions and possibilities relating to local government finance. What could be done to allow local revenue sources to keep pace with growth in government services? Should there be fundamental reform in property taxation and property tax limits? Should the piecemeal approach in local sales tax authorizations be reformed? What are the special concerns of small cities and rural counties? Updates on the local government impacts of the national Streamlined Sales Tax Project will be included. The project contemplates three committee meetings: one in Olympia, focusing on issues related to urbanized areas; and one each in eastern and western Washington locations, to focus on issues related to rural areas.

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

Completion Date: December 15

Staff Assigned: Mark Matteson

Project Title: Tax Incentives for Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Project Goal:

Provide the Committee with more information on tax incentives related to alternative fuel vehicles and the production and distribution of fuels for alternative fuel vehicles.

Project Description:

Review existing Washington tax incentives, incentives provided by other states, and federal tax incentives related to alternative fuel vehicles and the production and distribution of fuels for alternative fuel vehicles.

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

Completion Date: December 15

Staff Assigned: Rick Peterson

**House of Representatives
Financial Institutions and Insurance
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|--|--------------|
| June or July | TBA | TBA | Full Committee | Fraud in the Insurance Industry | TBA |
| September 16, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Credit Reports and Freezes (2) Payday Loans (3) Licensing of Mortgage Brokers/loan Offices (4) Genetic Information and Life Insurance | Work Session |
| December 2, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Air Ambulance Services (2) Auto Insurance and Steering (3) Insurance Broker Compensation and Disclosure (4) Insurance Market Analysis | TBA |

Project Title: Fraud in the Insurance Industry

Project Goal:

Determine what, if any, changes in law are necessary to more effectively fight insurance fraud.

Project Description:

Insurance fraud is inimical to public safety, welfare, and order within the state of Washington. Insurance fraud increases insurance premiums, to the detriment of individual policyholders, small businesses, large corporations, and governmental entities. Law abiding citizens ultimately bear the societal burdens and costs caused by those who commit insurance fraud. The Financial Institutions and Insurance (FII) Committee will follow-up on HB 1977 in order to study the extent of insurance fraud in Washington and the current laws which are in place to combat insurance fraud.

The FII Committee will work with all parties to further understanding and develop options. The Office of the Insurance Commissioner has expressed interest in working on this subject also. Other interested parties include the insurance industry and prosecutors.

Number & Type of Meetings: One meeting

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard (FII)

Project Title: Credit Reports and Freezes

Project Goal:

Explore additional options to protect personal credit information.

Project Description:

In 2005 the Legislature passed ESB 5418, which allows victims of identity theft to "freeze" their credit report. Once a freeze is requested by a consumer, his or her credit reports cannot be released unless the consumer allows access or removes the freeze. Some states allow any consumer to freeze their credit. Businesses have raised concerns that this may have unexpected and adverse consequences.

Staff will review the experience in other states and research possible alternative mechanisms that may restrict access to credit reports.

The committee may have a work session on this issue.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session (tentative)

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

Project Title: Payday Loans

Project Goal:

Research issues and possibly develop legislation.

Project Description:

The business of check cashing and selling (also known as "payday lending") was the subject of SSB 5452 (2003). The Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) has rule-making in progress to implement this legislation.

Staff will monitor the rule-making. Staff will also monitor any other regulatory activity by DFI on the subject, research national trends, and possibly draft legislation.

The committee may have a work session on this issue.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session (tentative)

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

Project Title: Licensing of Mortgage Brokers/Loan Offices

Project Goal:

Monitor the discussions between the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) and industry, possibly develop legislation.

Project Description:

Mortgage brokers expressed concern that it takes the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) an inappropriately long period of time to license new branch offices for existing licensees. HB 1244 (2005), this legislation regarding the timeliness of the license process for mortgage brokers/loan offices, was introduced to address this issue. This legislation was not pursued at the request of the DFI and the interested parties. The DFI and the interested parties asked if this legislation could be held to allow for a collaborative effort to address the issue in the interim.

The DFI and interested parties have begun efforts to address the subject. These efforts will be monitored. Legislation may be required.

The committee may have a work session on this issue.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session (tentative)

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

Project Title: Genetic Information and Life Insurance

Project Goal:

Work with industry and interested parties on possible legislation.

Project Description:

Currently life insurers may use health information, including genetic information, to make decisions about whether or not to insure applicants. The subject was the topic of legislation and ESSB 5452 (2005). The bills on the subject did not pass the Legislature.

Staff will research issues, review legislation from other states, discuss the 2005 bill language, and possibly develop alternate approaches with industry and interested parties.

The committee may have a work session on this issue.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session (tentative)

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

Project Title: Air Ambulance Services

Project Goal:

Determine if a subscription air ambulance service is possible and if such a service could maintain solvency.

Project Description:

Subscription air ambulance services may only be offered by a health insurer. Until a few years ago, a health insurer owned by St. Joseph's hospital in Bellingham offered this product in their local area, including the San Juan Islands. Currently no health insurer offers this product and none seem interested in offering this product in the future. Some states have exempted this product from their insurance code.

Staff will monitor the feasibility study by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on subscription air ambulance services. The study is required by ESSB 5736 (2005).

Staff will also research states that have addressed this issue and review their experience and approaches.

The committee may have a work session on this issue.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session (tentative)

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

Project Title: Auto Insurance and Steering

Project Goal:

Possibly draft legislation.

Project Description:

Auto insurers are not prohibited from owning autobody shops in Washington. HB 1620 (2005) would have prohibited automobile insurers from owning an interest in auto body shops, but did not pass.

In testimony, autobody shops expressed concerns about the possibility of "steering" or insurers requiring policyholders to use certain shops. Autobody shops raised questions about the cost and quality of repairs if insurers own or have an interest in autobody shops. Auto insurers testified that insurer-owned shops are an option that can reduce claims costs and ensure quality.

Staff will research the issue of insurer-owned autobody shops. The research will include a review of legislation and regulatory approaches from other states.

The committee may have a work session on this issue.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session (tentative)

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

Project Title: Insurance Broker Compensation and Disclosure

Project Goal:

Possible draft legislation on compensation and disclosure.

Project Description:

The subject of insurance broker compensation and the disclosure regarding that compensation has been a prominent subject nationally over the last several months. It has lead to criminal charges in New York state and to discussions about possible legislation around the United States.

Legislative models are being developed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and the National Conference of Insurance Legislators. Interested parties include the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, insurers, and insurance agent and broker associations.

The committee may have a work session on this issue.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session (tentative)

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

Project Title: Insurance Market Analysis

Project Goal:

Monitor the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) study.

Project Description:

The Office of the Insurance Commissioner requested funding to study market analysis regulations. The "market analysis" process uses market information to target possible problem areas. The insurance regulator does a limited, focused examination of insurers on the subject areas of concern. The intent of market analysis is to better utilize resources.

Oregon has implemented this process. Oregon Department of Insurance (DOI) staff indicated that the DOI used this process to shift resources from "front-end" regulation (using staff time to try to avert problems by detailed review of the insurance contracts for example) to "back-end" regulation (using staff time to try to address specific problems after they are detected). The DOI believes that this approach has been more effective given their resources.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners has a model law that has been adopted by some states. The OIC study may lead to possible legislation.

The committee may have a work session on this issue.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session (tentative)

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

**House of Representatives
Health Care
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|--|--------------|
| September 16, 2005 | 10:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) State Purchased Health Care Administrative Simplification Activities (2) Prescription Drug Purchasing Consortium (3) Children's Health Program Implementation | Work Session |
| October | TBA | Olympia | Full Committee | State Health Insurance Regulation | Work Session |
| December 2, 2005 | 10:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Medicare Part D Implementation Issues (Prescription Drug Coverage) (2) Mental Health Task Force Activities (3) Pseudoephedrine Rule Development (4) Prescription Drug Importation (5) Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities Activities (6) Joint Select Committee on Public Health Finance Activities (7) Certificate of Need Task Force Activities (8) Long-Term Care Task Force Activities | Work Session |

Project Title: State Purchased Health Care Administrative Simplification Efforts

Project Goal:

Monitor the steps taken by State Purchased health care programs to simplify their business practices to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

Project Description:

Over the past several years state purchased health care programs have worked amongst themselves and with the private sector to standardize business practices and reduce administrative complexity.

The Committee will review the current state of administrative simplification activities and explore new opportunities for further improvement.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2005

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Prescription Drug Purchasing Consortium

Project Goal:

Oversee the implementation of the prescription drug purchasing consortium by the Health Care Authority.

Project Description:

The Legislature authorized individuals and private entities to participate in a prescription drug purchasing consortium with state purchased health care programs. The Committee will monitor the implementation of the public/private consortium and determine whether further legislative action is necessary.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2005

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Children's Health Program Implementation

Project Goal:

Monitor the implementation of the Children's health program as provided in HB 1441.

Project Description:

In implementing ESSHB 1441, the Department of Social and Health Services will develop outreach and application processes, and establish methods to ensure the program is operated with the funds appropriated by the legislature. The Committee will monitor the implementation of the Children's Health Program by the department and determine whether further legislative action is needed.

Number & Type of Meetings: One Committee work session.

Completion Date: December, 2005

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: State Health Insurance Regulation

Project Goal:

Provide a comprehensive overview of state regulation of the individual, small group, and large group health insurance markets.

Project Description:

State and federal law provide a complex web of regulation of health insurance coverage for individuals, small groups (2-50), and large groups (over 50). The Washington State Health Insurance Pool also provides coverage for individuals who are unable to obtain health care coverage in the private market.

The Committee will review the current regulatory framework for health care coverage in Washington and develop a better understanding the issues surrounding health care coverage offered through the private sector.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2005

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Medicare Part D Implementation (Prescription Drug Coverage)

Project Goal:

Identify the policy and budget impacts of Medicare prescription drug coverage on state purchased health care programs.

