

**House of Representatives  
Office of Program Research**

**2006 Interim Plans**

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

June 2006

**Office of Program Research  
Washington House of Representatives  
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**Committees**

Appropriations .....	786-7204
Capital Budget .....	786-7204
Children & Family Services .....	786-7141
Commerce & Labor .....	786-7122
Criminal Justice & Corrections .....	786-7131
Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade .....	786-7155
Education .....	786-7167
Finance .....	786-7124
Financial Institutions & Insurance .....	786-7101
Health Care .....	786-7122
Higher Education .....	786-7155
Hood Canal, Select Committee on .....	786-7167
Housing .....	786-7131
Judiciary .....	786-7122
Juvenile Justice & Family Law .....	786-7131
Local Government .....	786-7126
Natural Resources, Ecology & Parks .....	786-7124
State Government Operations & Accountability .....	786-7126
Technology, Energy & Communications .....	786-7141
Transportation .....	786-7311

# Table of Contents

<b><u>Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
Appropriations .....	1
Capital Budget .....	7
Children and Family Services .....	12
Commerce and Labor .....	18
Criminal Justice and Corrections .....	25
Economic Development, Agriculture and Trade .....	28
Education .....	32
Finance .....	38
Financial Institutions and Insurance .....	40
Health Care .....	43
Higher Education & Workforce Education .....	50
Hood Canal, Select Committee on .....	53
Housing .....	56
Judiciary .....	61
Juvenile Justice and Family Law .....	65
Local Government .....	68
Natural Resources, Ecology and Parks .....	72
State Government Operations and Accountability .....	76
Technology, Energy and Communications .....	84
Transportation .....	96
Committee Membership .....	103
Alphabetical Index of Projects .....	106

**House of Representatives  
Appropriations  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September 6	10 AM -12 1 - 3 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	1. K-12 update: a. WASL results and remediation plan b. WA Learns preliminary K-12 recommendations  2. Health Costs: a. Briefing on recipients of state-financed health benefits b. 2006 legislative actions regarding health costs c. Evidence based practices and small employer efforts  3. IT systems: a. HRMS implementation b. PCHEES higher education system c. OMNI d. SACWIS (DSHS child welfare system) e. MMIS (Medicaid claims processing)  4. Energy initiatives funded in the 2006 budget  5. State audit process and implementation of I-900	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Budget outlook for 2007-09 and beyond  2. Update on collective bargaining  3. Update on recommendations of Washington Learns for Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education	Work Session

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**Project Title: Emergency Management Center at Camp Murray**

**Project Goal:**

Understand emergency management responsibilities and response including implementation of recently funded items.

**Project Description:**

The facility at Camp Murray serves as the state Emergency Operations Center and Washington State Emergency Management Division headquarters. By centralizing response actions in an Emergency Operations Center, the state can maximize the coordination of resources during an emergency and with homeland security initiatives. The facility serves as the central location for state responses. The state has provided funding for the implementation of several emergency response mechanisms to improve the state's preparation for and ability to respond to potential emergencies, and to enhance homeland security initiatives.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** May 31, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Elisabeth Donner

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**Project Title: K-12 Updates**

**Project Goal:**

This project will update the committee on the results of the WASL taken by 10th graders in the spring, and on Washington Learns preliminary K-12 recommendations.

**Project Description:**

Passing the 10th grade Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) or an alternative is a requirement for graduation from a public high school beginning with the class of 2008. This spring, that class has its first opportunity to take the WASL as 10th graders. The 2006 Legislature passed legislation providing for alternatives to the WASL under certain circumstances, and the 2006 supplemental operating budget provided \$28.6 million to help students who have been unsuccessful at passing one or more sections of the 10th grade WASL. The budget also provided funding to make the spring results available earlier to students so that those that failed and would like to receive assistance during the summer can do so. This project will review the preliminary state-wide results of the WASL.

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

**Completion Date:** September 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Ben Rarick

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**Project Title: Washington Learns**

**Project Goal:**

Review the recommendations of Washington Learns, a comprehensive study of early learning, K-12, and higher education.

**Project Description:**

In 2005, E2SSB 5441 established a steering committee to study and make recommendations on early learning, K-12 finance, and higher education. This effort is Washington Learns. An interim report is due in June 2006 and the final report and recommendations are due November 15, 2006. This project will monitor the progress of Washington Learns and review the preliminary recommendations, particularly those related to financing early learning, K-12, and higher education programs.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One or two work sessions

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Ben Rarick, Amy Skei

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**Project Title: Health Costs**

**Project Goal:**

This project will provide information on the drivers of state-financed health costs and state efforts related to health costs and benefits.

**Project Description:**

Roughly one-third of the operating budget is related to health costs and health benefits. This includes medical assistance (through Medicaid and other DSHS programs) to Washington residents who meet certain criteria), and providing or funding health benefits for state employees (including higher education) and K-12 employees. This project will provide information on the drivers of state-financed health costs and state efforts related to health costs and benefits.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** David Pringle

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**Project Title: IT Projects**

**Project Goal:**

This project will review the implementation of HMRS, OMNI, and SACWIS, and review the PCHEES higher ed system.

**Project Description:**

There are a number of significant IT projects underway or near completion. In recent years, there have been a number of project implementation issues on important IT projects, including HRMS and OMNI.

This project will review the status of:

- (1) the Human Resources Management System (HRMS), which replaces the current mainframe based payroll system, supports requirements of the Personnel System Reform Act of 2002, and supports other human resource and health benefits administration;
- (2) the Offender Management Network System (OMNI), which will replace the Department of Corrections' current offender tracking system;
- (3) the State Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS), which replaces the current system used by Children's Administration in the Department of Social and Health Services; and
- (4) the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS), which is a federally certified health care claims processing system.

In addition, this project will review the Office of Financial Management's student data information system called the Public Centralized Higher Education Enrollment System (PCHEES), how it currently is used, and potential broader uses for this system.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** David Pringle; Amy Skei; Elizabeth Donner

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**Project Title: Energy Initiatives Funded in 2006**

**Project Goal:**

This project will review the implementation of energy related initiatives funded in the 2006 budget.

**Project Description:**

In 2006, the Legislature enacted E2SHB 2939, referred to as the Energy Freedom Program. \$23 million was provided by the operating budget for this program. This project will provide an update on the implementation of projects that are in process, particularly the project to increase green power generation in Grays Harbor County and bio-energy projects.

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

**Completion Date:** September 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Owen Rowe

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**Project Title: State audit process**

**Project Goal:**

This project will review the state audit process and implementation of I-900

**Project Description:**

The state auditor conducts financial audits of state agencies and local governments. Legislation and Initiative 900, both passed in 2005, give the auditor authorization to conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments. Approximately \$18 million per year is earmarked for performance audits. This project will review the State Auditor's traditional audit process and how the Auditor intends to implement performance audits under I-900. The project also will review the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee's plan to receive state performance audits on behalf of the Legislature.

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

**Completion Date:** September 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Elisabeth Donner

**Project Title: Update on Collective Bargaining**

**Project Goal:**

This project will provide an update on funding requests related to the collective bargaining process for the 2007-09 biennium.

**Project Description:**

The Personnel System Reform Act of 2002 authorized collective bargaining for certain state employees. The Governor's Labor Relations Office bargains with representatives of state employees under the provisions of the Personnel System Reform Act of 2002. The bargaining process typically takes place in the summer and early fall of even-numbered years. State law requires that for consideration by the Governor in her budget proposal, agreements must be reached by October 1st and that the Legislature either approves or rejects funding requests for the agreements included in the Governor's budget proposal. This project will provide an update on the collective bargaining process for funding requests in the 2007-09 biennium.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** David Pringle

**Project Title: Programs for Developmentally Disabled Persons**

**Project Goal:**

Study the facilities for developmentally disabled persons at Buckley and Fircrest.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will study the state operated five habilitation centers that serve developmentally disabled persons by providing assessment, treatment, training, habilitation programs, and activities.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** June 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Elisabeth Donner

**House of Representatives  
Capital Budget  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Update on the implementation of the Energy Freedom Program. 2. Trust Land Asset Management Strategies. 3. Update on a statewide approach to a recreation level of service standard for local and regional park facilities. 4. Higher Education Capital Project Prioritization. 5. 2007 session preview.	Work Session

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**Project Title: Implementation of the Energy Freedom Program**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor the Department of Agriculture's implementation of the Energy Freedom Program.**

**Project Description:**

Sections 191 and 192 of the 2006 Supplemental Capital Budget (ESSB 6384) provide \$17 million in funding to the Department of Agriculture for implementation of the Energy Freedom Program. This program provides funding for renewable energy projects including the development of biofuel oilseed crushers, supporting infrastructure, and facilities for five political subdivisions. In addition, the Department of Agriculture is authorized to award financial assistance to political subdivisions, federally recognized tribes, or state institutions of higher education on a competitive basis for projects that convert farm products or waste into electricity or fuel. This work session topic will update the Committee on implementation of the program.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Susan Howson and Nona Snell

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**Project Title: Trust Land Asset Management Strategies**

**Project Goal:**

**Discuss the Department of Natural Resources' trust land asset management strategies.**

**Project Description:**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages a diverse portfolio of trust lands to include forest lands, agricultural lands, and commercial real estate. In the 2006 legislative session, the DNR requested additional capital budget appropriation authority for the Land Bank program to acquire properties that provide increased income or benefit to the trust beneficiaries or that could be more efficiently managed by the DNR. The Legislature has directed the University of Washington to examine the economic, recreational, and environmental trends influencing the forest products industry and secondary manufacturing sectors in Washington and the State Investment Board has been directed to study the performance of the DNR's commercial properties portfolio. This work session topic will discuss DNR's trust land asset allocation strategy, return on investment from current properties, and income goals. In addition, a progress update on the two studies will be provided to the Committee.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Nona Snell, Susan Howson, Alicia Paatsch, and Jason Callahan

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**Project Title: Level of Service Standard for Local and Regional Park Facilities**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor the development of a statewide recreation level of service standard for local and regional active recreation facilities by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation.**

**Project Description:**

Section 228 of the 2006 Supplemental Capital Budget (ESSB 6384) directs the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) to develop recommendations for a statewide approach to a level of service standard for local and regional park facilities, including indicators which measure progress in achieving level of service objectives. The IAC is directed to report on level of service standards including individual participation measures, service area analysis using geographic information system tools and techniques, and recommendations to incorporate level of service reporting into its grant programs. This work session topic will provide an update to the Committee on the IAC's progress in this effort.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Nona Snell, Susan Howson, Alicia Paatsch, and Jason Callahan

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**Project Title: Higher Education Capital Project Prioritization**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor and review the project priority lists developed during the 2006 interim by the public baccalaureate institutions and the community and technical colleges.**

**Project Description:**

Section 908 of the 2005-07 Capital Budget (ESSB 6094) provides additional guidance to the Higher Education Coordinating Board and the four-year institutions in developing and submitting a single prioritized project list of capital projects to the Legislature for the 2007-09 biennium. This project will monitor the work of the HECB and the Council of Presidents to refine the methodology for determining the ranking of project requests. In addition, this project will monitor and review the work of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges in the development of a prioritized project list for the state's two-year system.

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

**Completion Date:** September 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Susan Howson.

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## STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

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### **Project Title: Decision Making Processes Used by States for Institutional Closures**

#### **Project Goal:**

**Review other states' decision making processes and implementation of institutional closures.**

#### **Project Description:**

State institutions serve a critical role in the delivery of services to Washington citizens. Maintaining the capital needs of state institutions requires both long-term planning and financing. However, the state lacks an independent review process and an effective method of decision making for state institutions with excess capacity or with alternative service delivery models. Capital Budget staff in coordination with Senate Fiscal staff will research and report on decision making and implementation processes used in other states and by the federal government for the closure of institutions.

#### **Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Susan Howson and Nona Snell

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### **Project Title: Technical Review of Local Community Projects**

#### **Project Goal:**

**Identify local community projects funded by the Legislature but not included in existing grant, loan, or technical assistance programs and analyze whether the projects meet the programs' criteria.**

#### **Project Description:**

Section 229 of the 2006 Supplemental Capital Budget (ESSB 6384) directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) to conduct an inventory of all state public infrastructure programs and funds. It is the intent of the Legislature to use the inventory information to identify or develop a comprehensive funding structure to support the integration, consolidation, and standardization of processes, procedures, and infrastructure programs. This project will augment the work of JLARC by identifying local community projects funded by the Legislature but not included in existing grant, loan, or technical assistance programs and analyzing whether the projects meet the programs' criteria. This information will be used to inform the Committee about potential gaps between the state's infrastructure programs and assist with potential changes to the programs.

#### **Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Nona Snell and Susan Howson

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**Project Title: Best Practices for Managing the Capital Budget Process**

**Project Goal:**

**Collaborate with the Office of Financial Management on the identification and implementation of best practices in Washington's capital budget processes.**

**Project Description:**

Section 224 of the 2006 Supplemental Budget (ESSB 6384) expands on the work of the 63-20 financing study conducted by the State Treasurer in 2005. This project involves working with OFM to identify: (1) best practices for managing capital project costs including long-term forecasting information for facility preservation, major facility or system replacement, and new capacity to result in more effective investment decisions for major public facilities and infrastructure; (2) best practices in the state's capital budgeting process and public works contracting procedures; (3) appropriate uses of alternative capital project financing; and (4) management of risk and reduction of potential claims and litigation associated with state construction projects. OFM is required to report to the Legislature by September 1, 2007.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** September 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Susan Howson and Nona Snell

**House of Representatives  
Children and Family Services  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
May 9	All Day	Edmonds and Bothell	Full Committee	Services to Children with Sensory Disabilities	Work Session
December	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	Children's Administration Redesign 1. Report from the task force on administrative structure. 2. Report from the child safety task force.	Work Session
December	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Flexible Family Support for Persons with Developmental Disabilities: Report from the DSHS. Adoption: Report from the Department of Health regarding adoption statistical data.	Work Session

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**Project Title: Services for Children with Sensory Disabilities**

**Project Goal:**

**Committee will develop recommendations regarding services for children with sensory disabilities.**

**Project Description:**

The Committee will review and discuss information regarding: (1) Outreach activities (including collaboration with school districts, educational service districts, and community partners); (2) Current technology available to assist hard of hearing and profoundly deaf; (3) The incidence and severity of deafness in the general population and among the Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) applicants and current students; and (4) The incidence and type of co-occurring disabilities within the student populations of the WDS and Washington School for the Blind (WSB).

