

Senate Committee Services

Summary of Select 2010 Interim Activities



January 2011



TO: Washington State Senators and Other Interested Persons

FROM: Richard Rodger, Director (786-7401)
Senate Committee Services

SUBJECT: Senate Committee Services Summary of Select 2010 Interim Activities

DATE: January 10, 2011

We are pleased to provide this Summary of Select 2010 Interim Activities for your reference during the 2011 Legislative Session. The report summarizes many of the activities undertaken by the Senate's Standing Committees under the work plan approved by the Facilities & Operations Committee.

I believe that you will find the electronic version of this document to be most useful. The electronic version contains dozens of electronic hotlinks to the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for bills, task force websites, and interim and final reports related to the interim projects. We will continue to update the electronic version of this document during this legislative session as additional reports or documents may become available. The most recent version can be found at:
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/Documents/Reports/InterimActivities/2010InterimProjects.pdf>.

Please contact Dorine Coleman at 786-7436 or Dorine.Coleman@leg.wa.gov if you would like to receive a hard copy of this document.

In addition to the items included in this report, Senate Committee Staff have also worked on numerous other projects, issues, and requests of each member of the Senate. Please feel free to contact individual staff if you need any additional information about any of those projects not included in this report.

We hope that you find this report of great use and look forward to your comments or suggestion on how we may improve upon it. If you have other requests or questions, or need assistance on any issue, please don't hesitate to call on us.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SENATE AGRICULTURE & RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE..... 4

SENATE EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION COMMITTEE 6

SENATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE & INNOVATION COMMITTEE 9

SENATE ENVIRONMENT, WATER & ENERGY COMMITTEE 11

SENATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, HOUSING & INSURANCE COMMITTEE 14

SENATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, TRIBAL RELATIONS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE..... 15

SENATE HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE COMMITTEE..... 17

SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE..... 18

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE 19

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE 21

SENATE LABOR, COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE..... 23

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES & MARINE WATERS COMMITTEE..... 24

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE 26

SENATE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE 29

ADDITIONAL ELECTRONIC RESOURCES..... 33

Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee

2010 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Protecting the Viability of Agricultural Lands and Critical Areas

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires local governments to adopt ordinances to protect critical areas including wetlands, fish and wildlife conservation areas, and aquifer recharge areas. The GMA also requires counties that are required or that choose to plan under the GMA to designate agricultural lands of long term commercial significance and to adopt ordinances to protect these designated agricultural lands. Several counties have struggled with the dual mandate to protect both critical areas and agricultural lands.

In 2008, the State Supreme Court ruled that counties were required to protect critical areas, but were not required to enhance these areas. The ruling also found that many lands qualified both as critical areas and as agricultural lands.

Beginning in 2007, the Ruckelshaus Center convened meetings of interest groups to develop legislative proposals that would maintain agricultural lands while also protecting critical areas. From these discussions, a stewardship framework has been developed that builds on existing programs for preserving agriculture and protecting critical areas, including salmon recovery, watershed planning, and agricultural land conservation. Work to transform the proposal of the interest groups into legislation has been ongoing. It is anticipated that legislation will be introduced to create a stewardship program to enhance critical areas while maintaining the viability of current land designated for long-term agricultural production.

REFERENCES: [SSB 6520](#), [SSB 5248 \(2007\)](#)
http://ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu/documents/Ag_CA_Final_Report_for_web.pdf
<http://ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu/projects/caop.html>

STAFF CONTACT: Bob Lee
Karen Epps

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7404
786-7424

TITLE: Air Quality Regulation of Anaerobic Digesters

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Washington has long promoted anaerobic digesters as renewable energy sources. State incentives include tax exemptions, cost recovery payments, and bioenergy loans. As of December 2010, four commercial digesters were operating in the state and others were being constructed or planned. In 2009, the Legislature resolved a regulatory issue by exempting digesters from a solid waste permitting requirement, under certain conditions. In this study, staff analyzed another evolving issue: regulation of air emissions from generator engines used in digesters. While emitting certain pollutants, these engines are usually not major sources of pollutants that trigger strict federal standards, and

states have some discretion in regulating them. In Washington, regional air quality authorities have required operators to obtain air emission permits for digester engines and satisfy monitoring requirements. Requirements in other states vary widely, ranging from permitting exemptions to universal "general permits" to restrictive conditions that have dissuaded some operators. Responding to concerns, the Department of Ecology has proposed new rules exempting small digester engines from permitting requirements, enabling others to qualify for a general permit, and requiring large digester engines to obtain individual permits.

REFERENCES: [RCW Chapter 70.94 \(Washington Clean Air Act\)](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Sam Thompson

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7413

Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee

2010 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Quick Reference Guide to Washington State K-12 Educational Agencies, Associations, and Organizations

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: This is an update of the quick reference guide to the many Washington educational agencies, associations, and organizations. This list and chart include a general description of each, including contact and funding information.