Project Description:

Prescription drug coverage through the Medicare program will go into effect on January 1, 2006. State purchased health care programs that serve individuals over 65 years of age will be affected.

The Committee will identify the policy and fiscal impacts for state purchased health care programs and develop proposals for consideration during the 2006 legislative session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Mental Health Task Force

Project Goal:

Oversee the reorganization and transformation of the community mental health service delivery system.

Project Description:

The Mental Health Task Force was established by a budget proviso in the operating budget during the 2004 legislative session. It was scheduled to expire on June 30, 2005. The Task Force was reauthorized by E2SHB 1290 and will continue through June 30, 2007. The Task Force will provide oversight for the implementation of changes in the community mental health system and the delivery of mental health and chemical dependency services. The Task Force is staffed by the Office of Program Research, Senate Committee Services, and the Office of Financial Management.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: June 2007

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson and Amy Skei

Project Title: Pseudoephedrine Rule Development

Project Goal:

Monitor and review the Board of Pharmacy rules to implement the log requirements for the sale of products containing pseudoephedrine.

Project Description:

In the 2005 session, ESHB 2266 passed the Legislature and made several changes to the way that products containing pseudoephedrine are sold at retail, including a requirement that customers sign a log prior to purchasing the products. The log is to be used as a regulatory and law enforcement tool. The Board of Pharmacy must adopt rules to implement the log requirement by January 1, 2006.

The Committee will monitor the progress of the Board of Pharmacy in developing rules to implement the log requirements of ESHB 2266. The Committee will be briefed on the rules prior to their adoption.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 15, 2005

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Prescription Drug Importation

Project Goal:

Monitor the implementation of FDA authorized prescription drug importation from foreign countries.

Project Description:

During the 2005 session, the Legislature authorized the importation of prescription drugs from foreign countries, following FDA approval.

The Committee will monitor the submittal of the FDA waiver request and oversee the implementation of the importation process.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Health Disparities Joint Select Committee

Project Goal:

Monitor the proceedings of the Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities and review the recommendations of the committee.

Project Description:

Recent reports from the Institute of Medicine and the Washington State Board of Health indicate that members of ethnic and racial minority populations have poorer health outcomes than caucasians. In the 2004 session, the Legislature passed SCR 8419 which created a joint select committee to examine racial, ethnic, and gender-based health disparities. The joint select committee's report is due in November 2005.

The Committee will monitor the proceedings of the Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities and review the recommendations made in the joint select committee's report. Issues to be addressed by the joint select committee include the effect of early childhood development programs, cultural and linguistic barriers, increasing diversity in the health care workforce, and the effect of health care expenditures on the health disparities.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 1, 2005

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Public Health Financing Joint Select Committee

Project Goal:

Monitor the proceedings of the Joint Select Committee on Public Health Finance and its development of recommendations.

Project Description:

Chapter 1, Laws of 2000, 1st Sp. Session (SB 6865) eliminated a significant amount of funding for public health activities that had been obtained through the motor vehicle excise tax. In the 2005 session, EHCR 4410 was passed to create a joint select committee, comprised of eight legislators, to review current and potential future funding sources for public health services. The joint select committee is to report its findings to the Legislature by July 2006.

The Committee shall monitor the proceedings of the Joint Select Committee on Public Health Finance and its development of recommendations.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 1, 2005

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Certificate of Need Task Force

Project Goal:

Monitor the proceedings of the Certificate of Need Task Force and its development of policy recommendations.

Project Description:

The certificate of need program is administered by the Department of Health to ensure that certain health services and health care facilities are located in areas where there is sufficient demand to maintain quality and the viability of the entity. E2SHB 1688 (2005) creates a task force, which includes four legislators, to review the certificate of need process as applied to various health care services and facilities. The Health Care Authority is to serve as the lead agency. The task force is to report its findings to the Legislature by November 2006.

The Committee will monitor the Certificate of Need Task Force's proceedings and the development of its recommendations. Issues to be addressed include the purposes of the certificate of need program; the program's ability to meet the public's health care needs, improve patient outcomes, and control health care expenditures; the appropriate criteria for evaluating applications; and the appropriate health care services and facilities to be subject to the program.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 1, 2005

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Long-Term Care Task Force

Project Goal:

Monitor the activities of the Long-Term Care Task Force.

Project Description:

The Long-Term Care Task Force was established by SHB 1220. The Task Force includes four legislators and four representatives of the executive branch. It will review public and private mechanisms for financing long-term care services and report its findings and conclusions to the Legislature in January, 2006, and January, 2007. The Task Force will also establish advisory committees and is authorized to request staffing support from the Senate and House of Representatives.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date:

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Dental Residency Implementation

Project Goal:

Monitor the implementation of the dental residency program.

Project Description:

In the 2005 session, ESHB 1689 was passed to create a dental residency program that replaces the practical examination required for obtaining a dental license. The program is intended to attract recent dental school graduates to practicing in underserved areas. An appropriation was provided to assist the establishment of the program over two years with expansion of the number of sites expected in future budgets.

The Committee will monitor the implementation of the dental residency program by the Health Care Authority, the Dental Commission, and the residency sites.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: December 15, 2005

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Sunrise Reviews

Project Goal:

Monitor the Department of Health's sunrise review proceedings related to veterinary technicians and genetic counselors.

Project Description:

Upon request of the Legislature, the Department of Health conducts reviews of legislative proposals that require technical expertise in the health field. The House Health Care Committee has requested that the Department of Health conduct sunrise reviews regarding veterinary technicians (HB 1511) and genetic counselors (HB 1988) over the 2005 interim.

The Committee will monitor the sunrise review process relating to veterinary technicians and genetic counselors and review the recommendations of the Department of Health.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: December 1, 2005

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Physician Referral Practices

Project Goal:

Review and analyze the impact of physician referral practices.

Project Description:

Both state and federal laws restrict certain referral practices between physicians and health care facilities where the physician has a financial interest. These restrictions limit the potential for controlling unnecessary utilization of these services. In particular, concerns were raised during the session about the additional health care costs associated with the overutilization of certain radiology and pathology services.

The Committee, in coordination with the Appropriations Committee, will review state and federal legislation related to the referral practices of physicians and the impact that it has on the utilization of health care services and expenditures for those services. The Committees will examine which services and specialties pose concerns for potential overutilization of services and options for ensuring their appropriate use.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: December 1, 2005

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

**House of Representatives
Higher Education
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| May 3 | All Day | Vancouver | Full Committee Joint with Senate ELKHE | Higher Education Initiatives in Southwest Washington | Work Session |
| September | Afternoon | Olympia | Full Committee | Key Issues in Higher Education: The Institutional Perspective | Work Session |
| September 16, 2005 | 10:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | Student Counseling and Career Services | Work Session/ Public Hearing |
| Late September | TBA | Tri-Cities and Walla Walla | Full Committee Joint with House TEC and House EDAT Committees | Higher Education Partnerships in the Tri-Cities and Southeast Washington | Work Session |
| October | TBA | Spokane | Full Committee | Higher Education and Economic Development in Spokane | Work Session |
| December 2, 2005 | 10:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | Higher Education Accountability | Work Session/ Public Hearing |

Project Title: Higher Education Initiatives in Southwest Washington

Project Goal:

Monitor and facilitate WSU Vancouver's transition to a four-year university campus.

Project Description:

Legislation enacted in 2005 (E2SHB 1794) authorizes WSU Vancouver to begin admitting freshmen and sophomores and eventually transition to a four-year university campus. The House and Senate committees with oversight of higher education will hold joint work sessions on "Higher Education Initiatives in Southwest Washington" to examine the likely impacts of this transition. One work session will be at Clark College to discuss the impact on local community colleges of WSU Vancouver's future transition to a four-year university campus. Two additional roundtable discussions will be held on the WSU Vancouver campus: one with campus faculty, students and administrators and one with business, labor, and other community leaders. The committees will discuss next steps for WSU Vancouver and how the transition to a four-year campus meets the higher education and economic development needs of the region.

Number & Type of Meetings: One-day work session

Completion Date: May 2005

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain and Sydney Forrester.

Project Title: Key Issues in Higher Education: The Institutional Perspective

Project Goal:

Discuss key issues with four-year institution provosts and members of Boards of Regents and Trustees.

Project Description:

Provosts of the six four-year public higher education institutions meet regularly to work on issues such as academic and enrollment planning, needs assessment, and transfer. The members of the Higher Education Committee have not previously had the opportunity to discuss these and other key issues directly with the provosts. Committee members have also not had the opportunity to discuss respective roles and relationships in higher education governance among the Boards of Trustees and Regents, institution administration, and the Legislature. The Higher Education Committee will convene roundtable discussions with the provosts, Trustees, and Regents to enhance communication about key issues.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2005

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain

Project Title: Student Counseling and Career Services

Project Goal:

Examine counseling and career services provided to students at public higher education institutions, including opportunities for improvement or expansion.

Project Description:

During the 2005 legislative session, student representatives raised the issue of adequacy of counseling and career services for graduate and professional students. Proposed legislation was not enacted, but the Higher Education Committee will examine the issues raised during the 2005 Interim. The committee will expand the scope of its inquiry to include not only counseling and career services, but also job placement services. The scope of inquiry will also include services provided to undergraduate students and students at public two-year institutions and private vocational schools.

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

Completion Date: September 2005

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Higher Education Partnerships in the Tri-Cities and Southeast Washington

Project Goal:

Study opportunities for additional partnerships to meet educational and economic development needs in the Tri-Cities and Southeast Washington.