Staff will conduct a literature review of studies examining service delivery models for educational services to students with sensory disabilities.

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

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

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**Project Title: Flexible Family Support for Persons with Developmental Disabilities**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor implementation of the flexible family support pilot program and consider recommendations for continuing and/or improving the program.**

**Project Description:**

The 2005-07 operating budget created a flexible family support pilot program for families caring for family members with developmental disabilities. Funding is provided for support services, including respite care, training, counseling, assistive technologies, transition services, and assistance with extraordinary expenses. The Committee will receive a report from the DSHS regarding recommendations for integrating state-funded family support programs into a single program in order to improve families' access to and understanding of program services.

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

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

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**Project Title: Adoption**

**Project Goal:**

Consider recommendations from the Department of Social and Health Services and the Department of Health relating to adoption.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will consider recommendations from the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) relating to adoption and adoption statistical data. ESSB 6635 (2006) directs the DOH and the DSHS to recommend an efficient means for collecting, compilation, and publishing adoption statistical data. Recommendations from the DOH are due October 1, 2006. ESSB 6635 (2006) also directs the DSHS to consult with adoption stakeholders and develop recommendations relating to: (1) Reducing barriers to adoption of children out of foster care; and (2) Accreditation standards for adoption-related service providers. Recommendations from the DSHS are due January 1, 2007.

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

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

**Project Title: Autism Services**

**Project Goal:**

Committee will consider recommendations from the Caring for Washington Individuals with Autism Task Force

**Project Description:**

The Legislature created the Caring for Washington Individuals with Autism Task Force (task force) through passage of SB 5311 (2005). The task force is directed to study and make recommendations regarding the growing incidence of autism and ways to improve the delivery and coordination of autism services in Washington. The task force presented an interim report in February 2005. The final report and recommendations are due December 1, 2006.

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

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

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

**Project Goal:**

Committee will consider recommendations regarding the administrative structure for delivering services to children and families.

**Project Description:**

ESSB 5872 (2005) created the Joint Task Force on the Administrative Structure for the Delivery of Social and Health Services to Children and Families. ESSB 6741 (2006) expanded the membership and extended the duration of the task force to determine the most appropriate and effective administrative structure for delivery of social and health services to the children and families of the state. The task force is directed to "study how best to ensure that an administrative structure has defined lines of responsibility for delivering services to children and families in need and the best means for the public to hold government accountable for delivery of those services." The Committee will receive the final recommendations of the task force by December 1, 2006.

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

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

**Project Title: Safety of Children in Custody of Child Welfare or Child Protective Services**

**Project Goal:**

Committee will receive the final report and recommendations from the Child Safety Task Force

**Project Description:**

The Legislature created the Joint Task Force on Child Safety (task force) in 2005 (SHB 2156). The task force is directed to make recommendations for improving the health, safety, and welfare of children in the custody of Washington's child welfare and child protective services. The task force presented its preliminary finding in January 2005. The final report is due September 1, 2006.

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

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Sonja Hallum

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## STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

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### **Project Title: Braam Settlement Agreement Implementation**

#### **Project Goal:**

Committee will receive progress reports on the implementation of the improvement plan developed pursuant to the Braam settlement agreement.

#### **Project Description:**

The Braam Oversight Panel was created in 2004 to oversee a settlement agreement regarding Washington State's foster care system. The settlement agreement was reached after a six-year period of litigation. The independent panel has responsibility, in collaboration with Washington's Department of Social and Health Services, and substantial input from plaintiffs, to develop outcomes, benchmarks and action steps as well as professional standards for the six areas identified in the settlement agreement. The Panel issues two types of reports: Implementation Plans and Progress Reports. The Panel issues progress reports every six months, reporting on the Department's progress and including specific findings on the Department's compliance with the provisions of the agreement. These reports inform the parties and the public whether conditions for Washington's youth in foster care are improving according to the agreement and within identified timeframes. The first report on progress was due February 2006; the second is due June 2006.

#### **Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

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### **Project Title: Services to Adolescents**

#### **Project Goal:**

Committee will receive information from the Department of Social and Health Services regarding screening and responding to referrals of child abuse and neglect involving adolescents.

#### **Project Description:**

The Legislature passed ESB 5538 (2005) requiring the Department of Social and Health Services (DHS) to: (1) Develop staff training curriculum on screening and responding to referrals of child abuse neglect involving adolescents; (2) Conduct quarterly reviews of a sampling of screening decisions involving adolescents and use the results to improve practice and training; and (3) Report to the Legislature and Governor in August 1, 2006 and August 1, 2007. The Committee will review the staff training curriculum and the results of the quarterly reviews of screening decisions.

#### **Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

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**Project Title: Children of Incarcerated Parents**

**Project Goal:**

Committee will consider recommendations from the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) regarding the needs of children whose parents are incarcerated in Washington.

**Project Description:**

The Legislature passed HB 1426 (2005) directing the DOC and the DSHS to explore and make recommendations regarding the needs of children of incarcerated parents. An interim report was provided February 20, 2006, and a final report is due June 30, 2006.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Sydney Forrester

**House of Representatives  
Commerce and Labor  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
July 20-21	Two days	Wenatchee	Full Committee	Agricultural Labor	Possible Work Session
May 24	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Olympia	Full Committee (Joint with Senate Labor, Commerce, Research, and Development Committee)	Gambling Policy	Work Session
Up to 2 additional joint hearings and work sessions (TBA)	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee (Joint with Senate Labor, Commerce, Research, and Development Committee)	Gambling Policy	Public Hearing/ Work Session
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Workplace Safety	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Workers' Compensation Real Estate Licensing	Work Session

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**Project Title: Gambling Policy**

**Project Goal:**

**Examine current gambling policy and make recommendations on the future of gambling policy setting.**

**Project Description:**

During the 2006 session the Legislature considered, but did not adopt, Substitute Senate Concurrent Resolution 8417 that would have created a Joint Select Committee on the Future of Gambling Policy Setting.

During the 2006 interim, in lieu of the Joint Select Committee, the House Commerce & Labor Committee and the Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee will hold up to 3 joint hearings and work sessions to examine gambling policy, including the current and potential future nature and scope of legalized gambling in the state (how these forms of gambling have developed and changed over time and what are the current trends), the current and potential future tax structures relating to gambling activities in the state, the nature of problem gambling and efforts to address it in this state, and the manner in which policies on gambling have been and are established in this state.

The committees will solicit information and recommendations from the relevant state and federal agencies, tribal representatives, and private and non-profit sector stakeholders.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One joint work session on May 24; up to 2 additional joint hearings and work sessions TBA

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Chris Cordes and Sarah Dylag

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**Project Title: Agricultural Labor**

**Project Goal:**

**Examine the supply and the demand for agricultural labor in Washington, and related issues.**

**Project Description:**

There are approximately 31,000 seasonal agricultural workers in Washington. In 2006, however, there are concerns that the supply of agricultural labor in Washington will be insufficient to meet the demand for such labor. To address these concerns, the Employment Security Department has expanded its efforts to increase the number of growers who list jobs with WorkSource and the number of workers who apply, as well as to better match the skills of workers with the available jobs. Some growers are seeking approval through the federal H-2A visa program to bring up to 1,000 workers from Mexico to Washington.

During the 2006 interim the House Commerce & Labor Committee will participate in a possible work session to examine agricultural labor and related issues. The Committee will: (1) Examine the supply and the demand for agricultural labor in Washington; (2) learn about various elements of the agricultural labor market, including hiring workers directing, engaging farm labor contractors, and participating in the federal H-2A visa program; and (3) gather information on proposed changes to federal immigration laws and their impact on the agricultural labor market in Washington.

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

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Jill Reinmuth and Sarah Dylag

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**Project Title: Workplace Safety**

**Project Goal:**

**Learn about the Department of Labor and Industries' recent efforts with respect to workplace safety compliance and consultation. Examine the relationship between the underground economy and workplace safety.**

**Project Description:**

During the 2005 interim members of the House Commerce & Labor Committee participated in ride alongs with inspectors from the Department of Labor and Industries' Division of Occupational Safety and Health Services (formerly the WISHA Services Division).

During the 2006 interim the House Commerce & Labor Committee will follow up on issues raised during these ride alongs. The Committee will also hold a work session in which the Department of Labor and Industries will make a presentation on the following: (1) The Department's compliance and consultation activities; (2) the Department's inspection, citation, and penalty processes; (3) existing Strategic Partnership Programs and Voluntary Protection Programs; (4) related federal and state law; and (5) evolving procedures. The presentation will also include information about the underground economy's effect on workplace safety.

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

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Sarah Dylag and Jill Reinmuth

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**Project Title: Real Estate Licensing**

**Project Goal:**

Review proposed changes to the state law governing the licensing of real estate brokers and salespersons.

**Project Description:**

In December 2003 the Department of Licensing's Real Estate Program appointed a task force to study possible revisions to the law governing the licensing of real estate brokers and salespersons. Since then, the task force has been working on creating a revised draft of the law.

During the 2006 interim the House Commerce & Labor Committee will hold a work session discussing the results of the task force's work and the feedback from stakeholders on the revised draft. The Committee will consider possible legislation for the 2007 session.

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

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Sarah Dylag and Jill Reinmuth

**Project Title: Workers' Compensation**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor ongoing workers' compensation issues, receive reports, and consider possible legislation for 2007.**

**Project Description:**

During the 2006 interim the House Commerce & Labor Committee will continue to monitor various workers' compensation issues, receive related reports from the Department of Labor and Industries, and consider possible legislation for 2007. Activity will include:

- (1) Monitor the status of audits of the state fund and receive any available updates. (SHB 1856, enacted in 2005, requires the Department of Labor and Industries to prepare financial statements on the state fund, accident fund, medical aid fund, and pension reserve fund. Beginning in 2006, the State Auditor's Office must conduct audits of the state fund and issue a report within six months of the end of the fiscal year. The State Auditor's Office also conducts performance audits.)
- (2) Monitor implementation of SHB 2537, enacted in 2006, which requires the Department, by January 1, 2007, to develop and begin a pilot program in which employers assist workers in completing an application for benefits.
- (3) Review of recent caselaw, such as the Gallo decision and the Roller decision.
- (4) Review of Department decisions and any court cases on hour banks.
- (5) Review of the Department's processes for making medical coverage decisions and review of the Department's involvement in the implementation of E2SHB 2575, enacted in 2006, which established the Health Technology Assessment Program.
- (6) Report on implementation of SHB 1691, enacted in 2004, which authorized advanced registered nurse practitioners to examine, diagnose, and treat injured workers, and SB 6356, also enacted in 2004, which authorized physician assistants to assist workers who are filing claims for simple industrial injuries in applying for compensation. These reports are due to the House Commerce & Labor Committee by December 1, 2006.
- (7) Report on benefit adjustment when retroactive social security benefit overpayments are issued by the Social Security Administration. The report is due to the House Commerce & Labor Committee by December 1, 2006 under RCW 51.32.220.
- (8) Report on uses of workers' compensation funds.

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

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Sarah Dylag and Jill Reinmuth

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## STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

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**Project Title: Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship Opportunities**

**Project Goal:**

Receive reports from the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Monitor implementation of pre-apprenticeship pilot projects.

**Project Description:**

2SHB 2789, enacted in 2006, relates to apprenticeship opportunities for high school students. Under the bill, up to ten school districts will be awarded incentive grants for the 2006-07 school year for personnel to negotiate and implement direct-entry agreements with local apprenticeship programs. The incentive grants for must be awarded for the 2006-07 school year and a related report is due to the House Commerce & Labor Committee in December 2006. The bill also establishes up to four pilot projects to increase student enrollment in pre-apprenticeship programs.

2SHB 2789 also requires the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene a workgroup to identify barriers and opportunities for further expansion of pre-apprenticeship. A second report on work done by the workgroup is due to the House Commerce & Labor Committee in December 2006.

During the 2006 interim the House Commerce & Labor Committee will monitor implementation of the direct-entry programs and pre-apprenticeship pilot projects, and will review the results of both reports.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Sarah Dylag and Jill Reinmuth

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**Project Title: Task Force on Sale and Distribution of Beer and Wine**

**Project Goal:**

Receive a report from the task force reviewing the currently regulatory system controlling the sale and distribution of beer and wine.

**Project Description:**

2SSB 6823 was enacted in 2006 in response to Costco Wholesale Corp v. Hoen, et al (2005), in which the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington struck down the Washington law allowing in-state, but not out-of-state, wineries and breweries to distribute their products directly to retailers. The bill allows wineries and breweries in Washington and other states to distribute wine and beer of their own production to Washington retailers until June 30, 2008. The bill also requires the Liquor Control Board to convene a task force to review the current regulatory system controlling the sale and distribution of beer and wine, and make recommendations about any proposed changes to the system by December 15, 2006.

During the 2006 interim the House Commerce & Labor Committee will monitor the task force proceedings and receive the task force report on the sale and distribution of beer and wine.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** January 1, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Jill Reinmuth and Sarah Dylag

**House of Representatives  
Criminal Justice and Corrections  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
March 23 & 24	All Day	Walla Walla	Full Committee	Safe at Home Conference and Washington State Penitentiary Tour	Work Session / Conference
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Inmate Educational Programs & Inmate Mentally Ill Programs	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	The Chances of a Juvenile Offender becoming an Adult Felon and an Update from the Joint Legislative Task Force on Offenders Programs, Sentencing, and Supervision	Work Session

## Project Title: Inmate Educational Programs & Inmate Mentally Ill Programs

### Project Goal:

To review: 1) educational programs currently offered to inmates and 2) Washington's Dangerous Mentally Ill Program.

### Project Description:

#### Inmate Education:

Prior to the passage of 2E2SHB 2010 (Chapter 10 of the laws of 1995), the Department of Corrections (DOC) contracted with nine community colleges to provide educational services for offenders at 15 correctional facilities. Instruction was offered in adult basic education, life skills training, and vocational education. Funding for offender education programs was provided primarily by state legislative appropriation and was administered by the department. Some federal funds were also used for specific education programs.

After the passage of 2E2SHB 2010, the department was required to prioritize resources for education in the following order: (1) basic academic skills through high school or GED and vocational training; (2) additional work and education programs based on assessment and placement criteria; (3) other work and education programs not related to assessment and placement criteria. Inmates with skills below 8th grade basic skills level were required to be placed in a combined work and education program. Currently, inmates are placed in appropriate programs based on placement criteria: release date; custody level, education and work skills assessment; economic circumstances, and prior performance. In addition, inmates are required to pay on a sliding scale, based on ability to pay, for the following: (1) AA or BA programs when placed by DOC and (2) second and subsequent vocational programs associated with work programs. Inmates must pay full costs or tuition for the following: post-secondary academic degree programs when not placed in the program by DOC; second and subsequent vocational programs when not associated with work programs.