REFERENCES: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EDU/Documents/K12Organization-Agency-AssociationList.pdf>
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EDU/Documents/K12%20Organization-Agency-Association%20Chart.pdf>

STAFF CONTACT: Juliana Roe

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7438

TITLE: Early Learning Advisory Council

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: In 2007, the Legislature created the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) with legislative members and others to advise the Department of Early Learning (DEL) on statewide early learning community needs and progress, and to develop a statewide early learning plan. In 2010, ELAC met quarterly and called two special meetings: the first, to adopt the Early Learning Plan and the second, to elect co-chairs. In September, DEL released the Washington State Early Learning Plan.

REFERENCES: [E2SSB 5828 \(2007\)](#), [SSB 6759](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EDU/documents/WashingtonEarlyLearningPlan.pdf>

STAFF CONTACT: Kim Cushing

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7421

TITLE: Early Learning Technical Working Group

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: In 2010, the Legislature created a technical working group to develop a comprehensive plan for a voluntary program of early learning. The working group is convened by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Department of Early Learning (DEL), but must be monitored and overseen by the Quality Education Council (QEC). The working group has a progress report due to ELAC and the QEC July 1, 2011, and a final report and plan due November 1, 2011. The plan must examine the opportunities and barriers of at least two options: a program of early learning under the program of basic

education and a program of early learning as an entitlement. Sixteen members have been appointed and the group met five times during 2010.

REFERENCES: [SSB 6759](#)
<http://www.del.wa.gov/government/legislature/voluntary.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: Kim Cushing **CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7421

TITLE: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Working Group

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The 2010 supplemental budget created a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics STEM working group to create a comprehensive plan to ensure that a pathway is established for elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, postsecondary degree programs, and careers in the areas of STEM, including a timeline for specific actions to be taken. Recommendations were submitted by the group on December 1, 2010.

REFERENCES: [ESSB 6444 - SEC. 501\(C\)](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EDU/documents/STEMWorkgroupReport2010.pdf>
<http://www.k12.wa.us/EdLeg/STEM/STEMmeeting1.aspx>
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EDU/Pages/Reports.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: Susan Mielke **CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7422

TITLE: Basic Education Program for Highly Capable Students Working Group

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Governor vetoed section 708 of ESHB 2261 (2009). The veto message provided, among other things, that there is work to be done to establish standards, guidelines, and definitions for what constitutes a highly capable basic education program and the funding level for such a program. The 2010 supplemental operating budget created a work group to address these and other issues. The work group issued a report in December 2010.

REFERENCES: [ESHB 2261 - SEC. 708 \(2009\)](#); [ESSB 6444](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EDU/documents/HighlyCapableWkgrpRpt.pdf>
<http://www.k12.wa.us/HighlyCapable/Workgroup/default.aspx>
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EDU/Pages/Reports.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: Susan Mielke **CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7422

TITLE: Quality Education Council

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Quality Education Council (QEC), created by the Legislature in 2009 with eight legislative members and others, was established to recommend and inform the ongoing implementation by the Legislature of an evolving program of basic education and financing, including development of a 10-year strategic plan. During the 2011 interim the QEC met four times, each over two days. In the QEC 2011 Report to the Legislature, the QEC makes recommendations in support of the current basic education goals in six major priority areas.

REFERENCES: [ESHB 2261 \(2009\)](#), [SHB 2776](#), [ESSB 6444](#), AND [2SSB 6696](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EDU/documents/QECReport.pdf>
<http://www.k12.wa.us/qec/>

STAFF CONTACT: Kim Cushing
Susan Mielke

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7420
786-7422

Senate Economic Development, Trade & Innovation Committee

2010 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Export Assistance

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: There are indications that the US government's goal of doubling exports over the next five years will result in changes in monetary and other federal policies that will benefit firms prepared to sell in foreign markets. New federal export promotion initiatives are being developed. With domestic demand expected to be low for the next few years, exporters may be the driver of job growth. SB 6679, passed during the past legislative session, provided for lending and technical assistance in exporting. The most recent capital budget provided \$3 million for increased technical assistance and infrastructure to support export growth.

The committee held a work session in June with the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy and the House Committee on Community & Economic Development & Trade to examine federal and state trade policy and programs. Committee staff worked with the Labor Market and Economic Analysis unit of the Employment Security Department, the Economic Development Commission, and the Department of Commerce in the development of an instrument to survey firms in the state regarding their export assistance needs. Committee staff also consulted with the Department of Commerce and Export Finance Assistance Center staff regarding implementation of legislation. The committee received follow-up reports from the Department of Commerce and the Export Finance Assistance Center at its December hearing.