Project Description:

In 2004, WSU Tri-Cities conducted a comprehensive campus self-study in response to a legislative directive. Various business and community leaders in the Tri-Cities area have also conducted regional needs assessments and made recommendations for the future of WSU Tri-Cities. Legislation enacted in 2005 (E2SHB 1794) permits WSU Tri-Cities to admit freshmen and sophomores in the future, but only for a degree in biotechnology. Need for freshmen admission for other degrees will be studied during the 2005 Interim by the Higher Education Coordinating Board. The Higher Education Committee will convene work sessions regarding "Higher Education Partnerships in the Tri-Cities and Southeast Washington" to facilitate communication among the stakeholders about the education and training needs in the region, and to explore additional possible partnerships. One work session will include roundtable discussions with local educational, community, and business leaders. The House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee and the Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade Committee will also participate in the PNNL portion of the meeting. The Higher Education Committee will also explore joint efforts between Walla Walla Community College and WSU in expanding nursing, viticulture, enology, and other regionally-focused workforce training and education programs.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work session

Completion Date: September 2005

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain, Sarah Dylag, and Tracey Taylor

Project Title: Higher Education and Economic Development in Spokane

Project Goal:

Explore opportunities to improve collaboration in Spokane to meet the region's educational and economic development needs.

Project Description:

Over the last several years, changes have occurred in the higher education landscape in the Spokane region. Legislation enacted in 2004 removed WSU Spokane from designation as a branch campus. Significant capital facilities investments continue to be made at the Riverpoint campus, but the revised role and mission of WSU Spokane has not been reviewed. Eastern Washington University continues to maintain a strong presence in Spokane, with nearly 650 full-time equivalent students enrolled in various programs. The Spokane Intercollegiate Research and Technology Institute (SIRTI) is seeking to expand its facilities and mission. The Spokane Community Colleges serve the largest geographic area of any college in the system with a broad range of transfer, basic skills, and workforce training programs, but in recent years has also tried to focus on a cluster strategy to better meet regional educational priorities. The House Higher Education Committee will convene work sessions regarding "Higher Education and Economic Development in Spokane" to explore opportunities to improve the collaboration among various state entities and higher education institutions in the region. Topics include program planning, service delivery, priorities, needs assessment, and support of economic development.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work session

Completion Date: September/October 2005

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain and Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Higher Education Accountability

Project Goal:

Review current forms of accountability for public and private higher education institutions.

Project Description:

Since the late 1990's, state operating budgets have contained directives to two and four-year public higher education institutions to develop measurable performance indicators in such areas as student retention, student progress, and student learning. In 2005, the Higher Education Coordinating Board proposed revisions to the accountability and performance measures for higher education. In addition, most but not all private higher education institutions are subject to state oversight by either the Higher Education Coordinating Board or the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, largely to provide consumer protection of students. The Higher Education Committee will review the purpose and adequacy of current forms of accountability for both public and private higher education institutions, including how regional and national accreditation fits into the overall accountability system.

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

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Student Diversity in Higher Education

Project Goal:

Conduct an in-depth study on student diversity and examine strategies to recruit and retain a diverse student population.

Project Description:

The Higher Education Committee will conduct an in-depth study on student diversity in higher education that includes data analysis and a policy and practice review. Data to be analyzed includes historical trends and future projections regarding admission, transfer, retention, and graduation of students. The analysis will include a comparison of student diversity in particular academic fields, such as education, health care, and engineering, to the diversity of the workforce in those fields and the diversity of the overall state population. The policy and practice review will examine strategies used by higher education institutions within current law to recruit, retain, and provide assistance to maintain a diverse student population. The review will also examine non-discriminatory strategies to promote and maintain student diversity that are used by other higher education institutions and other states.

Number & Type of Meetings: None-- committee research project

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester and Barbara McLain

**House of Representatives
Hood Canal, Select Committee on
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| June 8 | 9 am - 3 pm | Olympia | Full Committee | Response to Low Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations | Work Session/ Public Hearing |
| September 16, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | Response to Low Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations | Work Session |
| October | TBA | Belfair | Full Committee | Water Quality Improvement in Hood Canal | Work Session/ Public Hearing |
| December 2, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Water Quality Improvement in Hood Canal (2) Response to Low Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations (3) Geoduck Harvesting Operations | Work Session |

Project Title: Response to Low Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations

Project Goal:

Identify options for responding to and preventing marine biota impacts from hypoxia conditions in Hood Canal.

Project Description:

The Committee will study and consider methods to promptly respond to significant low dissolved oxygen situations (hypoxia) in all or parts of Hood Canal. Hypoxic events have been recorded in Hood Canal in the past, often in the late summer or early fall, and have resulted in fish kills, affected water quality conditions, and created other impacts for Hood Canal's marine biota. The Committee will work to identify options for responding to hypoxia conditions in Hood Canal and to prevent impacts to marine biota from these conditions.

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

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Caroleen Dineen

Project Title: Geoduck Harvesting Operations

Project Goal:

Observe geoduck harvesting in Hood Canal.

Project Description:

The Committee will receive an agency briefing on geoduck production and harvesting processes as well as the geoduck fishery and its significance in the Hood Canal area. The Committee also will receive a status report on the agency's implementation of E2SHB 1896's study/report requirements.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Caroleen Dineen

Project Title: Water Quality Improvement in Hood Canal

Project Goal:

Identify options for improving water quality in Hood Canal.

Project Description:

The Committee will research and review options for improving water quality in Hood Canal.

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

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Caroleen Dineen

**House of Representatives
Housing
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|--------------|
| June 6 | 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | Vancouver | Full Committee | Increasing the Washington Homeownership Rate | Work Session |
| August 4, 2005 | TBA | Olympia | Full Committee | Affordable Housing #1: Challenges to Achieving Adequate Affordable Housing in Washington and Goals for Improvement | Work Session |
| September 16, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | Affordable Housing #2: Solutions to Washington Affordable Housing Issues | Work Session |
| October 6, 2005 | TBA | Olympia | Full Committee | Rural Housing Challenges & Solutions | Work Session |
| November 16, 2005 | TBA | Seattle | Full Committee | Addressing Homelessness in Washington | Work Session |
| December 2, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | DCTED's Role in Washington Housing Initiatives and Corresponding Performance Outcomes | Work Session |

Project Title: Increasing the Washington Homeownership Rate

Project Goal:

To investigate challenges faced by Washington residents in purchasing homes and to identify opportunities to increase homeownership opportunities through legislation.

Project Description:

Washington lags behind the national average in its homeownership rate (64.6% compared with a national average of 66.2%). A recent study ranks Washington 45th in the nation for the percentage of families that own a home. This project will bring together housing stakeholders from the private, non-profit and state sectors to look at the homeownership rate statewide as well as by county, explore the primary challenges and barriers facing individuals and families who strive for homeownership, set goals to increase the Washington homeownership rate by a specific percentage within a defined period of time by defining appropriate performance measures and by assigning responsibility to specific parties, and explore possible solutions to challenges associated with homeownership which could be addressed through legislative action in order to accomplish established goals.

Issues to be discussed include:

- The impacts of the cost of housing development on homeownership, including cost determinants such as impact fees, land costs, labor and material costs, and financing options.
- Barriers to obtaining reasonable financing for low-income individuals and families.
- Proven methods to address homeownership challenges such as downpayment assistance programs, land trusts, mixed use and in-fill housing developments, other homeownership assistance programs, non-profit supported housing development, tax exemption initiatives, and others.

Vancouver was chosen as the location for this work session because it is a very rapidly growing community which adds complexity to efforts to provide housing across the continuum from homelessness to homeownership. Vancouver also has a very active affordable housing and housing development community which has adopted innovative strategies to lessen barriers to homeownership and provide opportunities across the income spectrum. Due to the fact that Clark County represents an area of the state which contains both rural towns, farming country, and more urban developing cities, the location also provides a unique opportunity for Committee members to experience what can be accomplished in both types of communities through panel discussions and the subsequent tour. The tour will highlight initiatives such as the "Homeownership Center" which manages the successful "First Home Downpayment Assistance Program." This program is an excellent example of a collaborative effort between local non-profit agencies working with low/middle-income families and the private sector (e.g., realtors, for-profit developers, and lenders).

By promoting a substantive dialogue among housing stakeholders related to the Washington homeownership rate, exploring the primary challenges and barriers facing individuals and families who strive for homeownership, and exploring possible solutions to the identified challenges, the Committee intends to leave Vancouver with substantive concepts for potential legislation to promote Washington homeownership during the 2006 session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: August 2005

Staff Assigned: Robyn Dupuis

Project Title: Affordable Housing #1: Challenges to Achieving Adequate Affordable Housing in Washington and Goals for Improvement

Project Goal:

To identify the specific need for affordable housing in Washington, identify the current issues, barriers and challenges to meeting those needs, set goals and performance measures by which the Legislature can gauge the state's progress in accomplishing affordable housing goals, and assign responsibility to specific parties for meeting affordable housing objectives.

Project Description:

This project will identify the availability of affordable housing options for Washington residents of all socio-economic levels statewide and by each individual county. The Committee will discuss with key stakeholders the variety of challenges and barriers to the development and preservation of affordable housing. The Committee will establish specific performance measures for the achievement of affordable housing goals and will identify likely parties to be responsible for implementing possible solutions to be identified in the follow-up work session.

A follow-up work session in September will address solutions to the challenges identified during this initial project. Such solutions will be designed to achieve the performance measures created during this project and will identify responsible parties.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session, August 4, 2005

Completion Date: October 2005

Staff Assigned: Robyn Dupuis

Project Title: Affordable Housing #2: Solutions to Washington Affordable Housing Issues

Project Goal:

To identify potential solutions and to identify corresponding responsible parties to address the shortage of affordable housing opportunities in Washington.