The Committee, working in conjunction with the DOC and local community colleges, will review educational programs currently offered to inmates and the possibility of expanding upon having more community colleges provide educational services to prison incarcerated inmates.

#### Dangerous Mentally Ill Program:

In 2004, E2SSB 6358 was enacted relating to dangerous mentally ill offenders. The act required mental health providers, chemical dependency treatment providers, and the DOC to share records and reports with each other regarding offenders who are under supervision by the DOC and are subject to court-ordered treatment. Among other requirements, the act also required the DOC and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to develop a training plan for information sharing on offenders under supervision who are subject to mental health or chemical dependency treatment orders.

The DOC and the DSHS will be invited to provide an update on the Dangerous Mentally Ill Offender program and to offer suggestions on how the program can be improved.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

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

**Project Title: The Chances of a Juvenile Offender becoming an Adult Felon & an Update from the Joint Legislative Task Force on Offenders Programs, Sentencing, and Supervision**

**Project Goal:**

To study ways to: 1) reduce the chance of a juvenile offender becoming a future adult felon and 2) reduce recidivism rates among adult offenders.

**Project Description:**

**Juvenile Offender to Adult Felon:**

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy will provide an overview of their report on the likelihood of a juvenile offender becoming an adult offender. The report will focus on a juvenile's crime, criminal history, and age, and how each of these factors affect the chance that a juvenile will re-offend as a young adult. The House Juvenile Justice and Family Law Committee will be invited to participate.

**Joint Legislative Task Force on Offenders Programs, Sentencing, and Supervision:**

The legislature enacted SSB 6308 creating a Joint Legislative Task Force on Offenders Programs, Sentencing, and Supervision. The Task Force must review and make recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor regarding earned early release, community custody, work release, and inmate training and education programs operating within Washington. The Task Force will be invited to provide an overview of its findings and recommendations.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

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

**House of Representatives  
Economic Development, Agriculture and Trade  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
May 30 (Approved as Discretionary Day)	TBA	Skagit County	Full Committee	Rural economic development issues focused on small businesses.	Work Session
May 31	TBA	Whatcom County	Full Committee	Rural Economic Development issues focused on the agricultural industry and issues related to water.	Work Session
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Joint work session with Technology, Energy & Communications on Genetically Engineered Organisms (GEOs).	Work Session
Day Before December Committee Assembly	TBD	Olympia	Full Committee	Agriculture Roundtable.	Work Session
December	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Reports on: 1. Tourism Work Group Report 2. Small Business Development Centers 3. Staff Update on Water Issues.	Work Session
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Washington Tourism Work Group	Washington Tourism Work Group: Stakeholder Roundtable.	TBA
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Washington Tourism Work Group	Washington Tourism Work Group Meeting: Briefing by the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development; Presentation of Research; and Discussion.	TBA
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Washington Tourism Work Group	Washington Tourism Work Group: Recommendations for the 2007 Legislative Session.	TBA
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Water Issues Work Group	Water Issues Work Group	TBA
TBA	TBA	Olympia	Water Issues Work Group	Water Issues Work Group	TBA

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**Project Title: Rural Washington**

**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 in Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish Counties. The Committee will take advantage of its oversight of both economic development and agriculture to engage several communities in a conversation regarding the challenges facing the community, the economic development tools utilized, and the future needs of the community.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Two work sessions/public hearings in Whatcom and Skagit Counties.

**Completion Date:** June 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan, Meg Van Schoorl, Tracey Taylor, and Owen Rowe

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**Project Title: Genetically Engineered Organisms (GEOs)**

**Project Goal:**

**Examine agricultural issues related to GEOs that are under state control and develop a state policy.**

**Project Description:**

The Committee will join the Technology, Energy and Communications Committee work session to consider GEO issues related to agriculture, what issues related to GEOs are under state control and what a state policy would look like. The Committees may look at the role GEOs play in optimizing through breeding and genetic modification production of biomass as an energy crop, plant research, GEO setbacks from other crops, consumer safety, public health and environmental quality. Furthermore, the Committees may examine different sets of standards for agriculture and industrial use, and consumptive use by humans and animals.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One joint work session in Olympia.

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Meg Van Schoorl, Jason Callahan, Scott Richards

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**Project Title: Agriculture Roundtable**

**Project Goal:**

**Understand key issues facing Washington's agriculture industry and options for their resolution.**

**Project Description:**

With a \$5.9 billion annual value of production, Washington's diverse agriculture industry makes significant contributions to state and local economies through direct and indirect jobs, income, and revenue. This roundtable is an opportunity for representatives of key agriculture sectors to discuss with EDAT members current issues facing their industries and options for resolving them. Discussion topics could include: agriculture and the economy; bio-energy; animal identification; international marketing; bio-security; taxes; water; land use; and research.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One EDAT work session the day before Committee Assembly

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Meg Van Schoorl

**Project Title: Water Issues**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor, understand, and prepare legislation dealing with the various ongoing issues surrounding water.**

**Project Description:**

Issues involving both water supply and water quality continue to be at the forefront of environmental and economic development policy in the state. The committee will monitor, examine, and if appropriate, prepare legislation for various water supply and water quality issues, including the municipal storm water rules, crop rotation patterns and relinquishment, the counting of consumptive use of water, instream flows rule development, various water quality and water supply issues, and the Department of Ecology's implementation of 2006's HB 2860 and HB 2884.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Two work group meetings of 4 members; One work session

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan

**Project Title: Washington Tourism**

**Project Goal:**

**Understand the current structure of tourism promotion and make recommendations regarding improvements.**

**Project Description:**

The tourism industry is important to Washington's economy, especially with the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympics Games scheduled in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Committee, with a work group taking the lead, will study the current structure for decisions and funding for tourism promotion in Washington, as well as what models other states are utilizing. The Committee work group will work with the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development and the relevant stakeholder groups to make recommendations regarding improvements to Washington's tourism promotion model.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Three meetings of the up to 6 member work group; One work session.

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Tracey Taylor, Owen Rowe

**House of Representatives  
Education  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
Mid June	Half Day	Olympia	Full Committee	Washington Learns	Work Session
Early September	Morning	Olympia	Full Committee	Alternative Assessments (September Update)	Work Session
December (Pre-Committee Assembly)	Morning	Olympia	Full Committee	Standards, Instruction, Curriculum, and Assessment of Mathematics	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	Morning	Olympia	Full Committee	Alternative Assessments (December Update) and WASL Remediation	Work Session
December	TBA	Olympia	Joint meeting with Juvenile Justice & Family Law Committee	Drop-out Prevention for At-Risk Youth.	Work Session

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**Project Title: Washington Learns**

**Project Goal:**

**Consider and discuss preliminary recommendations on K-12 finance and governance from Washington Learns.**

**Project Description:**

Legislation enacted in 2005 created a comprehensive education finance and governance review chaired by the Governor called Washington Learns. Washington Learns operates with a steering committee and three advisory committees, one each for early learning, K-12, and higher education. National consultants have been engaged to conduct a review of education finance at all three levels. Preliminary reports from the K-12 consultants should be available by mid-June, with preliminary recommendations of the K-12 advisory committee due to the steering committee in July. Policy and fiscal recommendations from the overall Washington Learns effort will be before the 2007 Legislature for consideration. The House Education Committee has not yet had an opportunity to interact with the consultants or the non-legislative members of the K-12 advisory committee. This meeting will provide an in-depth orientation to the research, methods, findings, and preliminary recommendations from the review as well as discussion among members of the Education Committee and the advisory committee.

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

**Completion Date:** June 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Barbara McLain

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**Project Title: Alternative Assessments**

**Project Goal:**

**Review and provide input on the Superintendent of Public Instruction's proposed guidelines, protocols, and scoring criteria for alternative assessments to the WASL. Review the State Board of Education's approval decision for implementation of the collection of evidence alternative method.**

**Project Description:**

Legislation enacted in 2006 (ESSB 6475) authorized the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop and implement several alternative assessments that eligible students may use for high school graduation purposes instead of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning. The legislation directed SPI to make an in-depth report to the Education Committees of the Legislature by September 2006 on the guidelines, protocols, and scoring criteria for the alternatives; field tests of the alternatives being conducted in the spring and summer of 2006; and an updated estimate of the number of students likely to pursue one of the alternatives. One of the alternatives is a collection of work samples submitted by students as evidence that they meet state standards (collection of evidence). The legislation stipulated that the collection can only be implemented after approval by the State Board of Education. This decision is expected by December 1, 2006. In September, members of the Education Committee will have an opportunity to review the information prepared by the SPI for submittal to the State Board; in December, the Committee will receive a briefing on the State Board's decision and an additional status update from SPI.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Barbara McLain

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**Project Title: WASL Remediation**

**Project Goal:**

Examine preliminary information about schools districts' use of supplemental funding for WASL remediation from the Promoting Academic Success Program.

**Project Description:**

The 2006 supplemental budget provided \$27.9 million for the Promoting Academic Success Program to provide remedial extended learning opportunities for students not successful on the high school WASL. The budget also directed the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to perform a quantitative analysis of the effectiveness of the remedial programs. Although outcomes information will not be available until the Institute's final report in December 2007, a December 2006 interim report should provide information about the remedial strategies school districts are using and the number of participating students, as well as the research methods proposed to examine program effectiveness. The OSPI will also provide preliminary information on school districts' use of special instructional modules developed by OSPI for WASL remediation.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Barbara McLain

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**Project Title: Standards, Instruction, Curriculum, and Assessment of Mathematics**

**Project Goal:**

Examine current issues regarding the state of mathematics standards, instruction, curriculum, and assessment in Washington.

**Project Description:**

Although 70 to 80 percent of students are meeting state standards on the WASL in reading, and 58 to 65 percent in writing, student scores in mathematics continue to lag. In particular, fewer than half of 10th grade students met the standard in 2005. Students who take the WASL in 2006 will be required to pass all three sections before they graduate from high school. The 2006 supplemental budget provided funding for a variety of mathematics initiatives. However, questions remain about the state of mathematics standards, instruction, curriculum, and assessment in Washington. Do Washington's standards focus on the most essential skills and knowledge? How can mathematics instruction be improved? What are current issues and controversies about mathematics curriculum? How does the mathematics WASL compare to other mathematics assessments? During the 2006 Interim, the Education Committee will gather and examine information about each of these aspects of mathematics and convene a work session to hear expert testimony on these issues.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

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

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**Project Title: Drop-Out Prevention for At-Risk Youth**

**Project Goal:**

The Committee will identify programs targeting reducing the drop-out rate for at-risk youth.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will research programs specifically targeting at-risk youth to prevent them from dropping out of school. The Committee will identify legislation to encourage programs to reduce the drop-out rate among this group of youth.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** 1 joint meeting with Juvenile Justice & Family Law Committee

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Barbara McLain & Sonja Hallum

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## STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

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**Project Title: Partnerships to Address the Achievement Gap**

**Project Goal:**

Examine the research literature and best practices for parent and community involvement with schools to address the achievement gap for students.

**Project Description:**

Much of the research literature on closing the achievement gap focuses on strategies that are successful in improving the achievement of all students; other research literature focuses on the unique social and cultural needs of certain groups of students. The 2006 supplemental budget provided \$500,000 for SPI to award five grants to parent, community, and school district partnerships to meet the unique needs of different groups of students in closing the achievement gap. Committee staff will prepare a review of the literature on strategies to address the achievement gap and summarize policies proposed or used by other states (including Washington) in an attempt to close the gap. During the 2007 Legislative Session, partnership grant recipients will be invited to make presentations on their strategies.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** 2007 Session

**Staff Assigned:** Barbara McLain

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**Project Title: Instruction, Assessment, and Educational Opportunities for English Language Learners**

**Project Goal:**

**Examine the research literature, best practices, and strategies used by other states to improve instruction, assessment, and other educational opportunities for English Language Learners**

**Project Description:**

Although Washington students are showing overall gains in academic achievement, the WASL scores of English Language Learners or ELL students significantly lag their peers. Fewer than half of 4th grade ELL students passed the Reading WASL and only one-fourth passed Mathematics. Test scores decline dramatically for older students, many of whom are recent arrivals to this country or to the education system. Fewer than 30 percent of 10th grade ELL students passed Reading and only 12 percent passed Mathematics. Successful approaches for educating ELL students vary depending on a number of factors: the number of students needing extra services, the number of different languages spoken, age and educational background of students. The 2006 Legislature directed the Superintendent of Public Instruction to examine the feasibility of offering the mathematics WASL in languages other than English. The Education Committee will examine best practices in delivering instruction, assessment, and other educational opportunities for ELL students, particularly for older students.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** 2007 Session

**Staff Assigned:** Barbara McLain

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**Project Title: Accountability and Goals for Improving Student Achievement**

**Project Goal:**

**Examine the current status of state and federal goals and accountability mechanisms for improving student achievement and identify options for alternatives for Washington.**

**Project Description:**

The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 established expectations for states to set goals for improving student achievement and required certain actions to be taken to hold schools and school districts accountable for reaching their goals, as long as these actions are authorized under state law. The Washington Legislature created the Academic Achievement and Accountability Commission in 1999 to develop a state accountability system. Various accountability schemes have been proposed, but not enacted. In 2005, the A+ Commission was eliminated and its duties assigned to a newly reconstituted State Board of Education which begins its work in 2006. As the new State Board considers its charge and duties, the Education Committee will also re-examine the current status of goals and accountability mechanisms and plan to meet with the members of the State Board early in the 2007 legislative session for a discussion of these issues.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** 2007 Session

**Staff Assigned:** Sarah Ream

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**House of Representatives  
Finance  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Changing Rural Economies and Tax Bases 2. Economic and Revenue Forecast Update	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Changing Rural Economies and Tax Bases. 2. Economic and Revenue Forecast Update. 3. Preview of Revenue Issues for 2007 session.	Work Session

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**Project Title: Changing Rural Economies and Tax Bases**

**Project Goal:**

Conduct a review of economic trends in rural counties and the relationship to local government finance.