REFERENCES: [2SSB 6679](#), [ESHB 2836](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Jack Brummel
Edward Redmond

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7428
786-7471

TITLE: Private Wastewater Development

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: A lack of water and wastewater infrastructure has limited infill development in locales defined as urban growth areas under the Growth Management Act. Public funding for the infrastructure can be difficult to obtain. SB 6808 was introduced during the 2010 legislative session to provide the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) with regulatory authority over private wastewater services in urban growth areas. The bill did not pass the Legislature. The Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Ecology (DOE) suggested that, even with UTC regulation, there remain complex issues regarding the assurance of financial viability and long-term sustainability of wastewater systems.

Committee staff facilitated two group meetings, working with the UTC, DOH, and DOE advocates for private wastewater development and others to address the issues raised. Legislation was developed that incorporated the suggestions for improvement to SSB 6808.

REFERENCES: [SSB 6808](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Jack Brummel

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7428

Senate Environment, Water & Energy Committee

2010 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Water Conservancy Boards

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: In 1997, the Legislature authorized counties to establish water conservancy boards (boards) to help alleviate the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) backlog of water right change applications. Committee staff found that boards operate differently. Some boards handle numerous change applications whereas others process very few change applications. Overall, the 20 boards in the state processed 140 change applications from November 1, 2008, through October 31, 2010. Each board is independently funded and each board charges fees that range from \$250 in Benton County to \$1,450 in Thurston County. According to Ecology, appeals based on board decisions have more than doubled between 2007 and 2009.

Some board members and staff at Ecology expressed concern with the limited authority that a county has to vacate a board position if necessary. Board members generally appreciate having the state handle appeals rather than having the board handle and pay for its own appeals. Most board members feel that the review period of 45 days with a 30-day extension for Ecology to review board decisions is too long. Some board members would like to submit draft decisions to Ecology for an initial review. Staff at Ecology mentioned the need for Ecology to be able to return a decision to a board without action in certain circumstances. Additionally, some of the concerns raised by Ecology staff include potential conflict of interest issues for some boards and the role of consultants with some boards.

REFERENCES: [SB 6581](#), [ESHB 1832 \(2001\)](#), [SHB 1217 \(1997\)](#)
http://ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/conservancy_boards/cb-home.html

STAFF CONTACT: Karen Epps

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7424

TITLE: Chemical Policy

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: At the federal level, two bills were introduced to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The bills were very similar in their approach to address concerns about TSCA, and in some respects similar to the European Union's chemical policy, REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals). However Congress did not take action on either bill. The European Union's chemical policy, REACH significantly revised how chemicals are authorized for use and places responsibility on the manufacturer for information about chemicals in products. Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the European Chemicals Agency signed an agreement to cooperate on chemical management activities to improve chemical safety. Several states have enacted legislation to address chemical policy, with many setting a framework to restrict the use of certain substances in children's products. The Department of Ecology has been developing rules as required by ESSHB 2647, Children's Safe Product Act. The department will be also proposing legislation to revise the Children's Safe Product Act in the 2011 Session.

REFERENCES: [ESSHB 2647 \(2008\)](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Jan Odano

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7486

TITLE: Oil Spill Contingency Plans

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill has focused attention on the adequacy of spill prevention, response and remediation laws and programs. In Washington, owners or operators of large commercial vessels and marine oil facilities must submit oil spill contingency plans to the Department of Ecology describing responses they will take when spills occur. Pursuant to a 2009-11 budget proviso, the Puget Sound Partnership recently convened an advisory group to review Washington's oil spill programs and recommend improvements. The group made several suggestions, including enhancing contingency plan requirements for equipment and personnel capable of responding to worst-case spills, regardless of time of day and operating conditions. Members are considering these and other suggestions, including greater accountability for "umbrella" organizations submitting contingency plans covering multiple vessels, for inclusion in proposed 2011 legislation.

REFERENCES: [SB 6677](#), [HB 2964](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Sam Thompson

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7413

TITLE: Report and Policy Statement on Conservation Incentives

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: In November 2010, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a report and policy statement on regulatory mechanisms, including decoupling, to encourage utilities to meet or exceed their conservation targets. The report and Senate Committee Services staff summary are linked below.

REFERENCES: [SB 6656](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EWE/Documents/WUTC2010ConservationReport.pdf>
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EWE/Documents/WUTCConservationRptSummary.pdf>

STAFF CONTACT: William Bridges

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7416

TITLE: Report on Universal Service

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: In November 2010, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a report reviewing state telecommunications policies on universal service. The commission report and SCS staff summary are linked below.

REFERENCES: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EWE/Documents/WUTCUSRptSummary.pdf>
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EWE/Documents/WUTCUSFReport.pdf>
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EWE/Pages/Reports.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: William Bridges

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7416

TITLE: Report and Policy Statement Concerning Renewable Energy

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: In December 2010, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a report and policy statement concerning the acquisition of renewable resources by investor-owned utilities. The report and SCS staff summary are linked below.

REFERENCES: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EWE/Documents/WUTCRenewablesRptSummary.pdf>
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EWE/Documents/WUTCUSFReport.pdf>

STAFF CONTACT: William Bridges

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7416

Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee

2010 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Residential Foreclosure

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Staff monitored proposed foreclosure legislation on the local, state, and federal level including foreclosure coverage in the media.