Project Description:

This project will examine potential solutions to the challenges and barriers identified in the first committee interim work session on affordable housing in order to accomplish the identified performance measures and meet the affordable housing needs of Washington state. Solutions may include the promotion of successful affordable housing models and best practices, as well as ideas for pilot programs borne from collaborative efforts among stakeholders. Selected solutions are intended to become the basis for legislation to achieve affordable housing goals and performance measures (identified during the first affordable housing interim work session).

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2005

Staff Assigned: Robyn Dupuis

Project Title: Rural Housing Challenges & Solutions

Project Goal:

To identify housing challenges specific to rural areas. To set goals and specific performance measures to meet identified housing needs and address identified challenges. To investigate and analyze potential solutions to accomplish rural housing goals and to designate appropriate responsible parties to be involved in the implementation and on-going management of such solutions.

Project Description:

Rural areas face a variety of unique housing challenges, including a relatively high percentage of substandard housing stock, inadequate rental housing stock, limited housing assistance resources for low-income families and homeless populations, farm worker housing shortages, and others. This project will bring together stakeholders representing all rural housing sectors including for and non-profit developers, local governments, landlord associations, farm worker housing advocates, farmers and other business owners, in order to identify the many challenges faced by rural communities. The work session will also establish appropriate performance measures for improving the affordable housing availability in rural areas, and identify promising solutions (and corresponding responsible parties) to the challenges in order to reach identified goals through legislative action.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2005

Staff Assigned: Robyn Dupuis

Project Title: Addressing Homelessness in Washington

Project Goal:

To analyze the state's progress in addressing the homelessness challenge through the Homeless Housing and Assistance Act and identify future changes to the legislation in order to increase the effectiveness of the Act.

Project Description:

The Homeless Housing and Assistance Act enacted by the 2005 Legislature represents a substantial step forward in addressing goals to reduce homelessness in Washington. This project is intended to provide the committee with an update on how the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (DCTED) and individual counties are progressing in their creation and implementation of plans to reduce homelessness by fifty percent within ten years. The Committee will look at potential changes to the Act to make it more effective, including the possible addition of components of successful models from other parts of the country. The Committee will also discuss with stakeholders the increasing need for state agencies to work together (for example, the Department of Social and Health Services, the Department of Corrections, and the DCTED) and also work with local communities to combine support services with housing services in order to assist homeless individuals obtain and retain stable housing.

Seattle was chosen as host site for this work session for a variety of reasons, among which include the following:

1. The greatest number of homeless people in Washington are in Seattle.
2. The greatest number of chronically homeless people in Washington are in Seattle.
3. Seattle providers and local government are center of several key partnerships:
 - a. Seattle Housing Levy with State Housing Trust Fund.
 - b. Taking Health Care Home. (This is a collaborative initiative by Seattle, Spokane, and state agencies which focuses on chronically homeless persons.)
 - c. Sound Families. (This is a partnership between King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties that develops and supports transitional housing for homeless families.)
 - d. Safe Harbors, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). (This project was originally developed in Seattle-King County, and is now being developed statewide by partners working closely with the DCTED.)

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Robyn Dupuis

Project Title: DCTED's Role in Washington Housing Initiatives and Corresponding Performance Outcomes

Project Goal:

To conduct an in-depth examination and analysis of the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (DCTED) Housing Division's budgets, strategic plan, goals, and performance measures in order to determine if the agency is performing according to legislative mandates.

Project Description:

The Housing Committee will analyze the DCTED's strategic plan, with a critical eye towards identifying appropriate, measurable goals and performance measures (which correspond to appropriate state laws) by which the DCTED may be monitored and evaluated. The Housing Committee will analyze the DCTED strategic plan, the DCTED organizational chart, and actual reported performance towards accomplishing stated goals, in order to determine how the DCTED is complying with and accomplishing legislative housing mandates.

The DCTED will provide a detailed balance sheet budget for its housing division which clearly shows all revenue and expenditures. The Committee will use this information to evaluate how the DCTED's expenses and overall budgeting strategies translate into achieving the stated housing performance goals.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Robyn Dupuis

**House of Representatives
Judiciary
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| June 14 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm | Olympia | Full Committee | Driving Under the Influence (DUI) | Public Hearing/ Work Session |
| September | TBA | Port Orchard and Aberdeen | Full Committee | Courts of Limited Jurisdiction | Work Session |
| September 16, 2005 | 8:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | Courts of Limited Jurisdiction | Work Session |
| October | TBA | Bellevue | Full Committee | Courts of Limited Jurisdiction | Work Session |
| December 2, 2005 | 8:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | Health Courts | Work Session |

Project Title: Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

Project Goal:

Review and evaluate the effectiveness of the state's DUI laws.

Project Description:

The Committee will have a work session to review all significant legislation enacted over the past 10 years dealing with the issue of persons driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (DUI) and evaluate the effectiveness of these DUI laws. The Committee will also explore potential additional measures that may be effective in dealing with the DUI problem. In conducting this review and assessment, the committee will receive a report from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission on its research relating to DUI incidence and its findings and/or recommendations relating to DUI laws or potential legislation. In addition, the Committee will receive input from other interested stakeholders, such as the Washington State Patrol, the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the Washington Defender's Association/Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and chemical dependency treatment professionals.

After the work session, the Committee will hold a public hearing on HB 1451, which establishes a felony offense for repeat DUI offenders.

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

Completion Date: June 2005

Staff Assigned: Trudes Hutcheson

Project Title: Courts of Limited Jurisdiction

Project Goal:

Evaluate the current structure and operation of courts of limited jurisdiction and identify improvements that can be made to the provision of district and municipal court services.

Project Description:

The Committee will study the current structure and operation of the courts of limited jurisdiction and evaluate whether improvements can be made to the provision of court services. Courts of limited jurisdiction are authorized by statute for both counties (district courts) and cities (municipal courts). District courts are independent courts with elected judges that operate county-wide. Municipal court services may be provided in one of three ways: (1) through an independent full-time or part-time municipal court; (2) by filing cases directly with the district court pursuant to interlocal agreement; or (3) by creating a municipal department within the district court.

Some cities have recently formed regional municipal courts, also called "community courts," where one or more cities contract with a host city to provide municipal court services. Legislation to specifically authorize this type of arrangement was introduced in 2003 but did not pass. Other proposals have been made to consolidate courts of limited jurisdiction or regionalize court services.

Last session the Legislature passed E2SSB 5454 with a stated goal of improving trial courts in the state. E2SSB 5454 increased certain court fees and allocated the revenue from these fee increases to funding of: a portion of the salaries of district court judges and elected municipal court judges; civil legal services; trial-level criminal indigent defense; and parent representation in dependency and termination cases.

The Committee will review and evaluate proposals for consolidation or regionalization of court services and other options with a goal of improving the court system to provide more efficient and accessible court services to the citizens of local jurisdictions. The Committee will have work sessions in three diverse areas of the state to learn about the different needs and court structures in different parts of the state. These work sessions will be held in: Port Orchard, Aberdeen, and Bellevue. The Committee will also consult with other jurisdictions around the state as needed to identify court systems and practices that work efficiently and effectively and those that do not.

In addition, the Committee will hear a report at the September Committee Assembly on the implementation of E2SSB 5454 and the status of funding for civil legal services, indigent defense, and parent representation in dependency cases.

Number & Type of Meetings: Three work sessions

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Edie Adams

Project Title: Health Courts

Project Goal:

Review proposals for creating specialized health courts and evaluate their potential viability as an alternative method of handling medical malpractice cases.

Project Description:

Medical malpractice issues have been important issues in Washington and nationally for the last several years. Numerous proposals have been before state legislative bodies and the Congress with a variety of approaches to improving the medical malpractice system through measures to increase patient safety, reform the insurance industry, and improve the operation of the civil justice system in handling medical negligence cases. An extensive amount of research and studies have been conducted looking at the problems with the current medical malpractice system and potential new approaches to improving the system. One of the latest proposals is the creation of specialized health courts to handle medical negligence cases. Legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that would authorize funding for states to create specialized health courts on a pilot project basis.

The Committee will hold a work session to review the research and various proposals for creation of specialized health courts, including how they would be set up and operate, and to evaluate whether health courts would serve as a viable alternative to the current system of handling medical negligence cases.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Edie Adams

**House of Representatives
 Juvenile Justice and Family Law
 Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|--|----------------|
| September | All Day | King County | Full Committee | Parent-Initiated Mental Health Treatment for Adolescents | Public Hearing |
| September 16, 2005 | 8:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Truancy interventions (2) Child in Need of Services and At-Risk Youth Procedures Review (3) Child Support: Report from the Child Support Guidelines Work Group | Work Session |
| December 2, 2005 | 8:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Child Support: Federal Child Support Regulations Changes, Child Support Schedule, and Final Report from the Child Support Guidelines Work Group (2) Third-party Custody and Visitation (3) Meeting the Needs of Juvenile Offenders | Work Session |

Project Title: Parent-Initiated Mental Health Treatment for Adolescents

Project Goal:

Tour a mental health facility serving adolescents and hold a public hearing to discuss the parent-initiated alternative for mental health treatment of adolescents with parents and providers.

Project Description:

The Committee will hold a public hearing to discuss the current use of the parent-initiated alternative for mental health treatment of adolescents with parents and treatment providers. The Chair will also convene an additional meeting for interested members to discuss the parent-initiated alternative issues with parents and providers in a different location. The discussions will include a presentation on the status of the current law and the parent-initiated process.

Number & Type of Meetings: One public hearing and One Chair Meeting

Completion Date: September 2005

Staff Assigned: Sonja Hallum

Project Title: Truancy Interventions

Project Goal:

Review alternative interventions being utilized in Washington to decrease truancy and juvenile crime.