**Project Description:**

Through briefings and work sessions the committee will develop an understanding of the economic changes occurring in rural counties, the changing tax bases, and the local government finance challenges faced by cities and counties in these areas.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

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

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**Project Title: Economic and Revenue Forecast**

**Project Goal:**

Review the state's economic and revenue forecast.

**Project Description:**

The Economic and Revenue Forecast Council revises the state's economic and revenue forecast four times a year. Through briefings the committee will gain an understanding of the state's economy and estimates of revenue for the current and upcoming biennium.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

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

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**House of Representatives  
Financial Institutions and Insurance  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Credit reporting and scoring. 2. Credit freezes. 3. Review of regulatory and enforcement actions of the Insurance Commissioner.	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Payday lending	Work Session

**Project Title: Credit reporting and scoring**

**Project Goal:**

Discuss credit reporting and legislative options regarding the use of credit information in insurance.

**Project Description:**

Currently, the three major credit reporting agencies use different scoring systems. These agencies are planning on instituting a common scoring system this year. The FII Committee will learn about the possible changes in the scoring systems and discuss impacts on consumers and businesses.

The FII Committee will review the existing law on how credit report information is used by insurers and disclosed to consumers. The Committee will review the current processes regarding the correction of wrong information used by insurers. The Committee will evaluate the remedies for consumers when insurers based a rating or underwriting action on incorrect information. The Committee will contemplate how to increase consumer awareness with the goal of giving consumers a greater understanding of how they can change their financial behavior and lower their premiums.

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

**Completion Date:** December (Committee Assembly)

**Staff Assigned:** Jon Hedegard

**Project Title: Credit freezes**

**Project Goal:**

Review options to protect personal credit information.

**Project Description:**

In 2005, legislation was passed that allowed the option of "freezing" credit information to the victims of the crime of identity theft and persons whose information was compromised in a security breach. The FII Committee will compare the Washington law with the credit freeze laws of other states. The Committee will discuss legislative options including the expansion of the law to cover all consumers and methods to mitigate possible problems if the law is expanded.

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

**Completion Date:** December (Committee Assembly)

**Staff Assigned:** Jon Hedegard

**Project Title: Review of the regulatory and enforcement actions of the Insurance Commissioner**

**Project Goal:**

Update the committee on recent regulatory activities of the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

**Project Description:**

The FII Committee will discuss the OIC's recent rule-makings, technical assistance advisories, and significant enforcement actions. The Committee will review the OIC's implementation of recent legislation.

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

**Completion Date:** December (Committee Assembly)

**Staff Assigned:** Jon Hedegard

**Project Title: Payday lending**

**Project Goal:**

Explore legislative options

**Project Description:**

The business of check cashing and selling ("payday lending") has been the subject of a considerable number of bills and different regulatory approaches in the last biennium. The Committee will review the recent bills in Washington and the approaches taken in other states, including the bill passed in Oregon in 2006. The Committee will discuss possible legislative alternatives to increase consumer protection. The FII Committee will also discuss recent rule-making and enforcement actions by the Department of Financial Institutions related to payday lending.

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

**Completion Date:** December (Committee Assembly)

**Staff Assigned:** Jon Hedegard

**House of Representatives  
Health Care  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Public Health Finance Committee Mental Health Task Force Certificate of Need Task Force Health Information Technology Long Term Care Task Force Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care School Health	Work Session

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**Project Title: Rural Health**

**Project Goal:**

**Obtain a better understanding of the health care system issues facing rural Washington.**

**Project Description:**

Rural communities in Washington face unique challenges to providing access to health care services for members of their communities. Distances between health facilities and the population, recruiting and retaining health care providers, and funding are some of the issues that shape the delivery of health care in the rural parts of the state.

Recent tours of the rural health care system have resulted in specific legislation related to health districts and volunteer health care providers and have generally assisted members from both policy and fiscal committees in understanding rural health perspectives when developing policy.

The Committee will work with the Department of Health's Office of Rural and Community Health and the Area Health Education Center at WSU to highlight the issues confronting health services in rural communities. The Committee will review issues affecting health care services in the region. The review will include the effects of public and private reimbursement policies, the availability of healthcare providers, rural economic conditions, and transportation issues confronting rural communities in Central Washington

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** June 15, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Chris Blake

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**Project Title: Joint Select Committee on Public Health Finance**

**Project Goal:**

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

**Project Description:**

The passage of I-695 eliminated a significant source 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 Committee is to report its findings and recommendations 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 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Chris Blake

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**Project Title: Mental Health Task Force**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor the activities of the Mental Health Task Force and the implementation of recent budget and policy initiatives.**

**Project Description:**

The Mental Health Task Force was established by the Legislature in April, 2005. The Task Force has made a series of recommendations that resulted in significant increases in state funding and modified service delivery for community mental health services.

The Committee will monitor Task Force activities through the interim, including oversight on the implementation of policy and budget initiatives related to community mental health.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** David Knutson

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**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) created 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 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, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Chris Blake

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**Project Title: Health Information Technology**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor the development of a strategy for the adoption of electronic medical records and health information technology.**

**Project Description:**

In 2005, SSB 5064 created the Health Information Infrastructure Advisory Board (HIIAB) to develop a strategy to adopt and use electronic medical records and health information technology consistent with emerging national standards. In 2006, SHB 2573 directed the Health Care Authority to encourage the adoption of health information technology by hospitals through pilot projects and purchasing and reimbursement strategies.

The Committee shall monitor the development of a health information strategy by the HIIAB and the Health Care Authority's implementation of pilot projects and purchasing and reimbursement strategies to increase the adoption of health information technology.

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

**Completion Date:** December 15, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Chris Blake

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

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor the proceedings of the Long Term Care Task Force and its development of policy recommendations.**

**Project Description:**

The Long Term Care Task Force was created in 2005 by 2SHB 1220. The Task Force will examine the current financing and delivery of long term care services, including the delivery of chronic care services. The Task Force will submit recommendations to the Governor and Legislature in January, 2007, and issue a final report in June, 2007.

The Committee will monitor the activities of the Task Force its development of recommendations.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** David Knutson

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**Project Title: Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care**

**Project Goal:**

Monitor the activities of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care

**Project Description:**

The Legislature created a Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care in the operating budget during the 2006 Session. The Commission will examine the health care delivery system and recommend a five year action plan to the Governor and the Legislature in December, 2006.

The Committee will monitor the Commissions' activities, including the development of recommendations that might require statutory change.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** David Knutson

**Project Title: School Health**

**Project Goal:**

Develop options for improving the health of students, including pilot projects to operate clinics in schools.

**Project Description:**

In recent years there have been several proposals related to school health. These include creating school health aides, establishing a school nurse corps, requiring student-nurse ratios, and improving the nutrition of school meals. The 2005-07 biennial budget required that the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction report to the Legislature on school nurse staffing in public schools by February 2006.

The Committee shall review the status of recent initiatives to improve school health. In addition, it shall consider pilot projects to operate cost-effective clinics in schools that serve low-income populations.

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

**Completion Date:** December 15, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Chris Blake

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## STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

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### Project Title: Charity Care

#### Project Goal:

Obtain a better understanding of the structure of hospital billing for low-income patients without third party payors and develop fair methods for repayment of hospital bills.

#### Project Description:

Current law requires that hospitals provide either full or partial reimbursement of hospital charges to certain patients based on their income level. In the 2006 session, HB 2574 would have modified qualifying criteria for patients, established maximum hospital charges for uninsured patients, created notice requirements, and provided guidelines for repayment practices.

The Committee shall work with interested parties to review options for hospital charity care obligations, hospital billing and repayment practices, and ways to notify patients of the availability of charity care.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** None.

**Completion Date:** December 1, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Chris Blake

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### Project Title: Health Care Technology Assessment

#### Project Goal:

Monitor the implementation of an evidence-based health care technology assessment program for state-purchased health care programs.

#### Project Description:

The Legislature established a health care technology assessment program during the 2006 Session with the passage of E2SHB 2575. State agencies that purchase health care services will establish an evidence-based health care technology assessment program.

The committee will monitor the development of the assessment program.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** None

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** David Knutson

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**Project Title: Patient Transfers**

**Project Goal:**

Obtain a better understanding of the patient transfer practices of hospitals.

**Project Description:**

The Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act of 1986 (EMTALA) requires that hospitals screen patients that come to a hospital's emergency department and either provide treatment to stabilize the patient or transfer them to a hospital that can provide appropriate care.

The Committee shall review patient transfer practices that are covered by EMTALA and those that are beyond the scope of EMTALA to determine their appropriateness.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** None.

**Completion Date:** December 1, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Chris Blake

**House of Representatives  
Higher Education & Workforce Education  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
June 29	All Day	Seattle	Full Committee	Update on Higher Education Initiatives in Washington	Work Session
August	Half Day	Yakima	Full Committee	Role of Higher Education and Workforce Training in Economic Development	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee (Invitation to Education & Appropriations)	Information Systems (K-16) in Washington	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Graduate Degrees: Defining the Master's Degree	Work Session

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**Project Title: Update on Higher Education Initiatives in Washington**

**Project Goal:**

Receive progress reports and discuss the higher education plans of Washington Learns, Prosperity Partnership, Washington Roundtable and Technology Alliance.

**Project Description:**

Washington Learns, led by Governor Gregoire and approved by the Legislature in 2005, is conducting a comprehensive review of Washington's education system. The Committee will receive an update on Washington Learns, with emphasis on the Higher Education Advisory Committee's recently released draft report and information on their recent activities and plans for the future.

The Prosperity Partnership is a coalition of over 150 organizations in the Central Puget Sound dedicated to developing and implementing a common economic strategy. They will report on the higher education reform proposal they are developing for the 2007 Legislative Session. This will be followed by updates by the Washington Roundtable and Technology Alliance.

Presenters will be asked to discuss how each of these major initiatives complement each other or could be modified to align if needed. Audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions. The Committee will use this information in its 2007 session planning.

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

**Completion Date:** June 29, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jennifer Thornton and Sarah Ream

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**Project Title: Role of Higher Education and Workforce Training in Economic Development**

**Project Goal:**

Examine the role higher education and workforce training currently plays in economic development efforts in Washington and opportunities to increase its impact.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will hold a work session to examine the role of higher education and workforce training in economic development. The session will include an overview of demographic and economic trends, followed by labor market demand and supply in Washington. The impact that higher education and workforce training has on meeting the needs of Washington's economy will be explored. Education and training opportunities and gaps will be discussed, and strategies for filling the gaps throughout the State will be considered.

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

**Completion Date:** August 30, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jennifer Thornton and Sarah Ream

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**Project Title: Information Systems (K-16) in Washington**

**Project Goal:**

Examine student information systems and data ownership in the State.

**Project Description:**

A number of different agencies are involved in the collection and analysis of data pertaining to K-16 students. On March 3, 2006, six agencies presented information on the type of student data they collect, the systems they use, student outcome measurements, limitations, and planned improvements. In that session, presenters raised issues about the ownership of various data.

This work session will provide the Committee with additional information regarding who owns what data and limitations created by such ownership. The Committee will examine: 1) data collection and analysis capabilities within and across educational sectors, 2) ways to enhance those capabilities, and 3) how agencies can most effectively access and provide information on student outcomes.

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

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jennifer Thornton and Sarah Ream

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**Project Title: Graduate Degrees: Defining the Master's Degree**

**Project Goal:**

Obtain information on master's degree program standards in Washington.

**Project Description:**

Standards for earning a master's degree vary between institutions of higher education and within programs at the same institution. This work session will provide the Committee with information on: program standards in Washington associated with master's degrees; length of time to complete programs; barriers to completing degrees in a timely fashion; national trends in graduate degrees; and the link between standards and the value of the degree. Several graduate programs have recently undergone significant redesigns. These programs will be featured along with a general overview on master's level programs offered within the state.

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

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Sarah Ream and Jennifer Thornton

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**House of Representatives  
Hood Canal, Select Committee on  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
November	Half Day	Hood Canal	Full Committee	Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program Science Update.	Work Session
December	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Hood Canal Studies and Projects Update Hood Canal Rehabilitation Program	Work Session

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**Project Title: Hood Canal**

**Project Goal:**

Study the physical characteristics of the canal and factors contributing to low-dissolved oxygen levels.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will study the physical characteristics of the canal and the factors contributing to the low-dissolved oxygen concentrations.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** July 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jeff Olsen

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**Project Title: Hood Canal Rehabilitation Program**

**Project Goal:**

Evaluate the implementation of the Hood Canal Rehabilitation Program.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will evaluate the implementation of the Hood Canal Rehabilitation Program. The Program was established in 2005 and is coordinated by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council and the Puget Sound Action Team. The 2006 Capital budget provided \$1 million for the Hood Canal Coordinating Council and the Puget Sound Action Team to develop a prioritized list of projects based on their likely value in addressing and resolving the Hood Canal's low-dissolved oxygen concentrations. The Committee will review the process used to develop the prioritized list and review the list of projects that will be submitted to the Governor and the Office of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jeff Olsen

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**Project Title: Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program Science Update**

**Project Goal:**

Review latest information from research and monitoring efforts in Hood Canal conducted by the Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program.

**Project Description:**

In November the Hood Canal Coordinating Committee is organizing an annual meeting at Alderbrook to review the latest scientific information from research and monitoring efforts in Hood Canal conducted by the Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program. The Committee will hear the briefing from the lead scientists conducting the research. Information from the briefing will be evaluated to determine if legislation is necessary to respond to the low-dissolved oxygen concentrations in Hood Canal.

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

**Completion Date:** November 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jeff Olsen

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**Project Title: Hood Canal Studies and Projects Update**

**Project Goal:**

Brief the Committee on several studies and projects initiated since the inception of the Select Committee on Hood Canal.

**Project Description:**

Since the creation of the Select Committee on Hood Canal, several studies and projects have been initiated to further understand the low-dissolved oxygen problem and its impact on the marine environment in Hood Canal. Presenters will update the Committee regarding the progress on the molluscan study, the groundwater study, the deep water geoduck and sea cucumber survey, State Parks sewage projects, on-site septic grant and loan programs, and other projects for Hood Canal.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jeff Olsen

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**House of Representatives  
Housing  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
April 11	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	What needs to be done to accomplish the goal of affordable housing for every low-income household by 2020?	Work Session
May 23	12:00 AM - 2:30 PM	Yakima	Full Committee	Farm Worker Housing Update - Committee will meet at 10 for a Farm Worker Housing Development Ground Breaking.	Work Session
June 20	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	Discussion of Possible 2007 Legislation	Work Session
August 1	11 AM - 1 PM 2 PM - 3PM	Seattle - TBD	Full Committee	1. Ending Homelessness in Washington 2. Homelessness Amongst Youth Aging out of the Foster Care System	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	CTED Annual Housing Update - Programs, Progress and Performance	Work Session

**Project Title: What needs to be done to accomplish the goal of affordable housing for every low-income household by 2020?**

**Project Goal:**

This work session will explore the real causes of the affordable housing crisis and of homelessness and will quantify, when possible, what resources are "needed" to accomplish the goal of ensuring a decent, appropriate, and affordable home in a healthy, safe environment for every very low-income household by 2020.