The Washington State Housing Finance Commission was directed to review the effectiveness of ESB 5810 (2009). ESB 5810 requires lenders to make an effort to contact certain homeowners prior to initiating the foreclosure process. The results of the review can be found in the Commission's report entitled, "Report of Effectiveness of RCW 61.24.031" (November 30, 2010). The recommendations in this report may result in legislation proposed during the 2011 Legislative Session.

REFERENCES: [ESB 5810 \(2009\)](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/FIHI/documents/WSHFCEffectivenessOfRCW61.24.pdf>
<http://www.wshfc.org/>

STAFF CONTACT: Alison Mendiola

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7483

Senate Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections Committee

2010 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Protecting the Viability of Agricultural Lands and Critical Areas

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires local governments to adopt ordinances to protect critical areas including wetlands, fish and wildlife conservation areas, and aquifer recharge areas. The GMA also requires counties that are required or that choose to plan under the GMA to designate agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance and to adopt ordinances to protect these designated agricultural lands. Several counties have struggled with the dual mandate to protect both critical areas and agricultural lands.

In 2008, the State Supreme Court ruled that counties were required to protect critical areas, but were not required to enhance these areas. The ruling also found that many lands qualified both as critical areas and as agricultural lands.

Beginning in 2007, the Ruckelshaus Center convened meetings of interest groups to develop legislative proposals that would maintain agricultural lands while also protecting critical areas. From these discussions, a stewardship framework has been developed that builds on existing programs for preserving agriculture and protecting critical areas, including salmon recovery, watershed planning, and agricultural land conservation. Work to transform the proposal of the interest groups into legislation has been ongoing. It is anticipated that legislation will be introduced to create a stewardship program to enhance critical areas while maintaining the viability of current land designated for long-term agricultural production.

REFERENCES: [SSB 6520](#), [SSB 5248 \(2007\)](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/ARED/Documents/AgAndCriticalAreas.pdf>
<http://ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu/projects/caop.html>

STAFF CONTACT: Bob Lee
Karen Epps

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7404
786-7424

TITLE: Citizens United Case Review

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: For over 100 years campaign finance reform has been a lexicon of U.S. political debate. The January 2010 *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court is the latest premise to this colloquy. The 5-4 decision proclaimed that corporations have a First Amendment right to speak and unlimited independent expenditures from their general treasury funds, to promote or oppose a political candidate, are an extension of that right. Most relevant to Washington State, in an 8-1 decision,

the Court upheld as constitutional disclaimer and disclosure requirements for corporations participating in electioneering communications.

A PowerPoint presentation was provided to the committee during legislative assembly week. The PowerPoint provides a summary of the *Citizens United* decision and an analysis of any effects the ruling may have on Washington State's campaign finance laws.

REFERENCES: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/GO/Documents/CitizensUnitedvFedElecComm.pdf>
<http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/09pdf/08-205.pdf>

STAFF CONTACT: Edward Redmond

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7471

TITLE: Conservation District Elections

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Committee staff worked with stakeholders to address concerns related to special purpose districts continuing to administer their own elections weighed against the potential cost of King County Elections administering the elections.

Specifically, staff worked to address concerns about the transparency and uniformity of special purpose district elections.

REFERENCES: NA

STAFF CONTACT: Sharon Swanson
Alison Mendiola

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7447
786-7483

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee

2010 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Joint Select Committee on Health Reform Implementation

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in March 2010 enacted sweeping changes to the country's health care system. Federal health care reform also triggered immediate responses from states who have been tasked with implementing the new law through a variety of changes to public programs, insurance regulation, workforce assumptions, eligibility standards, and many other basic areas of health care.

The Washington State Legislature temporarily created the Joint Select Committee on Health Care Reform Implementation to oversee the elements of implementation to be carried out over the coming months and years. The Committee focused on three key areas of health reform implementation: the insurance exchange, low-income programs, and the healthcare workforce, and created advisory groups on those topics. Over the interim, the Committee as a whole met four times, and the three advisory groups met several times individually.

Each advisory group created documents describing policy options and possible legislative action. For example, the advisory group concerned with the insurance exchange discussed basic questions about administering an exchange and whether it would be regional or state only. The low-income advisory group focused on how current public programs might change by 2014 when new categories of people become eligible as a result of the health reform legislation. The work force advisory group analyzed what the current and future gaps in health care workers might be assuming there are many more insured people seeking health care once health reform is fully implemented.

All meeting materials of the Joint Select Committee and the advisory groups are available at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/jointcommittees/HRI/Pages/default.aspx>.