Project Description:

A recent study has found a direct link between truancy and juvenile delinquency. The Committee will review promising alternative interventions designed to reduce truancy. Several interventions have been utilized in Washington to reduce truancy while also reducing costs to the courts and detention facilities. The interventions include the use of youth courts for truancy violations, family mediation, attendance workshops, Saturday truancy programs, and the use of the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative to respond to truancy violations.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2005

Staff Assigned: Sonja Hallum

Project Title: Child in Need of Services and At-Risk Youth Procedure Review

Project Goal:

Review the current Child in Need of Services and At-Risk Youth procedures to determine if they are meeting the needs of families or if changes are needed to improve the processes.

Project Description:

The Committee has been considering the need to update provisions to the Child in Need of Services (CHINS) and At-Risk Youth (ARY) procedures. The Committee will review statutes and consider input from stakeholders regarding the current CHINS and ARY process to determine if there is a need to make any changes to the current laws, particularly focusing on the time frame for the legal process.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2005

Staff Assigned: Sonja Hallum

Project Title: Child Support

Project Goal:

Update Child Support Laws.

Project Description:

The federal child support regulations will be revised in 2005. The Committee will monitor and review the federal changes. During the September Committee Assembly meeting, the Committee will hear a brief update on the progress of the Child Support Guidelines Work Group that will meet over the interim to discuss changes to the child support regulations. During the December Committee Assembly meeting, the Committee will hold a work session to review the changes to the federal laws, discuss possible revisions to the child support schedule, and hear a final report from the Child Support Guidelines Work Group.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin

Project Title: Third Party Custody and Visitation

Project Goal:

Review recent developments in the areas of third party custody and third party visitation.

Project Description:

The Committee will monitor and discuss recent developments in the areas of third party custody and visitation, particularly the court cases currently being heard by the Washington Supreme Court. The Committee will hear from interested parties and look at the need for legislation.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin

Project Title: Meeting the Needs of Juvenile Offenders

Project Goal:

Review the service delivery systems for mental health and cognitive disabilities in the juvenile corrections institutions.

Project Description:

Many juveniles who are involved in the juvenile justice system have mental and/or cognitive disabilities. Cognitive disabilities may include disorders of the brain or central nervous system such as mental retardation, learning disabilities, and behavior disorders. These youth are in need of specialized services to address their needs. The Committee will review the situations of youth with mental health and cognitive disabilities who are incarcerated in Washington. The Committee will review the service delivery system for youth within the juvenile correctional institutions and the need for changes or enhancements to the current system.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Sonja Hallum

**House of Representatives
Local Government
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| June 23 | TBA | Tri-Cities | Full Committee Joint with House EDAT Committee | Tools for the Toolbox: A Review of Legislation Considered by the Local Government Committee and the Economic Development, Agriculture and Trade Committee in 2005 and Thoughts for 2006 | Public Hearing/ Work Session |
| July 28 | TBA | Spokane | Full Committee | Growth Management Act Planning Requirements Affecting New Cities - An Overview and Perspectives | Work Session |
| September 15, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Housing Density and the Growth Management Act (2) Annexation Issues Affecting Cities and Counties | Work Session |
| December 1, 2005 | 1:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Best Available Science and the Growth Management Act (2) Growth Management Act Updates | Work Session |

Project Title: Tools for the Toolbox: A Review of Legislation Considered by the Local Government Committee and the Economic Development, Agriculture and Trade Committee in 2005 and Thoughts for 2006

Project Goal:

Provide cities with an update on relevant legislation from the 2005 session and solicit legislatively related public policy comments from city representatives.

Project Description:

The Local Government Committee will hold a joint work session with the Economic Development, Agriculture and Trade Committee. The work session, which will be held in the Tri-Cities at the annual Association of Washington Cities conference in June, will include an overview of relevant legislation considered by the Committees in 2005, a discussion of future legislative objectives, and public comments from city representatives.

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

Completion Date: June 23, 2005

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno, Thamas Osborn, and Tracey Taylor

Project Title: Growth Management Act Planning Requirements Affecting New Cities - An Overview and Perspectives

Project Goal:

Examine Growth Management Act planning requirements affecting new cities and related policy considerations.

Project Description:

Thirteen cities have incorporated since the original enactment of the Growth Management Act (GMA) in 1990. Each of these cities is required to fully plan under the GMA. As jurisdictions complete the first full round of GMA mandated reviews and related revisions to comprehensive plans and development regulations, newly incorporated cities striving to comply with the GMA are facing unique circumstances. This project will include an examination of GMA planning requirements that apply to new cities and the general level of compliance with such requirements. This project will also include a July work session in Spokane.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: July 28, 2005

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno

Project Title: Housing Density and the Growth Management Act

Project Goal:

Examine housing density issues and policy considerations related to the Growth Management Act.

Project Description:

Jurisdictions planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) must plan for and accommodate projected population growth within designated urban growth areas (UGAs). Adopted plans must encourage concentrated urban development within an UGA in order to discourage urban sprawl, create efficiencies with respect to the provision of public facilities and services, and encourage the development of affordable housing. Due to a variety of political, economic, and demographic factors, the planning and development of high-density housing has proven challenging in many urban areas.

This project will examine the causes of, and potential solutions to, housing density issues. It will include an examination of the pertinent GMA requirements, the efforts of selected jurisdictions to achieve the requisite urban densities, and a range of possible solutions. During the 2005 legislative interim the Committee will conduct a work session to consider this issue.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 12, 2005

Staff Assigned: Thamas Osborn

Project Title: Annexation Issues Affecting Cities and Counties

Project Goal:

Examine issues related to the annexation of unincorporated areas by municipalities.

Project Description:

The annexation of an unincorporated area by a municipality can present issues that affect the annexing city, the residents subject to such annexation, and the county in which the annexation occurs. Annexations can have problematic economic and political impacts on local governments and have therefore been the subject of numerous legislative proposals during the last several years. The issues raised by the annexation process include: (1) funding difficulties faced by municipalities; (2) adverse fiscal impacts experienced by cities and counties; and (3) procedural and political processes by which annexations occur.

This project will involve a general examination of annexation processes and the issues they raise. The Committee will conduct a work session on this issue during the 2005 legislative interim.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 12, 2005

Staff Assigned: Thamas Osborn

Project Title: Best Available Science and the Growth Management Act

Project Goal:

Examine the best available science provisions of the Growth Management Act and related policy considerations.

Project Description:

A 1995 amendment to the Growth Management Act (GMA) provides, in part, that counties and cities must include the best available science (BAS) in developing policies and development regulations to protect critical areas. Although numerous stakeholders have sought individually and collaboratively to modify the BAS provisions of the GMA, the 1995 provision remains unchanged.

This project will include a general examination of the BAS provisions of the GMA, including HB 2207, legislation considered by the Committee in 2005 that attempted to clarify the BAS requirements of the GMA. A related work session will be held by the Committee during the December Committee Assembly.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 1, 2005

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno

Project Title: Growth Management Act Updates

Project Goal:

Examine Growth Management Act update requirements and related policy considerations.

Project Description:

Seven western Washington counties and the cities within those counties are required by December 1, 2005, to review and, if needed, revise their comprehensive land use plans and development regulations to ensure compliance with the Growth Management Act (GMA). During the 2005 interim, the Committee will examine the GMA update requirements and related policy considerations, including modified review and revision requirements proposed in HB 2078 and HB 2079, legislation considered, but not enacted, in 2005. As part of this examination, the Committee will hold a work session regarding this issue during the December Committee Assembly.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 1, 2005

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno

**House of Representatives
Natural Resources, Ecology and Parks
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| August/Sept | TBA | Northeast Washington | Full Committee | 1) Human and Wildlife Interactions (2) Health of Washington's Forests (3) Mineral Extraction (4) Hydraulic Project Approval Reform (5) Toxins in Commerce | Public Hearing |
| September 16, 2005 | 8:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Human and Wildlife Interactions (2) Hydraulics Project Approval Reform (3) Toxins in Commerce (4) Natural Resources Agencies Management Structures | Public Hearing/ Work Session |
| December 2, 2005 | 10:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Human and Wildlife Interactions (2) Hydraulics Project Approvals Reform (3) Toxins in Commerce (4) Management of Environmental Funds (5) Maritime Industries and the Environment (6) Off-Road Vehicle Use | Public Hearing/ Work Session |

Project Title: Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) Reform

Project Goal:

Prepare reform legislation for the hydraulic approval reform system.

Project Description:

The Legislature passed 2SHB 1346 in 2005, which was a policy neutral rewrite of the Hydraulics Code that regulates the hydraulic project approval (HPA) system. Passing the rewrite laid the foundation for a policy bill in the 2006 session that addresses issues surrounding the HPA program including the scope of jurisdiction of the hydraulic permit, the role of hydraulic permits in flood control, civil enforcement of hydraulic permits, funding options for the program, judicial remedies, consistency with other regulatory programs, and the applicability of the program to recreational gold panners. The Committee will explore these issues and develop any necessary legislation.

The project includes a work session and public hearings on the proposed legislation in September and December.

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

Completion Date: December

Staff Assigned: Jeff Olsen and Jason Callahan

Project Title: Maritime Industries and the Environment

Project Goal:

Develop a big-picture understanding of the environmental standards expected of maritime industries.

Project Description:

The Committee has recently been asked to address various aspects of maritime regulations, from oil tankers to cruise ships. This process has revealed various approaches to regulating ships in state waters, as well as a web of state-sanctioned bodies that address these issues. The Committee will explore the safeguards that are expected of vessels transiting oil across the Puget Sound, assess the feasibility of combining oversight and advisory boards with potentially overlapping jurisdictions, and continue its monitoring of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the state and the cruise ship industry.