**Project Description:**

This work session will explore and quantify, when possible, what resources are "needed" to accomplish the goal of ensuring a decent, appropriate, and affordable home in a healthy, safe environment for every very low-income household by 2020. The committee will discuss prevention issues, as well as solutions to homelessness and the broader affordable housing crisis. The committee will focus on what the legislature can do to help move Washington households away from the need for housing subsidies and towards economic independence and self-sufficiency.

The committee will look at "needs" defined in terms of the following topical areas, amongst others:

- State Financial Investment
- Policy/Legislative Changes
- Leadership for Housing Issues
- Advocacy
- Private/Public/Community Partnerships

This session will take the form of a round table discussion with invited representatives from a variety of stakeholder groups. Comments from the public will also be entertained during a designated portion of the agenda.

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

**Completion Date:** April 11, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Robyn Dupuis

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**Project Title: Farm Worker Housing Update**

**Project Goal:**

To examine the current state of farm worker housing, investigate outstanding housing needs and discuss what the legislature can do to help meet those needs.

**Project Description:**

A work session with Farm Worker Housing Trust and Other Farm Worker stakeholders (Growers, Housing Developers, Farm Workers) to discuss the following questions:

- What are the current outstanding needs for farm worker housing?
- What are the results of past and current Farm Worker housing programs supported by the state?
- What can the Legislature do to fill farm worker housing needs by 2020? What types of programs should the Legislature support and what resources, financial and policy, would be helpful to achieve this goal?

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

**Completion Date:** May 23, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Robyn Dupuis

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**Project Title: Discussion of Possible 2007 Legislation**

**Project Goal:**

To discuss potential housing legislation for the 2007 session.

**Project Description:**

The committee will conduct a brainstorming discussion session with interested stakeholders to talk about ideas for 2007 legislation.

Topics will include, amongst others:

- A new Affordable Housing For All Program
- Strengthening the Ending Homelessness Program
- Addressing a variety of Mobile/Manufactured Home Issues
- Initiatives to increasing the Homeownership Rate
- Addressing Costs of Housing Development
- Discussing a potential division of Housing DCTED
- Other topics related to promoting safe, secure housing amongst Washington households.

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

**Completion Date:** June 20, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Robyn Dupuis

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**Project Title: Ending Homelessness in Washington**

**Project Goal:**

**To assess the current situation regarding homelessness in Washington and the performance of the "2163" Homeless Program.**

**Project Description:**

Work Session - Review of "2163" Homeless Program  
- Overview of the Status of Homelessness in Washington State  
- 2163 Report by CTED - Statewide activities and results  
- Suggestions from stakeholders for legislative improvements and feed back on the progress of Homeless Programs  
- Feedback of a new 2007 Homeless Bill

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

**Completion Date:** August 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Robyn Dupuis

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**Project Title: Homelessness Amongst Youth Aging out of the Foster Care System**

**Project Goal:**

**To discuss how to best address the issue of youth aging out of the foster care system.**

**Project Description:**

Work Session - Homeless Youth from the Foster Care System – ( CFS and JJFL invited)  
Invited guests answer discuss the following questions:  
- What is the current situation regarding youth from the foster care system becoming homeless?  
- Why are these youth homeless? What programs or other safe guards are currently in place to assist these youth secure and retain housing?  
- What can be done legislatively to help prevent foster youth from becoming homeless and assisting currently homeless youth secure stable housing?

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

**Completion Date:** August 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Robyn Dupuis

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**Project Title: CTED Annual Housing Update - Programs, Progress and Performance**

**Project Goal:**

To receive an annual update from DCTED's Housing division regarding programs, budgets, the strategic plan, goals and performance measures.

**Project Description:**

The DCTED will provide the committee with an update regarding its strategic plan, the performance of its housing programs and its progress towards creating and implementing performance measures for all housing programs. The DCTED will be asked to provide the following:

- Annual update of the performance of CTED Housing Programs
- Review of CTED budget documents
- Review of the Housing Division Strategic Plan
- Review of all Performance Measures for Housing Programs

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Robyn Dupuis

**House of Representatives  
Judiciary  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Wrongful conviction compensation. 2. Eminent domain.	Public Hearing/ Work Session

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**Project Title: Wrongful Conviction Compensation**

**Project Goal:**

**Develop an appropriate mechanism for providing compensation for persons who are wrongfully convicted and incarcerated.**

**Project Description:**

HB 3254 and SB 6692, introduced last session, would have created compensation statutes for persons wrongfully convicted and incarcerated. Congress and numerous states have enacted wrongful conviction compensation statutes. The statutes vary widely in terms of eligibility, procedural requirements, monetary limits, and statute of limitations. The Innocence Project, a nonprofit legal clinic that represents defendants whose postconviction DNA evidence can be used to overturn their convictions, has drafted a model compensation statute. The Committee will examine wrongful conviction compensation statutes from other states and determine whether and to what extent such a statute is needed in Washington. The Committee will have one public hearing/work session to discuss the issue and potential draft legislation creating a wrongful conviction compensation statute for Washington.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Trudes Tango

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**Project Title: Eminent Domain**

**Project Goal:**

**Examine certain issues relating to the exercise of the power of eminent domain and consider possible legislation for the 2007 session.**

**Project Description:**

The Committee will examine certain issues relating to the taking of private property through the exercise of the power of eminent domain. The use of eminent domain to take private property has recently been the subject of intense interest in the Legislatures of most states. Several bills relating to eminent domain were introduced and considered in the Washington Legislature last session. Much of this recent interest was generated by a U.S. Supreme Court case that upheld the condemnation of private property in Connecticut for uses that arguably would not be permissible in Washington State. None of the eminent domain legislation introduced in Washington last session passed.

The Committee will examine three issues relating to eminent domain that have emerged as areas of concern in this state. The first issue relates to notice requirements when property is going to be condemned. A recent Washington Supreme Court decision upheld the use of Internet postings as adequate notice. The Committee will consider requiring enhanced and uniform standards for giving notice to property owners when a condemning authority is planning to exercise the power of eminent domain. The second issue relates to property that has been condemned for a public use, but is either never actually put to that use or is put to that use only for a short time. The Committee will consider providing some rights for the prior owner regarding possible reacquisition of the condemned property in such circumstances. The third issue relates to the justification a condemning authority must show before using the power of eminent domain. The Committee will consider requiring condemning authorities to demonstrate that a proposed condemnation is necessary and that any reasonable alternatives to the condemnation have been considered.

The Committee will conduct a public hearing/work session in December to consider these issues as well as any proposed legislation that results from the Committee's work during the interim.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Bill Perry and Edie Adams

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## STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

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**Project Title: DUI Work Group**

**Project Goal:**

Monitor the progress of the DUI Work Group established by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission.

**Project Description:**

In the fall of 2005, Governor Gregoire recommended to the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) that it convene a Work Group to review Washington's DUI laws. One of the objectives of the Work Group is to determine if there are nonsubstantive changes that can be made to simplify the DUI statutes. The Work Group is expected to include state and local government entities and other stakeholders such as treatment providers. The WTSC is in the initial stages of forming the Work Group. The process is expected to take 18 - 24 months.

Judiciary Committee staff will monitor the work and progress of the DUI Work Group.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** N/A

**Completion Date:** Unknown

**Staff Assigned:** Trudes Tango

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

**Project Goal:**

Monitor the work of the Homeowners' Association Act Committee.

**Project Description:**

In SCR 8423 (2006), the Legislature created a Homeowners' Association Act Committee (HAAC). The purpose of the HAAC is to review existing statutes and current issues affecting homeowners' associations and to make recommendations for necessary changes to the Homeowners' Association Act (Chapter 64.38 RCW). The HAAC must submit a report of its findings and any proposed implementing legislation to the Legislature by September 1, 2007.

Judiciary Committee staff will monitor the work and progress of the HAAC and provide support to the House member who serves on the Committee.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** N/A

**Completion Date:** September 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Edie Adams

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**House of Representatives  
 Juvenile Justice and Family Law  
 Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
July 31	All Day	Kent	Full Committee	Family Court	Work Session
December	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Prevention and Intervention Programs; 2. Sanctions for Status Offender Violations.	Work Session
December	TBA	Olympia	Joint meeting with Education Committee.	Drop-out Prevention for At-risk Youth.	Work Session

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**Project Title: Work Session on Family Court**

**Project Goal:**

**Gain a better understanding of the family court process and issues surrounding the expansion of family court statewide.**

**Project Description:**

The Committee will hold a work session on the use of Family Court in Washington. The Committee will discuss the current utilization of Family Courts, the outcomes associated with Family Court, and barriers that exist for implementation of Family Court statewide.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** 1

**Completion Date:** July 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Kara Durbin

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**Project Title: Prevention and Intervention Programs**

**Project Goal:**

**Identify programs that intervene in the lives of youth to prevent involvement in the juvenile justice system.**

**Project Description:**

The Committee will review programs designed to intervene in the lives of youth to prevent involvement in the juvenile justice system. One such program is the Juvenile Intervention Program in Bothell which provides an alternative for youth who have criminal involvement and allows the youth to engage in services with their families to address issues within the entire family.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** 1

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Sonja Hallum

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**Project Title: Sanctions for Status Offender Violations**

**Project Goal:**

To determine the sanctions imposed on status offenders, including the extent of the use of contempt of court as a sanction.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will research the current alternatives for imposing sanctions on status offenders, the federal regulations pertaining to the issue, and the numbers of youth detained as a sanction for violations of status offenses. The Committee will gather information regarding how contempt of court is being used around the state for status offenses. The Committee will also look at training provided to juvenile court Judges and Commissioners involving alternatives to detention that may be imposed as sanctions for status offender violations.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** 1

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Sonja Hallum

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**Project Title: Drop-Out Prevention for At-Risk Youth**

**Project Goal:**

The Committee will identify programs targeting reducing the drop-out rate for at-risk youth.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will research programs specifically targeting at-risk youth to prevent them from dropping out of school. The committee will identify legislation to encourage programs to reduce the drop-out rate among this group of youth.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** 1 joint meeting with Education Committee.

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Sonja Hallum & Barbara McLain

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**House of Representatives  
Local Government  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
November 29	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Legal Obligations, Intersections, and Recent Decisions under the GMA,  2. Planning Updates: Local Government Efforts to Review and Revise Comprehensive Plans and Development Regulations adopted under the GMA, and  3. Consideration of 2007 Legislation.	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Obligations and Operations: An Overview of Growth Management Hearings Boards, and  2. Study Progress: Multimodal Transportation Improvements and Strategies to Comply with Concurrency Requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA).	Work Session

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**Project Title: Legal Obligations, Intersections, and Recent Decisions under the Growth Management Act**

**Project Goal:**

Examine issues relating to ongoing activities on agricultural lands and required protective measures for critical areas.

**Project Description:**

The legal intersections between ongoing activities on agricultural lands and critical areas protections continue to evolve through actions of Growth Management Hearings Boards (GMHBs) and the courts, most notably in Swinomish Indian Tribal Community v. Skagit County. The Swinomish case, which was argued before the Washington Supreme Court in February of 2006, is generally expected to be decided this year. This project will include a review of issues and GMHB actions pertaining to Swinomish, an examination of the legal issues currently being considered by the Supreme Court, and a work session.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

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

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**Project Title: Obligations and Operations: An Overview of Growth Management Hearings Boards**

**Project Goal:**

Examine the obligations and operations of Growth Management Hearings Boards.

**Project Description:**

The Growth Management Act establishes three quasi-judicial regional Growth Management Hearings Boards, one each for eastern Washington, western Washington (excluding the central Puget Sound region), and the central Puget Sound region. The Boards may, in part, hear and determine petitions alleging that a state agency or local government planning under the GMA is noncompliant with the Act or specific provisions of other Acts. This project will include a work session featuring informational comments and remarks by members of the Growth Management Hearings Boards.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

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

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**Project Title: Study Progress: Multimodal Transportation Improvements and Strategies to Comply with Concurrency Requirements of the Growth Management Act**

**Project Goal:**

Examine transportation concurrency obligations under the Growth Management Act and the progress of a related study mandated by 2005 legislation.

**Project Description:**

Enacted in 2005, 2SHB 1565 requires the Department of Transportation to administer a study to examine multimodal transportation improvements and strategies to comply with concurrency requirements of the Growth Management Act. The bill requires the study completed by one or more regional transportation planning organization (RTPO) electing to be a participant. The DOT, in coordination with participating RTPOs, must submit a report of findings and recommendations to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 31, 2006. This project will include an examination of concurrency obligations under the GMA, a summary of completed and ongoing study activities, and a work session.

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

**Completion Date:** November 2006

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

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## STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

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**Project Title:** Accommodating Growth Under the Growth Management Act

**Project Goal:**

Examine issues pertaining to growth accommodation and the obligations of the Growth Management Act.

**Project Description:**

The Growth Management Act requires six western Washington counties (Clark, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston counties) and the cities within those counties to establish a review and evaluation "buildable lands" program. The program's purpose is to determine whether the counties and cities are achieving urban densities, and to identify reasonable measures that will be taken to comply with requirements of the GMA. In 2005 and 2006 the Local Government Committee considered legislation modifying the "buildable lands" provisions of the GMA and adding new urban development requirements. Although the legislation was not enacted, continuing interest in growth accommodation issues, and recent public policy briefs examining buildable lands requirements and infrastructure issues, indicate a significant likelihood of future legislation. This project will include an examination of current buildable lands requirements, infill development issues, and infrastructure provision and funding options that are intended to accommodate expected growth.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** 0

**Completion Date:** December 2006

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

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**House of Representatives  
Natural Resources, Ecology and Parks  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Wildlife Management, HPA/FPA Integration, Clean Air Act, Parks Funding, Puget Sound, and Natural Resource Agencies Management Structures	Public Hearing/ Work Session

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**Project Title: Wildlife Management**

**Project Goal:**

**Prepare legislation for the 2007 session dealing with various aspects of wildlife management.**

**Project Description:**

There has been recent legislative interest in various wildlife management issues, including cougar management, beaver relocations, the trapping of wild animals, and crop and livestock losses due to wildlife. The Committee will tour problem wildlife areas in Southwest and Southeast Washington. The Committee will review the results of studies and reports on problem wildlife, including beaver relocations, and prepare legislation for the 2007 session. The Committee will have a work session on potential legislation for the December Committee Assembly.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan and Jeff Olsen

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**Project Title: Parks Funding**

**Project Goal:**

**Identify and develop legislative recommendations for long-term, sustainable funding for State Parks.**

**Project Description:**

State Parks has identified over \$300 million in deferred maintenance and capital projects. In addition, with the recent prohibition for State Parks to charge parking fees, a long-term, sustainable funding source is necessary to protect and maintain state parks facilities. The Committee will schedule a work session during the December Committee Assembly to review funding options and develop legislation for the 2007 legislative session.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jeff Olsen and Jason Callahan

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**Project Title: Integration of the FPA & HPA**

**Project Goal:**

Investigate whether the integration of the hydraulic project approval process and the Forest Practices Act has been successful.