REFERENCES: NA

STAFF CONTACT: Rhoda Donkin
Mich'l Needham
Kathy Buchli

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7465
786-7442
786-7488

Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee

2010 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Higher Education Governance

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The “system” of education in Washington exists as a combination of several loosely coordinated entities including: the Department of Early Learning, through 295 locally elected school boards and elected or appointed state agencies that perform overlapping policy and administrative activities, and post secondary education, which has two separate, but interrelated mechanisms – the Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. In addition, the Workforce Education and Coordinating Board influence how post-secondary education is focused. Finally, the Council of Presidents is a quasi-state agency that exercises significant policy-making influence. At various times, there have been efforts to further divide these entities and, conversely, efforts to combine them or encourage them to coordinate their efforts to a greater extent to enhance the educational pipeline. Staff summarized the history of governance in Washington and looked at governance structures in other states to identify alternative governance structures and strategies.

REFERENCES: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/HEWD/Pages/Reports.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: Aldo Melchiori

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7439

TITLE: Academic Accreditation

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Colleges and universities must be accredited by organizations recognized by the United States Department of Education in order for their students to be eligible for federal financial aid programs. Accreditation also serves the function of ensuring academic rigor within institutions and programs. The accreditation of each college or university is reviewed periodically to ensure that they are in compliance with academic standards and identify what they are required to do to maintain accreditation. It is important to understand this process so that the Legislature can avoid actions that might affect the accreditation of the state's institutions. Staff reviewed the federal recognition process and the institutional and programmatic academic processes. The purpose was to enable staff to identify true threats to academic accreditation as opposed to legislation that might affect accreditation if not implemented properly.

REFERENCES: NA

STAFF CONTACT: Aldo Melchiori

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7439

Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee

2010 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Jose Reyes Case Review

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: In May of 2010, an incident occurred at Seattle's Roosevelt High School in which a registered sex offender attending the school allegedly assaulted a classmate. In response to this incident, Senator Hargrove and Senator McAuliffe asked the Sex Offender Policy Board to study existing laws regarding juvenile sex offenders and school notification. The Board established a review committee, inviting participation from the Office of Superintendent and Public Instruction, the Seattle School District, and the King County Prosecutor's office. The group came up with several recommendations and presented its report to the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee on December 7, 2010.

REFERENCES: Report not yet available on the website.

STAFF CONTACT: Shani Bauer

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7468

TITLE: Child Welfare Transformation Design Committee

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: During the 2010 interim, the Transformation Design Committee (TDC) continued the work it began in June 2009. The TDC oversaw the creation of the Request for Proposal document that the Children's Administration developed to implement Phase I of the bill. The TDC also made recommendations regarding several important components of the Phase I and II implementations. Staff is monitoring and assisting the efforts of the TDC.

REFERENCES: [2SHB 2106 \(2009\)](#)
<http://www.joinhandsforchildren.org/>

STAFF CONTACT: Jennifer Strus

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7316

TITLE: Examination of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (Workfirst) Best Practices

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Secretary of the Department of Social & Health Services convened a wide ranging committee of legislators, stakeholders, and Workfirst subcabinet members to assist in the development of a Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) redesign document. There were six meetings of this committee during which information on the TANF program and TANF recipients was provided to the committee.

Stakeholders provided input to the Workfirst subcabinet regarding redesign ideas. The subcabinet's report to the Governor on the redesign is due December 1, 2010. As of this writing no report has been issued.

Staff monitored the work of the committee and assisted legislative members of the committee.

REFERENCES: [E2SHB 3141](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Jennifer Strus

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7316

TITLE: Judicial Costs of Involuntary Treatment Act Work Group

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: This work group, convened by Senator Curtis King, met twice to explore issues relating to the funding of county judicial costs relating to involuntary commitment hearings under the Involuntary Treatment Act. A cost survey was conducted to counties to discover the actual cost of such hearings. A proposal for reform legislation was discussed.

REFERENCES: [ESSB 6733](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Kevin Black

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7747

TITLE: Public Safety Review Panel Implementation Work Group

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: This work group was formed to discuss implementation of the independent public safety review panel established by ESB 6610. The purpose of the panel is to review recommendations for conditional release of patients found not guilty by reason of insanity. The Governor's appointments to the panel have been completed and an initial meeting is projected to occur in January.

REFERENCES: [ESB 6610 - SEC. 1](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Kevin Black

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7747

Senate Judiciary Committee

2010 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Bail Practices Work Group

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: In 2010, SSB 6673 (Chapter 256, Laws of 2010) created the Bail Practices Work Group to study bail practices and procedures in a comprehensive manner and make recommendations to the Governor, the Supreme Court, and the Legislature. The work group held four full workgroup meetings and eight subcommittee meetings. The work group made 15 initial recommendations which were included in the report provided to the Governor, the Supreme Court, and the Legislature.

REFERENCES: [SSB 6673](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/BPWG/Documents/BailPracticesWorkGroupReport.pdf>

STAFF CONTACT: Juliana Roe

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7438

TITLE: False Claims Act

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Key stakeholders met to discuss the fiscal note and developed ideas aimed at reducing the fiscal impact of PSSB 5144. An informal poll of other state's Attorney Generals' Offices experience with implementing a state level false claims act was conducted. The legislation from the 2010 session was modified to address some of the fiscal concerns.