The project includes an update from the Department of Ecology in December regarding the fuel transfer study authorized in 2004.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session

Completion Date: December

Staff Assigned: Jeff Olsen and Jason Callahan

Project Title: Human and Wildlife Interactions

Project Goal:

Study wildlife policy issues to develop potential legislation to address problems arising when human and wildlife populations interact.

Project Description:

Interactions between human and wildlife populations generate a significant amount of public policy debate on issues including crop damage, cougar hunting, and body-gripping traps. The Committee will study these wildlife management policy issues, see the end result of wildlife interactions, and gain a deeper understanding of the cultural issues that effect wildlife management policy decisions. The Committee will develop legislative proposals addressing some of these current wildlife management issues facing the state.

The project includes a work session and a public hearing in Colville regarding the Department of Fish and Wildlife's cougar control project and other cougar management issues. The project also includes work sessions in September and December on potential legislation regarding animal trapping.

Number & Type of Meetings: Three work sessions and one public hearing

Completion Date: December

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan and Jeff Olsen

Project Title: Toxins in Commerce

Project Goal:

Review options for possible legislation dealing with toxic materials.

Project Description:

In recent sessions the Committee has had to make policy decisions dealing with various toxic materials that are present in items offered for sale in Washington. These have included mercury, PBTs, PBDEs, and other toxic materials that enter the state through the stream of commerce. The Committee will review the approaches taken by other jurisdictions for dealing with these potentially dangerous components of popular and necessary consumer products, attempt to identify the scope of state action available, and assess options for the future management of these products.

The project includes a work session in September on potential legislation and an update from the Department of Ecology on electronic waste in December.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: December

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan and Jeff Olsen

Project Title: Natural Resource Agencies Management Structures

Project Goal:

Assess the various management structures at the natural resource agencies.

Project Description:

There are three primary agencies that manage and regulate the state's natural resources: the Department of Ecology, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Natural Resources. Among these agencies there are three different leadership models. The Department of Natural Resources is led by a statewide elected official, the Department of Ecology has a director appointed by the Governor, and the director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife is appointed by a commission that is in turn appointed by the Governor. The committee will examine each model and, if appropriate, advance legislative proposals revising the models used.

The project includes a work session in September to discuss findings and potential legislation.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan and Jeff Olsen

Project Title: Management of Environmental Funds

Project Goal:

Study and make recommendations for the management of the Model Toxics Control Account and the Pollution Liability Insurance Account.

Project Description:

The State and Local Model Toxics Control Accounts were created in 1988 with the passage of Initiative No. 97. Moneys from the accounts are used to support hazardous and solid waste programs and toxic cleanup activities. The Pollution Liability Insurance Account (PLIA) was established in 1989 in response to federal regulations adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency requiring owners of underground storage tanks to demonstrate financial responsibility for accidental releases of petroleum. The PLIA account is scheduled to sunset on June 1, 2007.

The project will review the current status of programs and activities supported by these dedicated accounts, and includes a work session in December to review potential legislation.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December

Staff Assigned: Jeff Olsen and Jason Callahan

Project Title: Off-Road Vehicle Use

Project Goal:

Review recommendations from the Task Force on Off-Road Vehicle Noise Management established in Senate Bill 5089

Project Description:

Legislation regulating off-road vehicle (ORV) noise and use was introduced and heard during the 2005 legislative session. A task force was established in Senate Bill 5089 to review current noise requirements for ORVs, including the use of public lands or other large ownerships where ORVs may operate without disturbing neighbors. The Committee will conduct a work session in December to review the recommendations from the task force.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan and Jeff Olsen

**House of Representatives
State Government Operations and Accountability
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|---|--------------|
| September 16, 2005 | 8:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | Alternative Public Works Contracting | Work Session |
| December 2, 2005 | 8:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | Linking Performance Goals and Budgeting Process Update on the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board | Work Session |

Project Title: Alternative Public Works Contracting

Project Goal:

Educate the Committee on the various alternative public works contracting procedures.

Project Description:

Alternative public works contracting includes the following procedures: design-build; general contractor/construction manager (GC/CM); and job order contracting. Design-build and GC/CM were adopted in statute in 1994 and, after several extensions, the authority to use these procedures expires June 30, 2007. Job order contracting was not authorized until 2003. Very few state agencies and several large local governments, ports, public utility districts, school districts, and hospital districts are authorized to use alternative public works and every year more public entities seek authority to use these procedures or to increase the number of projects allowed under the procedures.

The 2003-05 Capital Budget directed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) to review the GC/CM procedures. More recently, ESHB 1830 established the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board to evaluate public capital projects construction processes and to advise the Legislature on policies related to alternative public works delivery methods.

A work session during September Assembly is planned for alternative public works and will include: 1) a presentation of the JLARC study on GC/CM; 2) an overview of the design-build, GC/CM, and job order contracting procedures; and 3) alternative delivery methods, including competitive negotiation contracts.

Number & Type of Meetings: September Assembly work session

Completion Date: September 2005

Staff Assigned: Marsha Reilly and Kathryn Leathers

Project Title: Linking Performance Goals and Budgeting

Project Goal:

Gain an understanding of how agencies link the budgeting process with agency program goals and objectives.

Project Description:

The Budgeting and Accounting Act requires each state agency to define its mission and establish measurable goals to achieve program objectives. Agency budget proposals must be directly linked to the stated mission and program goals and objectives and also must include integration of performance measures that allow objective determination of a program's success in achieving its goals. HB 1970 requires agencies to implement a quality management, accountability, and performance system, which also includes establishing performance goals. The Committee will examine how agency performance goals interact with the budget process.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Marsha Reilly and Kathryn Leathers

Project Title: State Government Reorganization

Project Goal:

Identify successful reorganization methodologies for state government.

Project Description:

The committee will monitor state government agencies undertaking a full or partial reorganization for the purpose of identifying and further studying successful reorganization methodologies that achieve established management, accountability and performance goals.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: 12/2005

Staff Assigned: Marsha Reilly and Kathryn Leathers

**House of Representatives
Technology, Energy and Communications
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|---|--------------|
| September 16, 2005 | 10:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Use and Development of Renewable Resources (2) Utility Integrated Resource Planning (3) Uniform Interconnection Standards (4) Security of Critical Energy Facilities (5) Electric Utility Service Area Dispute Resolution | Work Session |
| October | TBA | Seattle | Full Committee | Communications and Emerging Technologies | Work Session |
| December 2, 2005 | 10:00 AM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) The Internet and Consumer Protection (2) Communications and Emerging Technologies (3) Telecommunications Regulation (4) E-911 Implementation (5) Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) | Work Session |

Project Title: Use and Development of Renewable Resources

Project Goal:

Study issues related to renewable energy and identify opportunities for encouraging the use and development of renewable resources.

Project Description:

During the 2005 session and prior sessions, several bills dealing with renewable energy and energy efficiency have been introduced and considered by the Technology, Energy, and Communications Committee. One particular issue is whether Washington should develop a standard requiring Washington utilities to include a percentage of renewable energy in their mix of energy resources. The Committee will continue discussions with interested parties and stakeholders on this issue. Committee work may include briefings from the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Sarah Dylag and Kara Durbin

Project Title: Manufacture and Use of Biodiesel and Other Alternative Fuels

Project Goal:

Educate the committee on the alternative fuel industry and identify possible incentives to encourage manufacture and use of alternative fuels.

Project Description:

During the 2005 session, the committee considered bills related to encouraging the manufacture and use of biodiesel and other alternative fuels (House Bills 1645, 1646, and 1647). The Committee has continued interest in understanding the alternative fuels industry. The Committee seeks to better understand the issues involved in manufacturing and using alternative fuels, and to identify possible incentives for manufacture and use.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Sarah Dylag and Kara Durbin

Project Title: Hydropower Relicensing

Project Goal:

Study issues related to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's relicensing process for hydropower facilities in the state.

Project Description:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issues licenses for certain hydropower facilities in the state. FERC relicenses these facilities for continuance of existing projects using three different licensing processes. The Committee has an interest in understanding issues related to the relicensing process for hydropower facilities in the state.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Sarah Dylag and Kara Durbin

Project Title: Utility Integrated Resource Planning

Project Goal:

Monitor agency update of electric utility least-cost planning rules and consider legislative options.

Project Description:

During the 2005 session and in prior sessions, the committee has considered legislation related to electric utility resource acquisition and planning. Traditionally, electric utilities have been guided in their efforts to acquire resources for meeting their customers' demand for electricity by a least cost planning analysis. In conducting least cost planning, utilities choose a mix of supply and demand side resources that minimizes the cost of services to the customer. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is currently considering revising its current least-cost planning rules, which apply to investor-owned utilities. The Committee will continue discussions with interested parties, stakeholders, and agency representatives on this issue, and will consider legislative options.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Sarah Dylag

Project Title: Uniform Interconnection Standards

Project Goal:

Monitor agency and industry action regarding the development and implementation of standardized interconnection standards.

Project Description:

There are some efforts underway to establish standards for interconnection to the electrical grid for small scale generation. During the 2005 session, the committee considered legislation (House Bill 1011) to establish statewide uniform interconnection standards. Committee work on this issue involved technical, engineering, operational, safety, and procedural issues. The Committee will continue discussions with interested parties and stakeholders on this issue. Committee work may include briefings from various state agencies.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Sarah Dylag

Project Title: Security of Critical Energy Facilities

Project Goal:

Educate committee members on issues related to the security and disclosure of information about critical energy facilities.

Project Description:

Current law requires the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to create maps of certain hazardous liquid and gas pipelines. Concerns have been raised about disclosure of this information and the Committee seeks to better understand issues related to disclosure of this information. Committee work may include briefings from agencies and industry groups.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Sarah Dylag

Project Title: Electric Utility Service Area Dispute Resolution

Project Goal:

Consider legislative proposals for establishing service area dispute resolution procedures for electric utilities.