**Project Description:**

The participation of the director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife on the Forest Practices Board is conditional on the substantial integration of the Forest Practices Act and the hydraulic project approval laws (RCW 76.09.030). The Committee will investigate how substantial the integration has been, and prepare any necessary legislation if a different approach to integration seems beneficial. The Committee will have a work session on the issue in December.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan and Jeff Olsen

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**Project Title: Clean Air Act**

**Project Goal:**

Develop a better understanding of the Clean Air Act.

**Project Description:**

The Clean Air Act is a complicated law that committee members have expressed an interest in understanding more comprehensively. The Committee will be provided with information regarding the federal-state delegation process, the impacts of changes to federal clean air laws, opportunities for carbon sequestration in the state's forests, the impact of diesel emissions from ships at port, and progress towards designating a state hydrogen highway. The Committee will also work to prepare a policy-neutral recodification of the Clean Air Act, with the goal of making the law clearer and easier to understand. The Committee will have a work session on the Clean Air Act in December.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan and Jeff Olsen

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**Project Title: Puget Sound**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor progress of Puget Sound Initiative and prepare legislation to implement recommendations to protect and restore Puget Sound.**

**Project Description:**

Governor Gregoire has created the Puget Sound Partnership to make recommendations for integrating local, state, and federal efforts to protect and restore Puget Sound. In addition, the proposals were submitted to the Legislature regarding geoduck management and addressing outfalls in shellfish growing areas. The Committee will monitor the progress of the Puget Sound Initiative and prepare legislation to implement recommendations to protect and restore Puget Sound. A work session will be held in December to hear a progress report from the Puget Sound Partnership.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jeff Olsen and Jason Callahan

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**Project Title: Natural Resource Agencies Commission Structures**

**Project Goal:**

**Investigate the most efficient and accountable system for managing the state's natural resource agencies.**

**Project Description:**

Two state agencies that manage natural resources are governed by commissions and lead by directors that are appointed by the commission. The Committee will investigate if the commission model is the most efficient and accountable management style, and prepare legislation, as appropriate, that will suggest other models. A work session will be held in December to review and evaluate natural resource agencies management structures.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jason Callahan and Jeff Olsen

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**House of Representatives  
State Government Operations and Accountability  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
May 17	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Proposal to create the Department of Public Safety 2. Update on the progress of the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board 3. Presentation of the Citizens Initiative Review process 4. Federal process for certification of voting equipment and software 5. Update on the Voter Registration Database	Work Session
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Open Public Records Act 2. Update on the Smart Buy program	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Update on the Washington Management Service 2. Review of election issues passed in the 2006 Legislative Session	Work Session

**Work Group on bilingual voting assistance**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
June	TBA	Seattle	Work Group	Providing election materials in languages other than English	Work Session
TBA	TBA	Yakima	Work Group	Providing election materials in languages other than English	Work Session

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**Project Title: Department of Public Safety Presentation**

**Project Goal:**

**Identify existing challenges in statewide public safety management and determine the initial steps that would need to be taken if a single state criminal justice agency was created.**

**Project Description:**

Continue the Committee's consideration of HB 2472, which creates the Department of Public Safety for the purpose of establishing a single state criminal justice agency capable of providing comprehensive, integrated, and efficient public safety services. Invite stakeholders and interested parties to identify existing challenges in statewide public safety management. Determine the specific initial steps that would need to be taken if a single state criminal justice agency was created. Consider whether a more in-depth study of the issues raised should be undertaken.

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

**Completion Date:** May 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Kathryn Leathers and Marsha Reilly

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**Project Title: Progress of the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board**

**Project Goal:**

**Update the Committee on the Board's progress and discuss possible legislation for the 2007 session**

**Project Description:**

The Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (Board) was created in 2005 to evaluate public capital projects construction processes and to advise the Legislature on policies related to alternative public works delivery methods. Specifically, the Board is to develop and recommend to the Legislature: (1) criteria that may be used to determine effective and feasible use of alternative contracting procedures; (2) qualification standards for general contractors bidding on alternative public works projects; and (3) policies to further enhance the quality, efficiency, and accountability of capital construction projects through the use of traditional and alternative delivery methods and recommendations on expansion, continuation, elimination, or modification of alternative public works contracting methods. Authorization to use alternative public works contracting procedures expires June 30, 2007.

The Board will update the Committee on its progress and discuss possible legislation for the 2007 session.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Marsha Reilly and Kathryn Leathers

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**Project Title: Citizens Initiative Review**

**Project Goal:**

The Committee will examine a proposed reform measure that would provide voters with information about ballot initiatives.

**Project Description:**

A measure that provides citizens with more information on initiatives is being proposed by a group called, The Citizens Initiative Review. Generally, it is a process in which citizens review initiatives eligible for the statewide ballot and report on their conclusions on-line and by distributing copies of the report to libraries. In addition, a one-page summary is published in the voters pamphlet.

A work session will be held in which proponents of the measure will provide detailed information about the proposed measure.

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

**Completion Date:** May 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Marsha Reilly and Kathryn Leathers

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**Project Title: Federal Process for Certification of Election Systems**

**Project Goal:**

Examine the process for certifying elections systems at the federal level.

**Project Description:**

Voting systems, voting devices, and vote tallying systems must be certified and approved by the Secretary of State before they can be used or sold in the state. One of the stipulations for certification in this state was that the equipment be used in another state. Legislation passed in 2006 removed this requirement, and made it mandatory that any equipment used in Washington state must be tested and certified by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. Under the federal certification process, vendors of voting equipment must submit hardware, firmware, and software to an Independent Testing Authority (ITA) for evaluation against the updated voting system standards required by the Help America Vote Act.

In the public hearing on the bill, concerns were raised regarding security issues related to ITA evaluations. The work session will provide the members with detailed information on the standards and testing process.

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

**Completion Date:** May 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Marsha Reilly and Kathryn Leathers

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**Project Title: Voter Registration Database**

**Project Goal:**

Identify existing challenges in determining and tracking ex-felons' eligibility to vote and discussing any needed legislation.

**Project Description:**

Determine the status of implementing the Voter Registration Data Base as it relates to identifying and tracking ex-felons who are eligible to vote and those who are not. Identify and discuss any challenges discovered by the Secretary of State's Office and others in identifying and tracking ex-felons for voter registration purposes. Review the March 2006 King County Superior Court ruling, in which Washington's felon voting rights restoration process was found to be unconstitutional.

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

**Completion Date:** May 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Kathryn Leathers and Marsha Reilly

**Project Title: Open Public Records Act**

**Project Goal:**

**Review of the open public records act and discussion of exemptions from disclosure and privacy**

**Project Description:**

**Exemptions:**

In 1972, voters approved Initiative 276. Among other things, the initiative required a positive duty for a public agency to disclose public records unless they fall within specific exemptions. At the time the initiative was passed, there were 10 exemptions from disclosure. Currently, there are several hundred exemptions. Many are contained in a specific chapter of statute, but many more are spread throughout the statute. Each year, the State Government Operations and Accountability Committee considers many new exemptions.

**Privacy:**

In 2005, legislation passed that recodified the exemptions in chapter 42.17 RCW into a new chapter of statute, 42.56 RCW. In 2006, legislation was introduced that cross-referenced all exemptions contained in other statutes into 42.56 RCW. That legislation also stipulated that exemptions not contained or cross-referenced in 42.56 RCW are not exemptions.

Also in 2006, the Committee considered HB 2750 and HB 2831. HB 2750 prohibited county auditors from publicly disclosing or otherwise allowing public access to federal social security numbers (SSN), unless the individual to whom the SSN is assigned gives his or her express written consent to disclose the number or unless disclosure is requested by a federal, state, or local agency. A fee of \$1 per document would have been charged by the auditors for each recorded document to assist with the costs associated with the bill. The fiscal impact of the bill was indeterminate, but Snohomish County alone estimated that it would cost approximately \$1.3 million to create such a system, which included over 66,000 staff hours to review affected records. It was estimated that the \$1 per document surcharge would have raised approximately \$250,000 in revenue annually.

HB 2831 prohibited the use of any list obtained from any state or local government agency for commercial purposes, or for any type of solicitation, by or on behalf of nonprofit or charitable organizations. The prohibition would apply whether or not the list was obtained as a result of a public records request and whether the request was made directly by the person himself or herself or by another person. Any person who knowingly violated the prohibition, or who induced another to do so, would be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

The Committee will look at the need to reduce the numbers of exemptions as well as the need to address privacy issues and identity theft associated with disclosure of public documents.

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

**Completion Date:** September 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Marsha Reilly and Kathryn Leathers

**Project Title: Smart Buy**

**Project Goal:**

Review the progress of the Smart Buy Program

**Project Description:**

The Smart Buy Program was instituted in 2005 to identify ways to achieve the best value for purchases and to take advantage of savings opportunities. The program establishes new state contracts for purchased goods and services. Team leaders from various state agencies establish appropriate award considerations, including quality, service and price. Vendors are then asked to submit contract proposals in these categories. Established contracts will be monitored to track use, measure savings and to determine where other contracts might be developed. Currently, seven contract categories have been established. They include: office equipment; information technology; office supplies; fuel; leasing; legal data services; and PC hardware. The Committee will be briefed on identified savings and use of the contracts by state agencies.

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

**Completion Date:** September 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Marsha Reilly and Kathryn Leathers

**Project Title: Washington Management Service**

**Project Goal:**

Review of Washington Management Service including an update on the numbers of employees in the program and the definition of "manager" under the program.

**Project Description:**

The Washington Management Service (WMS) was established in 1993 as a separate personnel system for management positions within the executive branch of state government. Its statutory purpose is to develop and maintain a professional managerial workforce and to provide agencies with increased flexibility for their management positions in the areas of hiring and setting compensation.

The WMS applies to classified management positions in the state's civil service system. According to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) Report 02-2, as of July 2001, there were approximately 5,000 employees in the WMS, which was just less than 9 percent of the total Merit System 1 workforce of approximately 57,000. WMS managers are prohibited from belonging to a collective bargaining unit.

There have been on-going discussions among stakeholders and legislators regarding the rate of growth of the WMS relative to non-WMS positions and the WMS definition of manager.

This meeting will provide the members with an update of the numbers of employees in the WMS and its growth rate over the past several years.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Kathryn Leathers and Marsha Reilly

**Project Title: Review of election measures passed in 2006 session**

**Project Goal:**

Evaluate the effectiveness of the changes made to election laws

**Project Description:**

During the 2006 legislative session, several bills were enacted making changes to elections laws. These provisions include: 1) requiring that in-person disability access voting be available 20 days before an election and end on the day of the election; 2) requiring county auditors to establish an advisory committee to improve election accessibility; 3) requiring county auditors to contact a voter by telephone and by certified mail for a missing or mismatched signature on an absentee or provisional ballot if the ballot is received within three business days of the final meeting of the canvassing board; 4) removing the option for an elector to transfer his or her voter registration within 15 days of an election; and 5) challenging voter registrations.

County auditors and the Secretary of State will report on the implementation of the new laws and will discuss any problems associated with implementation.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Marsha Reilly and Kathryn Leathers

**Project Title: Providing election materials in languages other than English**

**Project Goal:**

**Determine the bilingual voting assistance capabilities that counties can offer in the event that bilingual assistance provisions of the federal Voting Rights Act are not renewed.**

**Project Description:**

During the 2006 Legislative Session, the Committee considered HB 2594, Bilingual Voting Assistance. Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act requires a state or political subdivision to provide registration or voting notices, forms, instructions, assistance, or other materials relating to the electoral process, including ballots, in the language of an applicable minority group as well as in English. This law applies if more than 10,000 or over 5 percent of the total voting age citizens in a county are members of a single minority language group and are limited in English proficiency. In Washington, four counties are required to provide voting materials in additional languages: Adams, Franklin, and Yakima counties must provide materials in Spanish, and King County must provide materials in Chinese. The provisions of section 203 expire in 2007.

The original bill required that county auditors must provide bilingual voting materials for any language group in the county in which more than 3.75 percent of the voting age citizens belong to a single language minority community and have limited English abilities; or more than 7,500 voting-age citizens belong to a single language community and have limited English abilities and the illiteracy rate of the citizens in the language group is higher than the national illiteracy rate. However, testimony indicated that it would be impossible to determine these numbers because the census does not gather information relating to language minorities based on voting ages.

The substitute bill established a task force to identify ways to increase voter participation by single language minority groups. The bill passed the House, but did not pass the Senate.

A work group of up to six members will convene a meeting with county auditors, election officials from the Office of the Secretary of State and stakeholders to discuss how to implement the requirements of section 203 of the Voting Rights Act within the state; identify ways to increase voter participation by single-language minority groups who do not speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process; and to recommend parameters for providing languages other than English on voting and election materials.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Two work sessions of up to six members

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Marsha Reilly and Kathryn Leathers

**House of Representatives  
Technology, Energy and Communications  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Work session on Genetically Engineered Organisms (GEOs). The Economic Development, Agriculture and Trade Committee will attend part of work session.	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Streamlining Washington's Technology Efforts</li> <li>2. Committee Energy Directives to State Agencies</li> <li>3. Energy-Focused Tax Incentives</li> <li>4. Technology-Focused Tax Incentives</li> </ol>	Work Session

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**Project Title: Examine issues related to energy production in central Washington**

**Project Goal:**

Examine issues related to energy production in central Washington.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will study issues involving hydroelectric turbine upgrades, canola growing and seed crushing related to biofuel production, natural gas exploration, silicate manufacturing and solar electric installation and operation.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** June 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

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**Project Title: Genetically Engineered Organisms (GEOs)**

**Project Goal:**

Examine issues related to GEOs that are under state control and develop a state policy.