REFERENCES: NA

STAFF CONTACT: Kim Johnson

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7472

TITLE: Washington Enhanced Intelligence Act

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Staff researched federal and state law regarding police surveillance and collection of information related to 1st Amendment protected activities.

Several stakeholder meetings were conducted in the Seattle area and a new draft bill was developed. The group also had the opportunity to tour the Washington State Fusion Center.

REFERENCES: NA

STAFF CONTACT: Kim Johnson

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7472

TITLE: Family Friendly Court Program

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: SB 6618 would have directed the Administrative Office of the Courts to develop and administer the family friendly court grant program. There are three court-based locations in Washington that provide child care for children of parents or guardians who are at the court facility on official court business. Staff researched the administration and funding for the three programs, and participated in a tour of the King County court based child care program.

REFERENCES: [SB 6618](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Lidia Mori

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7755

Senate Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee

2010 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Workplace Rights and Safety

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Throughout the 2010 interim, the Committee participated in joint hearings to monitor ongoing issues related to workplace rights and safety in anticipation of legislation for the 2011 session. The Committee received updates from the Department of Labor and Industries on the investigation of the April 2, 2010, Tesoro refinery explosion, the Governor's workers compensation work group, and the 2011 workers compensation rate setting process. The Committee also held hearings on workplace exposure to chemotherapy and other drugs.

REFERENCES: NA

STAFF CONTACT: Edith Rice
Mac Nicholson

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7444
786-7445

TITLE: Unemployment Insurance Taxes and Benefits

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Throughout the 2010 interim, the Committee participated in joint hearings to monitor ongoing issues related to unemployment insurance taxes and benefits in anticipation of legislation for the 2011 session. The Committee received updates from the Employment Security Department on unemployment facts and figures, including trust fund balance and benefit exhaustion, methods to adjust social tax rates for employers, and options that would allow the state to qualify for unemployment insurance modernization incentive payments.

REFERENCES: NA

STAFF CONTACT: Mac Nicholson

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7445

Senate Natural Resources & Marine Waters Committee

2010 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Forest Ecosystem Services

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Staff attended the University of Washington's School of Forest Resources' Northwest Environmental Forum in October. The forum's primary focus was on creating an environmental services marketplace in Washington. The report summarizes the findings and recommendations for future action.

The term "working forests" is widely used to characterize actively managed forest lands that sustain a combination of resources, timber products, wildlife and fish habitat, clean air and water, carbon storage, recreation opportunities, and others. The economic value of the benefits or services provided by these forested areas has been referred to as "ecosystem services."

REFERENCES: <http://www.nwenvironmentalforum.org/documents/2010ForumFall/2010ForumReport.pdf>
<http://www.nwenvironmentalforum.org>

STAFF CONTACT: Sherry McNamara
Curt Gavigan

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7402
786-7437

TITLE: Natural Resources Agency Reorganization

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Staff reviewed Washington State's natural resources agency organizational structures, and monitored the development of and analyzed natural resources agency reorganization recommendations and proposals.

Washington has numerous state agencies involved in environmental protection and natural resource management (natural resource agencies). In turn, these natural resource agencies represent an array of governance structures. A 2009 operating budget proviso directed the Governor to convene a work group to evaluate the structure of the state's natural resource agencies. In September 2009, the Governor's Natural Resource Cabinet released an initial set of 26 ideas regarding natural resources agency and program reorganization. On December 2, 2009, the Governor signed Executive Order 09-07 titled "Washington's Natural Resources Reform Initiatives", which tasked the state's natural resources agencies with a series of tasks focused on resource sharing. The Legislature subsequently dealt with several pieces of relevant legislation in the 2010 session, including enacting legislation to streamline environmental hearings boards. Most recently, in December 2010, the Governor announced a proposal to create the Department of Conservation and Recreation, which would combine the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Recreation and Conservation Office.

REFERENCES: [SB 6813](#)
http://www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/budget/consolidate_services.pdf

STAFF CONTACT: Curt Gavigan
Sherry McNamara

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7437
786-7402

Senate Transportation Committee

2010 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: State-Level Transportation Planning Evaluation

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) conducted an evaluation of the preparation of state-level transportation plans. The evaluation resulted in certain recommendations concerning the appropriate responsibilities for preparing plans, methods to develop plans more efficiently, and the utility of state-level planning documents. The final recommendations will include draft legislation streamlining various planning requirements, prepared jointly among JTC, House, and Senate staff. The final report, and the accompanying bill draft, will be available for member review prior to the 2011 session.