Project Description:

During the 2005 session, the Technology, Energy, and Communications Committee considered House Bill 2179, which proposed a procedure for resolving electric utility service area disputes. Under current law, electric utilities and cooperatives can enter into agreements with other electric utilities and cooperatives for the designation of the boundaries of adjoining service areas, for establishing procedures to extend service in adjoining areas not currently served by either utility, and for purchase or sale of duplicating utility facilities. When an agreement involves an investor-owned utility, the agreement must be approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. A statutory dispute resolution procedure for establishing these agreements and for resolving related disputes does not exist. The Committee will consider outstanding issues that may require legislative action.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Sarah Dylag

Project Title: Communications and Emerging Technologies

Project Goal:

Study issues related to the classification, taxation, and regulation of emerging communications technologies and develop possible legislative proposals.

Project Description:

During the 2005 session, House Bill 2161, proposing a legislative task force to study telecommunications and information technology, was introduced. The FCC, federal courts, and the states have been involved in proceedings related to the regulatory status of emerging technologies. The Committee has continued interest in a number of current issues related to the classification, taxation, and regulation of emerging communications technologies, including VoIP and broadband. The Committee will examine the current status of these issues and the role of the state. The Committee may consider issues related to the following: taxation of telecommunications, cable, and internet services; sales taxes as related to online commerce; taxes on radio and television advertising; taxes on satellite services; use of public rights of way; the impact of these taxes on the revenue needs of local governments; and the impact of changing technologies on universal service policies, E-911, and CALEA. Knowledge gained will be used to consider legislative options for the 2006 session.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Sarah Dylag and Kara Durbin

Project Title: The Internet and Consumer Protection

Project Goal:

Educate members on issues related to emerging Internet technologies and monitor federal legislation related to Spyware, Phishing, and the Internet.

Project Description:

During the 2005 session, the Legislature passed bills relating to the Internet and consumer protection (House Bill 1012 -- Spyware, House Bill 1888 -- Phishing). The committee also considered legislation requiring the Washington State School Safety Center Advisory Committee to develop and distribute a pamphlet to students promoting Internet safety. As Internet technologies are continually evolving, the Committee has continued interest in these and related issues. The Committee will continue discussions with interested parties and stakeholders on these issues, and related issues, including emerging technologies, e-commerce, Internet safety, etc. The Committee will also monitor federal activity related to Spyware, Phishing, and the Internet. Committee work may include briefings from industry groups and the Attorney General's Office.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin

Project Title: Telecommunications Regulation

Project Goal:

Educate committee members on current state telecommunications regulations and study recent developments in telecommunications regulation.

Project Description:

In addition to the committee's work on Communications and Emerging Technologies, the Committee also seeks to better understand current telecommunications regulations in the state and how these regulations relate to evolving telecommunications technologies. The Committee will continue discussions with interested parties regarding current regulations and monitor federal activity related to telecommunications regulations. The Committee may also receive briefings from agencies and industry groups regarding current state telecommunications regulations. The Committee will consider legislative options for the 2006 session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Sarah Dylag and Kara Durbin

Project Title: E-911 Implementation

Project Goal:

Monitor issues related to the implementation of Enhanced 911 (E-911), including issues involving E-911 and emerging technologies.

Project Description:

In a location where a 911 system is available, a person can contact emergency assistance by dialing "911." Under Enhanced 911 (E-911), the caller's phone number and location are automatically displayed at the public safety answering point. During the 2005 session, the Committee conducted a work session on critical infrastructure. This work session included a presentation on the implementation of E-911 throughout the state. The Committee also heard testimony on House Joint Memorial 4001, which requested Congress to develop federal E-911 standards for Voice Over Internet Protocol service. The Committee has a continued interest in the status of E-911 implementation in the state and the Committee will continue to monitor the implementation of E-911 statewide. Committee work may include an update from relevant stakeholders, agencies, and industry groups.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin

Project Title: Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)

Project Goal:

Study issues related to the development and use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology.

Project Description:

During the 2005 session, the Committee held a work session on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID). The work session focused on the development of RFID technology and various uses of RFID. The Committee will monitor new developments in RFID technology and will continue to study the use of this technology in a variety of contexts. The Committee will continue discussions with stakeholders and industry groups, and Committee work may include an update from these groups regarding new developments in RFID technology and issues related to using this technology.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin

Project Title: Communications and Interoperability

Project Goal:

Monitor ongoing studies and activities related to the interoperability of communications technologies.

Project Description:

In 2003, the Washington State Information Services Board established the State Interoperability Executive Committee to take inventory of and evaluate all state and local government-owned public safety communications systems, and prepare a statewide public safety communications plan. The plan was to set forth recommendations for executive and legislative action to insure that public safety communications systems can communicate with one another and conform to federal law and regulations governing emergency communication systems and spectrum allocation. The plan was to include specific goals for improving interoperability of public safety communications systems and identifiable benchmarks for achieving those goals. In December of 2004, the State Interoperability Executive Committee submitted its final report to the Legislature, finding that the majority of public safety responders are not able to communicate effectively or directly with their federal, state, regional, local, or tribal counterparts and that there is a lack of financial resources to support the vision of interoperability within the state. The committee has an ongoing interest in interoperability and will monitor the progress of ongoing activity in this area.

Number & Type of Meetings: None. Monitoring issue

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin

**House of Representatives
Transportation
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005**

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | COMMITTEE | PROJECT TITLE | TYPE |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|--|--------------|
| July 26, 2005 | 1:00 pm | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Introduction and Briefing From Chief of WSP and Director of DOL (2) Status Report on State Transportation Governance Changes (3) TPAB Audit Reports on DOL and WSP (4) Review of TPAB Audit Plan and State Auditor's Performance Audit for 2005-07 (5) Overview of Federal Drivers License ID Requirements (Real ID Act) (6) End-of-Biennium Reports Due to the Legislature | Work Session |
| September 15, 2005 | 3:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Status Report on Joint Transportation Committee (2) WSP Accident Policies and Procedures (3) Hood Canal Bridge Project Update | Work Session |
| December 1, 2005 | 3:30 PM | Olympia | Full Committee | (1) Statewide Tolling Feasibility Study- Status Report (2) Passenger-Only Ferry Task Force Report (3) Electronic Fare System Implementation (4) Update on Regional Transportation Issues (5) Long-Haul Truck Parking Study | Work Session |

Project Title: Introduction and Briefing From the New Department of Licensing (DOL) Director and Chief of the Washington State Patrol (WSP)

Project Goal:

Introduction of Liz Luce, DOL Director and John Batiste, Chief of the WSP.

Project Description:

The Committee will be introduced to the Director of DOL and the Chief of the WSP and receive brief agency overviews with a question and answer period.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: June 23, 2005

Staff Assigned: Jerry Long and Teresa Berntsen

Project Title: Status Report on State Transportation Governance Changes

Project Goal:

Update committee members on developments in transportation governance.

Project Description:

Engrossed Senate Bill 5513 placed the Secretary of Transportation under the authority of the Governor. The bill also required a study of the duties and statutory responsibilities of the Transportation Commission and the Department of Transportation, in order to determine where those duties should most appropriately reside. The Governor vetoed that study and stated that she was directing her staff to examine the statutory roles and duties of the agencies and report back with any recommended changes. The Governor and her staff will be invited to update the Committee on their plans for this examination.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Beth Redfield

Project Title: Transportation Performance Audit Board (TPAB) Audit Reports on the Department of Licensing and the Washington State Patrol.

Project Goal:

Update committee members on performance audits of the Department of Licensing and the Washington State Patrol recently completed by TPAB.

Project Description:

TPAB was established in the 2003 biennium to perform performance measurement reviews and recommend audits on transportation agencies. Two of the identified audits were Department of Licensing and the Washington State Patrol. During this meeting TPAB will review the performance audits and provide any recommendations to the members.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 31, 2006

Staff Assigned: Jerry Long

Project Title: Transportation Performance Audit Board (TPAB) Audit Plan and the State Auditor's Performance Audit Plan for 2005-07

Project Goal:

Establish review and audit plans for the Transportation Performance Audit Board and the State Auditor's Office performance audits for transportation agencies.

Project Description:

As part of the budget development process, TPAB has identified areas for performance measurement reviews and audits. The proposed TPAB audit plan will be presented to the committee. In addition, the State Auditor will provide the audit plan for 2005-07 for performance audits to be performed on transportation agencies as directed in the transportation revenue bill (ESSB 6103).

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: June 2005

Staff Assigned: Jerry Long

Project Title: Overview of Federal Drivers License ID Requirements (Real ID Act)

Project Goal:

Brief Committee members regarding the new requirements placed on the Department of Licensing under the Real ID Act and the cost and effect of implementation.

Project Description:

The Real ID Act was recently signed into law by President Bush. It creates a series of requirements for drivers licenses that go into effect in 2008, which will have significant impacts on the Department of Licensing (DOL). The DOL will appear before the committee to educate the members regarding the effects of the Real ID Act and the actions that it intends to take to address the requirements of the Act.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: June 2005

Staff Assigned: David Munnecke

Project Title: End-of-biennium Reports Due to the Legislature

Project Goal:

Provide House Transportation Committee members updates on reports required of agencies by the 2003-05 and 2004 supplemental transportation budgets.

Project Description:

The Committee will receive an update on the reports required by the 2003-05 and 2004 supplemental transportation budgets and a presentation of Washington State Patrol Cost Allocation and Pursuit Vehicles Cost Model studies.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: June 23, 2005

Staff Assigned: Teresa Berntsen

Project Title: Status Report on the Joint Transportation Committee

Project Goal:

Update committee members on Joint Transportation Committee activities.