**Project Description:**

While the agricultural use of genetically engineered organisms (GEOs) has attracted significant attention, there are other sectors where GEOs are being used such as medical genetic engineering, pharmaceutical development and production, energy and industrial biotechnology.

The Committee will hold a work session to consider the impact of GEOs, what issues related to GEOs are under state control and what a state policy would look like. The Committee will look at the role GEOs may play in optimizing through breeding and genetic modification production of biomass as an energy crop. Other GEO related issues may include plant research, GEO setbacks from other crops, consumer safety, public health and environmental quality. Furthermore, the Committee will examine different sets of standards for agriculture and industrial use, and consumptive use by humans and animals. The Economic Development, Agriculture and Trade Committee (EDAT) will join the Committee for discussions relating to agriculture. Also, the Committee will consider procedures developed by the Life Sciences Fund Board in this area.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session. Part of this work session will be joint with Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade Committee (agriculture issues).

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards, Jason Callahan, Meg Van Schoorl

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**Project Title: Research, development and manufacturing in the high-tech sector and the Bonneville Power Administration regional electricity grid**

**Project Goal:**

Examine issues related to research, development and manufacturing in the high-tech sector in Vancouver and control of the Bonneville Power Administration regional electricity grid.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will study issues involving semiconductor manufacturing, efforts to develop Washington State University's Science and Technology Institute (includes research park and microfabrication laboratory), solar cell manufacturing and Bonneville Power Administration regional electric grid control center.

**Number & Type of Meetings:**

**Completion Date:** August or September 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

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**Project Title: Streamlining Washington's Technology Efforts**

**Project Goal:**

Streamline and centralize the technology missions of state technology-oriented institutions and efforts

**Project Description:**

During the 2006 session, the TEC Committee considered legislation that sought to provide more focus and efficient effort of resources by centralizing technology missions and by reducing administrative overhead at the following institutions: the Spokane Intercollegiate Research and Technology Institute, Washington Technology Center, WSU Energy Program, and the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development Energy Policy Division. Also, the Legislature in 2005 created the Life Science Discovery Fund. The Fund is intended to promote the best available research in life sciences disciplines through diverse Washington institutions and to build upon existing strengths in the area of biosciences and biomanufacturing.

The Committee will hold a work session on how to streamline and centralize the technology missions of state technology-oriented institutions and efforts. Key questions that will be addressed by the Committee include how Washington's technology-based agencies and institutions develop their policies, where do they get direction in setting their policies, and how do they measure their success in achieving these policies?

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

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**Project Title: Technology, Energy and Communication Committee Energy Directives**

**Project Goal:**

Examine state agency implementation of Technology, Energy and Communication Committee directives related to energy.

**Project Description:**

The Committee has directed state agencies to implement a range of sustainable energy measures such as purchasing fuel cells, hybrid automobiles and other energy-related measures.

Committee will review current status of directives and discuss with appropriate state agencies progress in and challenges related to implementing Committee energy directives.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

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**Project Title: Energy-Focused Tax Incentives**

**Project Goal:**

Receive a progress report on the effectiveness of energy-focused tax incentives.

**Project Description:**

In 2003, the Legislature enacted a number of tax incentives to encourage renewable energy and alternative fuels, such as a preferential Business and Occupation tax rate for manufacturers of alcohol or wood biomass fuel, and an exemption from retail sales/use tax for machinery and equipment used in generating electricity using a renewable resource.

The Committee will review current tax incentives, and their respective expiration dates, if any, and determine whether extension of these tax incentives is needed and/or whether additional incentives are needed. Central to this review will be the question of whether these incentives are achieving associated policy goals.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

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**Project Title: Technology-Focused Tax Incentives**

**Project Goal:**

Receive a progress report on the effectiveness of technology-focused tax incentives.

**Project Description:**

In 1998, the Legislature enacted a number of tax incentives to spur development in the technology field, including a Business and Occupation tax credit and a sales and use tax exemption for research and development activities in biotechnology and other related technology fields.

The Committee will review current tax incentives, and their respective expiration dates, if any, and determine whether extension of these tax incentives is needed and/or whether additional incentives are needed. Central to this review will be the question of whether these incentives are achieving associated policy goals.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

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## STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

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### Project Title: Electrical Service Disputes

#### Project Goal:

Provide procedures for resolving disputes between electric utilities regarding electrical service to customers.

#### Project Description:

During the 2005 and 2006 legislative sessions, bills were considered that would provide procedures for resolving disputes between electric utilities regarding electrical service to customers. The Committee has reviewed legislation that calls for the creation of a dispute resolution process that may use alternative dispute resolution, including arbitration, mediation, or the assignment of settlement judges. The Committee will continue discussions with interested parties and stakeholders on dispute resolution related to electrical service disputes and develop legislation to address service disputes.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** None

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

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### Project Title: National Energy Policy Act of 2005

#### Project Goal:

Review provisions of the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 and recommend potential legislation to address issues important to Washington.

#### Project Description:

The federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Act) represents the first comprehensive national energy legislation in 13 years. The full impact of the Act upon the states is not yet fully understood. It is anticipated that state policy-makers may either help implement or respond to changes brought on by the passage of this major piece of legislation.

The Committee will consider the following provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005: National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors; Reliability Standards; Repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA) of 1935; Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA); Siting of Liquefied Natural Gas Terminals; Energy Efficiency; and Renewable Energy.

The Committee will review key provisions and make recommendations for further state actions to implement the Energy Policy Act.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** None

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

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**Project Title: Renewable Energy Standardized Definition**

**Project Goal:**

**Develop a standard definition of renewable energy and develop legislation to ensure state law refers to this definition.**

**Project Description:**

Currently, in the Revised Code of Washington, a common definition does not exist for renewable energy. During the 2006 session, a number of energy-related bills sought to provide a definition of renewable energy that could be used as a standard.

The Committee will examine current definitions used in Washington state law and develop a standard definition for use throughout the Revised Code of Washington.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** None

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

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**Project Title: Integrated Resource Planning**

**Project Goal:**

**Review electric utility efforts to develop Integrated Resource Plans or Resource Plans.**

**Project Description:**

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

The Committee will continue discussions with interested parties, stakeholders, and agency representatives on this issue. Committee work may include briefings from the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, and the Northwest Power Planning Council. The Committee will consider how information generated by energy forecast reporting requirements in HB 1010 may inform the development of a Renewable Portfolio Standard.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** None

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

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**Project Title: Oil and Gas Exploration and Development**

**Project Goal:**

**Study issues related to oil and gas exploration and development.**

**Project Description:**

Recent high prices and increased demand for oil and natural gas have renewed interest in natural gas exploration in Washington. Parts of the state show promise for reserves of natural gas. Also, recent auctions of oil and gas exploration rights on state trust lands suggests that drilling activities may increase. Current state law and administrative code lacks a comprehensive regulatory approach to oil and gas exploration, development and compliance. This could place Washington at a disadvantage in ensuring environmental protection and realizing appropriate economic benefits from this activity.

The Committee will evaluate oil and gas program funding and adequacy, oil and gas exploration, the potential of coal bed methane extraction and other relevant issues. The study will include recommendations to improve the regulatory, technical, environmental, and financial framework of the oil and gas industry in the Washington. The study will examine related existing state code and infrastructure needs that will support this sector.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** None

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

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**Project Title: Interconnection Standardization**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor progress implementing interconnection standards for generating facilities under 25 kilowatts and developing standards for generating facilities in the 26 kilowatts to 100 kilowatts range.**

**Project Description:**

In early 2006, the Utilities and Transportation Commission finalized its process to adopt rules for how customer-owned generation facilities under 25 kW may connect to electric delivery systems. The Committee will monitor and discuss UTC efforts to develop interconnection standards for generating facilities in the 26kW to 100 kW range.

The Committee will continue discussions with interested parties and stakeholders on this issue. Committee work may include briefings from the Department of Labor and Industries and the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development.

Utilities will be asked to report on how the existing interconnection standard is being used, how many projects are occurring per year, and to briefly assess the successes and challenges of implementing current interconnection standards.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** None

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

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**Project Title: Interoperability**

**Project Goal:**

**Examine the challenges of transitioning from current agency-based public safety radio systems to a standards-based, frequency-independent, multiple subsystems technology architecture.**

**Project Description:**

During the 2006 session, the Committee considered HB 3095, which required a statewide public safety communications system to be built by June 30, 2012. This system must have a number of features such as a centrally managed system of system architectures that may be able to facilitate the sharing of assets between state and local governments and the ability for non-state agencies to be able to interconnect their radio systems with the state's radio over internet protocol-based interoperability system.

The Committee will continue discussions with interested parties and stakeholders on interoperability issues, including how to plan for the transition of the current agency-based public safety radio systems to a standards-based, frequency-independent, multiple subsystems technology architecture.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** None

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Kara Durbin

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**Project Title: Telecommunication Infrastructure Development in Rural Areas**

**Project Goal:**

**Examine potential tax incentives to encourage the building of telecommunication infrastructure in rural areas.**

**Project Description:**

Small and rural communities face a number of barriers in getting connected to advanced telecommunications. During the 2006 session, the TEC Committee considered HB 2631, which created a tax exemption for equipment or infrastructure used in the sale of telecommunications or internet services. Tax incentives found like HB 2631 may encourage the construction of advanced telecommunications into rural areas.

The TEC Committee will continue to explore various tax incentives in order to encourage the build-out of telecommunications infrastructure in rural areas.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** None

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Kara Durbin

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**Project Title: Electronic Bill of Rights**

**Project Goal:**

**Develop guiding principles to protect individual personal information when state government adopts new technologies.**

**Project Description:**

The electronic age poses numerous challenges to the citizens of Washington state, such as how to secure one's personal information, how to conduct business safely over the Internet, and how to remain safe from cyber-criminals. During the 2006 session, the TEC Committee considered bills related to electronic privacy. The Committee also held a work session in 2005 on the use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID).

The Committee will continue to explore issues related to electronic privacy. This committee will develop an "Electronic Bill of Rights," which would outline general principles that a citizen can expect government to adhere to when adopting a new technology with respect to protecting an individual's personal information. These principles will be used to develop legislation for the 2007 legislative session.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** None

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Kara Durbin

**Project Title: Internet and Consumer Protection**

**Project Goal:**

**Examine enforcement of the Computer Spyware Act and determine whether additional legislation is needed.**

**Project Description:**

In 2005, the Legislature passed the Computer Spyware Act, as well as an anti-phishing law. In January of 2006, the Washington Attorney General filed his first lawsuit under the state's new computer spyware law. The lawsuit and a similar suit brought by Microsoft were the result of parallel investigations by experts at Microsoft and the Attorney General's High-Tech Fraud Unit.

The Committee will continue discussions with interested parties and stakeholders on these issues, and related issues, including identity theft, emerging technologies, e-commerce, etc. Committee work may include briefings from industry groups and the Attorney General's Office. The Committee will monitor the outcome of the state's first lawsuit under the Computer Spyware Act and determine whether further legislation is needed.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** None

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Kara Durbin

**Project Title: Communications and Emerging Technologies**

**Project Goal:**

**Examine the current status of communications and emerging technologies and develop appropriate legislative response.**

**Project Description:**

During the 2005 session, the Committee reviewed HB 2161, which proposed a legislative task force to study telecommunications and information technology. There are a number of current issues related to the classification, taxation, and regulation of emerging telecommunications technologies, including Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and broadband. The FCC, federal courts, and the states have been involved in proceedings related to the regulatory status of emerging technologies. Some states have also begun to explore related issues and/or to enact legislation directed at restricting or prohibiting local governments from offering broadband services.

The Committee will examine the current status of these issues and the role of the state. The Committee may consider issues related to: 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 and universal service policies.

The Committee will also monitor developments at the federal level, including potential revisions to the 1996 Telecom Act. The Committee will monitor federal activities related to the Telecommunication Act of 1996 and whether it will be updated.

The Committee will monitor efforts by the E911 Committee to develop emergency communications via VoIP.

Committee work will include briefings from representatives of the telecommunications and information industries, consumer groups, local government, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, and the Department of Information Services.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** None

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Kara Durbin

**Project Title: Interstate Electrical Transmission Siting Compact**

**Project Goal:**

**Monitor regional, multi-state efforts to develop model legislation that would create an interstate compact with jurisdiction over national interest electric transmission corridors.**

**Project Description:**

During the 2006 session, the Committee considered HB 2401, which called for the creation of a task force to negotiate the terms of an interstate compact to assert jurisdiction over national interest electric transmission corridors satisfactory to provisions of the federal Energy Act Policy Act of 2005. HB 2401 instructed the task force to ensure the compact reflects as close as possible the Washington State Energy Facilities Siting Evaluation Council model and its procedures to ensure appropriate adjudicative proceedings and mitigation of environmental impacts.

The Committee will monitor activities to develop model compact legislation through processes established by the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER).

**Number & Type of Meetings:** None

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Scott Richards

**House of Representatives  
Transportation  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
July 11	Afternoon	Olympia	Full Committee	Public Hearing on Special Needs Transportation.	Public Hearing
July or August	2 hours	Seattle	Full Committee	Who Designates the Preferred Alternative for Transportation Projects?	Work Session
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presentation by the Alaskan Way Viaduct and 520 Bridge Expert Review Panel.</li> <li>2. Report from Sound Transit and the Regional Transportation Investment District on Coordination efforts for the 2007 ballot.</li> <li>3. Budget Process Study: Draft Report.</li> <li>4. Tolling Study: Final Report.</li> </ol>	Work Session
December	Afternoon	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update on Regional Transportation Commission.</li> <li>2. Revenue Forecast Update.</li> <li>3. Rail Study: Final Report.</li> <li>4. Fuel Forecasting Process Review.</li> <li>5. Washington State Patrol report on improving the safe operation of commercial vehicles.</li> </ol>	Work Session

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**Project Title: Who Designates the Preferred Alternative for Transportation Projects?**

**Project Goal:**

To educate Transportation committee members and other legislators interested in the state's mega-projects about the process of choosing the final design of major projects, under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Project Description:**

Panels of experts representing federal permitting agencies, DOT Urban Corridors, DOT Environmental Services, and the Governor's Office of Regulatory Affairs would describe the general objectives and processes for transportation projects subject to NEPA. DOT would also describe how the process has worked for a specific transportation project.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** 2 hour work session

**Completion Date:** 3rd week of June

**Staff Assigned:** Beth Redfield/Gary Lebow

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**Project Title: Work Session on Special needs Transportation**

**Project Goal:**

To educate members on the program, providing background and history, examples of best practices, and hear from stakeholders on the public policy issues facing special needs transportation.