REFERENCES: [ESSB 6381 - Sec. 204\(7\)](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Kelly Simpson

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7403

TITLE: High Speed Passenger Rail Grant

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: In 2010, Washington State was awarded a total of \$782M for high speed passenger rail investments, funded through the Federal 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Committee staff attended frequent in-state conferences and meetings with legislators, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) staff, and stakeholders. Committee staff continues to work with WSDOT to help prepare for discussions on specific funding timing and strategies for securing additional funding. Work on partnership opportunities with Canada and Oregon is also ongoing.

REFERENCES: [ESSB 6381 - Sec. 307\(9\)](#)
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Funding/stimulus/passengerrail.htm>

STAFF CONTACT: Hayley Gamble

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7452

TITLE: Fuel Tax Refunds for Non-Highway or Off-Road Use of Gasoline and Diesel

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Legislature directed the Joint Transportation Committee to review fuel tax refunds for non-highway or off-road use of gasoline and diesel fuels, and:

- Provide an overview of each of the off-road programs (NOVA, ORV, Marine and Snowmobiles);
- Analyze historical funding and expenditures from the respective treasury accounts;
- Outline and provide process documentation on how the funds are distributed to the treasury accounts; and
- Document future identified off-road, snowmobile and marine funding needs.

A final report is due to the House and Senate Transportation Committees by December 31, 2010.

REFERENCES: [ESSB 6381 - Sec. 204](#)
[http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/STC/Documents/Fuel Tax Refunds for Non-Highway or Off-Road Use of Gasoline and Diesel.pdf](http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/STC/Documents/Fuel%20Tax%20Refunds%20for%20Non-Highway%20or%20Off-Road%20Use%20of%20Gasoline%20and%20Diesel.pdf)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JTC/Pages/NonHighwayFuelTaxStudy.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: David Ward

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7341

TITLE: Study of Small Transportation Agencies - Grant Program Efficiencies

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: This Joint Transportation Committee study evaluated funding and services offered by four state agencies providing local transportation services -- the County Road Administration Board, the Transportation Improvement Board, the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board, and WSDOT's highways and local programs division. The principle objective was to identify opportunities to streamline governance and organization, and to identify whether there are more efficient ways to distribute transportation funds and provide services to local governments. A policy workgroup composed of legislators and a member of the Governor's staff oversaw the study. A technical staff workgroup provided support. The study concluded that, among other things, there currently is no need or benefit for fundamental changes to the current model to serve local transportation without significant changes in the environment.

REFERENCES: [ESSB 6381 - Sec. 204\(8\)](#)
[http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/STC/Documents/Local Agency Efficiencies Policy Workgroup.pdf](http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/STC/Documents/Local%20Agency%20Efficiencies%20Policy%20Workgroup.pdf)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JTC/Pages/localagencyeffpolicyworkgroup.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: Amanda Cecil

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7429

TITLE: Joint Transportation Committee Studies Regarding Washington State Ferries

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: In the 2009-11 Transportation Budget, the Legislature directed the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) to complete two studies related to the Washington State Ferries. One study was to provide a comparison of benefits available to injured workers under the federal Jones Act and Washington's Industrial Insurance Act. The second study was to provide a comparison of resources and grievance processes at the Marine Employees Commission (MEC) and the Personnel Relations Employment Commission (PERC). Both studies have been completed and are available. The injured workers study found that if Jones Act/General Maritime Law employees sue the state, they can get a larger total payment, but they have to wait on average 31 months between the incident and receiving the settlement which can impose a hardship on the employee. The MEC/PERC study found that PERC does have the expertise necessary to administer grievances and hearings currently administered by MEC, and that the PERC processes these faster than MEC.

REFERENCES: [ESSB 6381 - Sec. 204\(9\)](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JTC/Pages/CurrentStudies.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: Janice Baumgardt

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7319

TITLE: Citizen's Guide to the Transportation Budget

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Citizen's Guide to the Washington State Transportation Budget is provided as a resource for citizens, members of the Senate, their staff, and other interested persons to provide a brief overview of the transportation budget, outline the budget's components, the budget process, and describe the agencies, goods, and services it funds. The Citizen's Guide is updated annually after session. The most current guide is available to the public as well as online.

REFERENCES: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/TRAN/>

STAFF CONTACT: Catherine Nicolai & LEAP Committee

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7430

Senate Ways & Means Committee

2010 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Summary of Initiative 1107

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Staff prepared a summary of the provisions and effects of Initiative 1107 in response to specific questions about the initiative and provided for legislative purposes.

REFERENCES: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/senate/committees/documents/initiatives/2010/1107summary.pdf>

STAFF CONTACT: Dean Carlson
Dianne Criswell

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7305
786-7433

TITLE: Summary of Initiative 1098

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Staff prepared a summary of the provisions and effects of Initiative 1098 in response to specific questions about the initiative and provided for legislative purposes.