Project Description:

Engrossed Senate Bill 5513 created the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) as a way for legislators to conduct interim studies and member education on transportation issues. The budget provided funds for two staff people and directed that the Committee administer four studies: a feasibility study of a statewide uniform motor vehicle excise tax depreciation schedule; a task force study of passenger-only ferry service; a consultant study of the long-term viability of the state's transportation financing methods and sources; and a consultant study of DOT's budget process and program. JTC staff will provide a briefing on the status of the studies.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2005

Staff Assigned: Beth Redfield

Project Title: Washington State Patrol (WSP) Accident Policies and Procedures

Project Goal:

Establish policies and procedures regarding WSP officers involved in traffic accidents.

Project Description:

SHB 1387 requires the Washington State Patrol to development policies and procedures regarding WSP officers involved in vehicle accidents. An outside entity with a reputation in law enforcement management and reviews will review the proposed policies and procedures. The WSP will present the policies and procedures to the Legislature during the September 2005 Committee Assembly and then finalize them based on input from the Legislature.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 1, 2005

Staff Assigned: Jerry Long

Project Title: Hood Canal Bridge Project Update

Project Goal:

Keep committee members apprised of developments on the SR 104, Hood Canal Bridge east half replacement project.

Project Description:

The east half of the SR 104, Hood Canal Bridge is nearing the end of its useful life. Providing a vital link for the Olympic peninsula to the central Puget Sound, replacement of the aging structure is a top priority for the State. Funding was provided in 2003 to build a new structure. As part of the project, a new graving dock was to be built in Port Angeles to construct the floating pontoons. Shortly after construction on the graving dock started, an ancient Indian burial ground was uncovered. Ultimately, the site was abandoned and the project has been delayed until an alternative is found for construction of the pontoons. Currently, three alternatives have been identified and the Legislature has provided funding to cover the cost increases experienced on this project.

The Committee will receive an update on which of the alternatives has been chosen for construction of the floating pontoons, impacts to the construction schedule, and impacts to the estimated costs for the project.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: June 2006

Staff Assigned: Gary Lebow

Project Title: Statewide Tolling Feasibility Study- Status Report

Project Goal:

Brief committee members about the process and results of the statewide tolling feasibility study to be conducted by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Project Description:

Section 206(1) of the 2005-07 transportation budget requires the DOT to review all state-owned highways to determine the feasibility for these highways to become toll facilities. This study is also required by SHB 1541 (the new Public-Private Partnership Act for transportation projects) before DOT can proceed to develop any public-private partnership projects. The Committee will be briefed on the process and results of the statewide tolling and feasibility study.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 15, 2005

Staff Assigned: Jeff Doyle

Project Title: Passenger-only Ferry Task Force Report

Project Goal:

Explore issues regarding public or private provision of expanded passenger-only service in the South Sound.

Project Description:

The budget directs the Joint Transportation Committee to convene a stakeholder group to study the most reliable and cost-effective means (public versus private) of providing passenger-only ferry service. The study must examine issues including the long-term viability of the service, cost to ferry passengers, state subsidies required, and availability of federal funding. The Task Force will report on its findings and recommendations.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Beth Redfield

Project Title: Electronic Fare System Implementation

Project Goal:

Monitor and review progress made by the Department of Transportation (DOT) on implementing the electronic fare collection system.

Project Description:

The DOT was reappropriated funds in the 03-05 biennium to implement a new revenue collection system for the Washington State Ferries. The new system is to replace the existing deficient point of sale system, address on-going audit issues, and be compatible with the Regional Smartcard project. The electronic fare collection system is scheduled to be implemented in Fall 2005, with Smartcard implementation completed by the summer of 2006. The DOT is required to provide semi-annual reports on their progress.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: August 2006

Staff Assigned: Jay Alexander

Project Title: Update on Regional Transportation Issues

Project Goal:

Update committee members on the proposals for regional transportation funding for the Central Puget Sound.

Project Description:

The Central Puget Sound region is expected to provide a share of funding to implement the regional transportation partnership projects. Representatives of regional transportation planning and finance groups will present their proposals for sources and uses of funds.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2005

Staff Assigned: Beth Redfield

Project Title: Long-Haul Truck Parking Study

Project Goal:

Identification of options for long-haul truck parking.

Project Description:

As the number of trucks delivering goods in the state has increased and the process of using on demand shipping has been implemented, places for truck drivers that are safe and available while resting or waiting to deliver goods are in demand. The transportation budget bill (ESSB 6091) requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to evaluate the number of parking spaces available for long-haul truck parking relative to current projected future needs. The DOT will also explore options for augmenting the number of spaces available. The department will present a report to the House Transportation Committee on the options, strategies, and recommendations for long-haul truck parking.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 1, 2005

Staff Assigned: Jerry Long

**Washington State
House of Representatives
Committee Members by Committee
Report as of 06/22/2005**

Appropriations (29)

Sommers, Chair (D); Fromhold, Vice Chair (D); *Alexander; **Anderson; **McDonald; Armstrong; Bailey; Buri; Clements; Cody; Conway; Darneille; Dunshee; Grant; Haigh; Hinkle; Hunter; Kagi; Kenney; Kessler; Linville; McDermott; McIntire; Miloscia; Pearson; Priest; Schual-Berke; Talcott; Walsh

Capital Budget (29)

Dunshee, Chair (D); Ormsby, Vice Chair (D); *Jarrett; **Hankins; Blake; Chandler; Chase; Cox; Eickmeyer; Ericks; Ericksen; Flannigan; Green; Hasegawa; Holmquist; Kretz; Kristiansen; Lantz; McCune; Moeller; Morrell; Newhouse; O'Brien; Roach; Schual-Berke; Serben; Springer; Strow; Upthegrove

Children & Family Services (9)

Kagi, Chair (D); Roberts, Vice Chair (D); *Hinkle; **Walsh; Darneille; Dickerson; Dunn; Haler; Pettigrew

Commerce & Labor (7)

Conway, Chair (D); Wood, Vice Chair (D); *Condotta; **Sump; Crouse; Hudgins; McCoy

Criminal Justice & Corrections (7)

O'Brien, Chair (D); Darneille, Vice Chair (D); *Pearson; **Ahern; Kagi; Kirby; Strow

Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade (23)

Linville, Chair (D); Pettigrew, Vice Chair (D); *Kristiansen; **Skinner; Blake; Buri; Chase; Clibborn; Condotta; Dunn; Grant; Haler; Holmquist; Kenney; Kilmer; Kretz; McCoy; Morrell; Newhouse; Quall; Strow; Sullivan, P.; Wallace

Education (11)

Quall, Chair (D); Sullivan, P., Vice Chair (D); *Talcott; **Anderson; Curtis; Haigh; Hunter; McDermott; Santos; Shabro; Tom

Finance (9)

McIntire, Chair (D); Hunter, Vice Chair (D); *Orcutt; **Roach; Ahern; Conway; Ericksen; Hasegawa; Santos

Financial Institutions & Insurance (11)

Kirby, Chair (D); Ericks, Vice Chair (D); *Roach; **Tom; Newhouse; O'Brien; Santos; Serben; Simpson; Strow; Williams

Health Care (15)

Cody, Chair (D); Campbell, Vice Chair (R); Morrell, Vice Chair (D); *Bailey; **Curtis; Alexander; Appleton; Clibborn; Condotta; Green; Hinkle; Lantz; Moeller; Schual-Berke; Skinner

Higher Education (13)

Kenney, Chair (D); Sells, Vice Chair (D); *Cox; **Rodne; Buri; Dunn; Fromhold; Hasegawa; Jarrett; Ormsby; Priest; Roberts; Sommers

Housing (9)

Miloscia, Chair (D); Springer, Vice Chair (D); *Holmquist; **Dunn; McCune; Ormsby; Pettigrew; Schindler; Sells

Judiciary (10)

Lantz, Chair (D); Flannigan, Vice Chair (D); Williams, Vice Chair (D); *Priest; **Rodne; Campbell; Kirby; Serben; Springer; Wood

Juvenile Justice & Family Law (7)

Dickerson, Chair (D); Moeller, Vice Chair (D); *McDonald; **McCune; Crouse; Lovick; Roberts

Local Government (7)

Simpson, Chair (D); Clibborn, Vice Chair (D); *Schindler; **Ahern; Sullivan, B.; Takko; Woods

Natural Resources, Ecology & Parks (11)

Sullivan, B., Chair (D); Upthegrove, Vice Chair (D); *Buck; **Kretz; Blake; Chandler; Dickerson; Eickmeyer; Hunt; Orcutt; Williams

Rules (17)

Chopp, Chair (D); *DeBolt; **Armstrong; Anderson; Blake; Clibborn; Ericksen; Flannigan; Grant; Hudgins; Hunt; Kessler; Lovick; McDonald; Morrell; Shabro; Tom

Select Committee on Hood Canal (7)

Eickmeyer, Chair (D); McCoy, Vice Chair (D); *Pearson; **Sump; Appleton; Chase; Walsh

State Government Operations & Accountability (9)

Haigh, Chair (D); Green, Vice Chair (D); *Nixon; **Clements; Hunt; McDermott; Miloscia; Schindler; Sump

Technology, Energy & Communications (11)

Morris, Chair (D); Kilmer, Vice Chair (D); *Crouse; **Haler; Ericks; Hudgins; Nixon; Sullivan, P.; Sump; Takko; Wallace

Transportation (27)

Murray, Chair (D); Wallace, Vice Chair (D); *Woods; **Skinner; Appleton; Buck; Campbell; Curtis; Dickerson; Ericksen; Flannigan; Hankins; Hudgins; Jarrett; Kilmer; Lovick; Morris; Nixon; Rodne; Schindler; Sells; Shabro; Simpson; Sullivan, B.; Takko; Upthegrove; Wood

* denotes Ranking Minority Member

** denotes Assistant Ranking Minority Member

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