**Project Description:**

The DOT or a designee will be asked to present background and history on current special needs transportation funding in Washington, as well as examples of best practices drawn from our state and other jurisdictions. A panel of stakeholders will be asked to discuss their concerns, goals, and suggestions for public policy changes to address ongoing special needs transportation issues.

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

**Completion Date:** July 2006

**Staff Assigned:** David Bowman

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**Project Title: Presentation by the Alaskan Way Viaduct and 520 Bridge Expert Review Panel**

**Project Goal:**

Inform the members of the results of the Panel's independent review of the finance and project implementation plans for the Alaskan Way Viaduct and SR 520 mega projects.

**Project Description:**

Presentation by the Expert Review Panel on the results of the Panel's review. The Panel has a September 1, 2006, deadline to complete three main objectives regarding the project alternatives described in each of the mega projects' environmental impact statements. First, the panel must review the feasibility and sufficiency of the finance plans for the projects. Second, the panel must analyze whether the project implementation plans ensure the most expeditious and cost-effective delivery of the projects. Third, the panel must report its findings and recommendations on the first two objectives to the Joint Transportation Committee, the Office of Financial Management, and the Governor.

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

**Completion Date:** September 2006

**Staff Assigned:** David Bowman

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**Project Title: Report from Sound Transit and the Regional Transportation Investment District on coordination efforts for the 2007 ballot**

**Project Goal:**

Advise the members of the status of efforts by these regional entities to coordinate their efforts in preparing the joint roads-transit ballot measure that is required to be submitted to voters at the 2007 general election.

**Project Description:**

Presentation by Sound Transit and the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) regarding the status of their respective finance plans and their efforts to coordinate on a joint ballot measure. ESHB 2871 requires Sound Transit and the RTID to submit a common, joint ballot measure to the voters at the 2007 general election, containing the finance plans of each entity. For either plan to be considered approved, the other plan must also be approved.

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

**Completion Date:** September 2006

**Staff Assigned:** David Bowman

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**Project Title: Budget Process Study: Draft Report**

**Project Goal:**

To improve the transportation budgeting process, structure, and communication of budget decisions.

**Project Description:**

This study consists of an evaluation of the budgeting structure and processes used in the State of Washington to develop the WSDOT budget and the development of tangible, specific recommendations to improve the budget process including decision making models, methods for budget monitoring, and communication of budget decisions.

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

**Completion Date:** September 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Gary Lebow

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**Project Title: Tolling Study: Final Report**

**Project Goal:**

To determine which transportation facilities are viable for tolls.

**Project Description:**

The Committee will evaluate Washington State's transportation system to determine the feasibility of administering tolls on specific facilities or a network of facilities. The study will also include an analysis of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge project with recommendations for the development of more uniform and equitable policies concerning the distribution of financial obligations imposed on those paying the tolls and means of spreading the costs of the project more equitably. The study will also analyze the transportation system within King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties to determine the feasibility of value pricing on a facility or a network of facilities specifically including the cross base highway in Pierce County.

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

**Completion Date:** September 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Gary Lebow

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**Project Title: Update on Regional Transportation Commission**

**Project Goal:**

Provide members with a progress report and allow members to provide input on the draft governance and revenue strategy proposals created by the Regional Transportation Commission (Commission).

**Project Description:**

The Commission would present to the Committee, respond to questions, and receive feedback from the members. The Commission was established to evaluate transportation governance in the central Puget Sound region and develop proposals regarding regional transportation governance options and comprehensive financing strategy and revenue options. By November 15, 2006, the Commission is to have publicized each of these proposals and provided at least 15 days for public comment. By January 1, 2007, the Commission must submit its adopted, final proposals to the Legislature. The Commission will report on its progress to date.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** David Bowman

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**Project Title: Revenue Forecast Update**

**Project Goal:**

Comparison of the revenue forecast from February 2006 and November 2006.

**Project Description:**

During the 2006 legislative session, the February 2006 revenue forecast was used to develop the 2006 supplemental transportation budget. As the 2007 legislative session begins, the November 2006 forecast will be used as the basis to begin developing the 2007-09 biennial budget. This presentation will highlight what has changed in the revenue forecast and any factors which have contributed to the changes. The transportation budget is developed on a 16 year financial plan and there must be revenue forecasts sufficient to support planned operating and capital expenditures.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jerry Long

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**Project Title: Rail Study: Final Report**

**Project Goal:**

To provide policy recommendations for state participation and ownership of rail infrastructure and service delivery.

**Project Description:**

The Transportation Commission is charged with conducting a statewide rail capacity and needs analysis. The study must assess freight and passenger rail infrastructure needs and review the state's current rail powers, roles, and interests. The analysis must include recommendations regarding state participation and ownership of rail infrastructure and service, and a rail asset management plan.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Teresa Berntsen

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**Project Title: Fuel Forecasting Process Review**

**Project Goal:**

Analyzes other process that may be adopted to forecast fuel prices, consumption and revenues.

**Project Description:**

The State of Washington presently uses a company that provides to the State, forecasts of fuel prices. Quarterly, the Transportation Revenue Forecast Committee uses this data to forecast price, consumption and revenue. In the 2006 transportation supplemental budget the Revenue Forecast Council, the Office of Financial Management and the Department of Transportation is directed to review other methods and processes to determine if there is a more accurate process the state could be using. A report is due to the Legislature by December 1, 2006.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jerry Long

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**Project Title: Washington State Patrol report on improving the safe operation of commercial vehicles**

**Project Goal:**

Washington State Patrol is required to develop recommendations on tracking violations and improving the safe operation of commercial vehicles

**Project Description:**

The 2006 legislative session approved HB 2987, requiring the Washington State Patrol to develop recommendations regarding the most effective methods for tracking violations that lead to suspensions of commercial vehicle registrations. The agency will also work with stakeholders on developing recommendations for improving the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles. These recommendations are to be submitted to the Transportation Committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2006.

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

**Completion Date:** December 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Jerry Long

**Washington State  
House of Representatives  
Committee Members by Committee  
Report as of 6/28/06**

**Appropriations (31)**

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

**Capital Budget (29)**

**Dunshee, Chair (D); Ormsby, Vice Chair (D);** \*Jarrett; \*\*Hankins; Armstrong; Blake; Chase; Clements; Cox; Eickmeyer; Ericks; Ericksen; Flannigan; Green; Hasegawa; 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);** \*Walsh; \*\*Hinkle; Darneille; Dickerson; Dunn; Haler; Pettigrew

**Commerce & Labor (9)**

**Conway, Chair (D); Wood, Vice Chair (D);** \*Condotta; \*\*Chandler; Crouse; Holmquist; Hudgins; Kenney; McCoy

**Criminal Justice & Corrections (7)**

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

**Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade (23)**

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

### **Education (13)**

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

### **Finance (11)**

**McIntire, Chair (D); Hunter, Vice Chair (D);** \*Orcutt; \*\*Roach; Ahern; Condotta; Conway; Ericks; Hasegawa; Santos; Shabro

### **Financial Institutions & Insurance (11)**

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

### **Health Care (15)**

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

### **Higher Education & Workforce 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; Kagi; Orcutt**

## **Rules (19)**

**Chopp, Chair (D); \*DeBolt; \*\*Armstrong; Anderson; Blake; Clibborn; Ericksen; Flannigan; Grant; Hudgins; Hunt; Kessler; Lovick; McDonald; Morrell; Santos; Serben; 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 (12)**

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

## **Transportation (29)**

**Murray, Chair (D); Wallace, Vice Chair (D); \*Woods; \*\*Skinner; Appleton; Buck; Campbell; Clibborn; Curtis; Dickerson; Ericksen; Flannigan; Hankins; Holmquist; 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

## ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF PROJECTS

Project Title	Page
Accommodating Growth Under the Growth Management Act .....	71
Accountability and Goals for Improving Student Achievement .....	37
Administrative Structure for the Delivery of Social and Health Services to Children and Families .....	15
Adoption .....	14
Agricultural Labor .....	20
Agriculture Roundtable .....	30
Alternative Assessments .....	34
Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship Opportunities .....	23
Autism Services .....	14
Best Practices for Managing the Capital Budget Process .....	11
Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care .....	47
Braam Settlement Agreement Implementation .....	16
Budget Process Study: Draft Report .....	99
Certificate of Need Task Force .....	45
Changing Rural Economies and Tax Bases .....	39
Charity Care .....	48
Children of Incarcerated Parents .....	17
Citizens Initiative Review .....	78
Clean Air Act .....	74
Communications and Emerging Technologies .....	94
Credit freezes .....	41
Credit reporting and scoring .....	41
CTED Annual Housing Update - Programs, Progress and Performance .....	60
Decision Making Processes Used by States for Institutional Closures .....	10
Department of Public Safety Presentation .....	77
Discussion of Possible 2007 Legislation .....	58
Drop-Out Prevention for At-Risk Youth .....	35
Drop-Out Prevention for At-Risk Youth .....	67
DUI Work Group .....	64
Economic and Revenue Forecast .....	39
Electrical Service Disputes .....	89
Electronic Bill of Rights .....	93
Emergency Management Center at Camp Murray .....	2
Eminent Domain .....	63
Ending Homelessness in Washington .....	59

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
Energy Initiatives Funded in 2006 .....	4
Energy-Focused Tax Incentives .....	87
Examine issues related to energy production in central Washington .....	85
Farm Worker Housing Update .....	58
Federal Process for Certification of Election Systems .....	78
Flexible Family Support for Persons with Developmental Disabilities .....	13
Fuel Forecasting Process Review .....	101
Gambling Policy .....	19
Genetically Engineered Organisms (GEOs) .....	29
Genetically Engineered Organisms (GEOs) .....	85
Graduate Degrees: Defining the Master's Degree .....	52
Health Care Technology Assessment .....	48
Health Costs .....	3
Health Information Technology .....	46
Higher Education Capital Project Prioritization .....	9
Homelessness Amongst Youth Aging out of the Foster Care System .....	59
Homeowners' Association Act Committee .....	64
Hood Canal .....	54
Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program Science Update .....	55
Hood Canal Rehabilitation Program .....	54
Hood Canal Studies and Projects Update .....	55
Implementation of the Energy Freedom Program .....	8
Information Systems (K-16) in Washington .....	52
Inmate Educational Programs & Inmate Mentally Ill Programs .....	26
Instruction, Assessment, and Educational Opportunities for English Language Learners .....	37
Integrated Resource Planning .....	90
Integration of the FPA & HPA .....	74
Interconnection Standardization .....	91
Internet and Consumer Protection .....	93
Interoperability .....	92
Interstate Electrical Transmission Siting Compact .....	95
IT Projects .....	4
Joint Select Committee on Public Health Finance .....	44
K-12 Updates .....	2
Legal Obligations, Intersections, and Recent Decisions under the Growth Management Act .....	69
Level of Service Standard for Local and Regional Park Facilities .....	9
Long Term Care Task Force .....	46

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
Mental Health Task Force .....	45
National Energy Policy Act of 2005 .....	89
Natural Resource Agencies Commission Structures .....	75
Obligations and Operations: An Overview of Growth Management Hearings Boards .....	69
Oil and Gas Exploration and Development .....	91
Open Public Records Act .....	80
Parks Funding .....	73
Partnerships to Address the Achievement Gap .....	36
Patient Transfers .....	49
Payday lending .....	42
Presentation by the Alaskan Way Viaduct and 520 Bridge Expert Review Panel .....	98
Prevention and Intervention Programs .....	66
Programs for Developmentally Disabled Persons .....	6
Progress of the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board .....	77
Providing election materials in languages other than English .....	83
Puget Sound .....	75
Rail Study: Final Report .....	101
Real Estate Licensing .....	21
Renewable Energy Standardized Definition .....	90
Report from Sound Transit and the Regional Transportation Investment District on coordination efforts for the 2007 ballot	98
Research, development and manufacturing in the high-tech sector and the Bonneville Power Administration regional electricity grid	86
Revenue Forecast Update .....	100
Review of election measures passed in 2006 session .....	82
Review of the regulatory and enforcement actions of the Insurance Commissioner .....	42
Role of Higher Education and Workforce Training in Economic Development .....	51
Rural Health .....	44
Rural Washington .....	29
Safety of Children in Custody of Child Welfare or Child Protective Services .....	15
Sanctions for Status Offender Violations .....	67
School Health .....	47
Services for Children with Sensory Disabilities .....	13
Services to Adolescents .....	16
Smart Buy .....	81
Standards, Instruction, Curriculum, and Assessment of Mathematics .....	35
State audit process .....	5
Streamlining Washington's Technology Efforts .....	86

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
Study Progress: Multimodal Transportation Improvements and Strategies to Comply with Concurrency Requirements of the Growth Management Act	70
Task Force on Sale and Distribution of Beer and Wine .....	24
Technical Review of Local Community Projects .....	10
Technology, Energy and Communication Committee Energy Directives .....	87
Technology-Focused Tax Incentives .....	88
Telecommunication Infrastructure Development in Rural Areas .....	92
The Chances of a Juvenile Offender becoming an Adult Felon & an Update from the Joint Legislative Task Force on Offenders Programs, Sentencing, and Supervision	27
Tolling Study: Final Report .....	99
Trust Land Asset Management Strategies .....	8
Update on Collective Bargaining .....	5
Update on Higher Education Initiatives in Washington .....	51
Update on Regional Transportation Commission .....	100
Voter Registration Database .....	79
Washington Learns .....	3
Washington Learns .....	33
Washington Management Service .....	81
Washington State Patrol report on improving the safe operation of commercial vehicles .....	102
Washington Tourism .....	31
WASL Remediation .....	34
Water Issues .....	30
What needs to be done to accomplish the goal of affordable housing for every low-income household by 2020?	57
Who Designates the Preferred Alternative for Transportation Projects? .....	97
Wildlife Management .....	73
Work Session on Family Court .....	66
Work Session on Special needs Transportation .....	97
Workers' Compensation .....	22
Workplace Safety .....	20
Wrongful Conviction Compensation .....	62