REFERENCES: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/senate/committees/documents/initiatives/2010/1098summary.pdf>

STAFF CONTACT: Dianne Criswell

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7433

TITLE: 2011 Legislative Guide to Washington State Property Taxes

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The 2011 Legislative Guide to Washington State Property Taxes has been updated by Senate Ways & Means staff for the 2011 Legislative Session. The guide is published on an annual basis for use by legislators, legislative staff, and the general public to answer basic questions about the Washington State Property Tax System. The guide is published and available to the committee, as well as online.

REFERENCES: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/senate/committees/WM>

STAFF CONTACT: Dianne Criswell

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7433

TITLE: Citizen Commission for Performance Measurement of Tax Preferences –
2010 Full and Expedited Reviews

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Citizen Commission for Performance Measurement of Tax Preferences was established by the 2006 Legislature (EHB 1069), which reviews all tax preferences at least once every ten years. Tax preference reviews are conducted by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee according to the schedule established by the Commission. Ways & Means Committee staff monitored the Commission's full and expedited reviews scheduled for 2010 in order to brief members and prepare for the joint hearing on the Commission's recommendations held at the beginning of the legislative session.

REFERENCES: [Chapter 43.136 RCW](#); <http://www.citizentaxpref.wa.gov/>

STAFF CONTACT: Dean Carlson
Dianne Criswell

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7305
786-7433

TITLE: Joint Tax Avoidance Review Committee

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Legislature established a Joint Tax Avoidance Review Committee to monitor the Department of Revenue (DOR) implementation of Part II of 2ESSB 6143 (related to tax avoidance). The Committee, supported by the fiscal committee staff, held three meetings during the 2010 interim and provided a report to the Legislature on October 27, 2010. However, since agency rulemaking continues, the committee is continuing its oversight of DOR's implementation through the expiration date of the committee (July 1, 2011).

REFERENCES: [2ESSB 6143](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/jointcommittees/TARC/Pages/default.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: Dean Carlson
Dianne Criswell

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7305
786-7433

TITLE: Supplemental School Funding Working Group

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Legislature directed the Office of Financial Management, with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to convene a Working Group beginning April 1, 2010, to develop options for a new system of supplemental school funding through local school levies and local effort assistance in the context of the expanded definition of basic education that is to be phased in on a schedule set by the legislature, with final phase in occurring by School Year 2017-18. The work group is made up of designated members and overseen by the Quality Education Council. The work group's report to the Legislature is due June 30, 2011.

The group began meeting in May and, over the interim, has conducted work sessions on: the background and current function of levies and levy equalization, Washington state's regular and excess property tax statutes and programs, the new basic education funding formula and planned enhancements, other states' local revenue programs, legislative and other proposals to restructure or modify the current system, among other topics. The group identified criteria to be used for judging proposals and plans to continue its work over the coming months to develop options, by the due date of June 2011, for the QEC and the Legislature to consider.

REFERENCES: [ESHB 2261 \(2009\)](#), [SHB 2776](#)
Office of Financial Management, Levy & Local Effort Assistance Technical Working Group website: <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/levy/>
Quality Education Council website: <http://www.k12.wa.us/QEC>

STAFF CONTACT:	Elise Greef	CONTACT NUMBER:	786-7708
	Susan Mielke		786-7422
	Dean Carlson		786-7305
	Dianne Criswell		786-7433

TITLE: 2011 Citizen's Guide to the Budget

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The 2011 Citizen's Guide to the Budget is currently being updated by Senate Ways & Means staff along with staff from the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP) Committee for the 2011 Legislative Session. The guide is published on an annual basis for use by legislators, legislative staff, and the general public to answer basic questions about the Washington State biennial budget. It is anticipated that the guide will be published the first week of session and will be available with the committee, as well as online.

REFERENCES: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/WM/>

STAFF CONTACT: Devon Nichols & LEAP Committee

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7716

TITLE: 2011 Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The 2011 Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance is currently being updated by Senate Ways & Means staff along with staff from the LEAP Committee for the 2011 Legislative Session. The guide is published on an annual basis for use by legislators, legislative staff, and the general public to answer frequently asked questions about K-12 finance. It is anticipated that the guide will be published the first week of session and will be available with the committee, as well as online.

REFERENCES: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/WM/>

STAFF CONTACT: Elise Greef & LEAP Committee

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7708

TITLE: 2010 Legislative Budget Notes

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Legislative fiscal staff in the Senate and House worked together with LEAP Committee staff to publish the Legislative Budget Notes (LBN) during the summer of 2010. The LBN is a publication that represents the official record of legislative action on the omnibus operating, transportation, and capital budgets. It is used by legislators, legislative staff, state agencies, and the general public to determine the legislative intent behind the hundreds of policy changes embedded in the three major budget documents.

REFERENCES: <http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/lbns/2010toc.htm>

STAFF CONTACT: Ways & Means Committee Staff

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7715

Additional Electronic Resources

[Senate Website](#)

[Senate Committee Services Website](#)

[2010 Interim Work Plan and Meeting Schedules](#)

[2010 Bills Passed During the 2010 Regular and First Special Legislative Sessions](#)

[TVW Archives](#)