



Summaries

2015-17 Study Mandates & Other Scheduled Committee Projects

Performance Audits of Tax Preferences <i>Report: July 2015 and July 2016</i> Directive: EHB 1069 (2006)	Based on a ten-year schedule developed by the Citizen Commission for Performance Measurement of Tax Preferences, JLARC staff review approximately 20 tax preferences each year. <i>Staff: John.Woolley@leg.wa.gov</i>
Report on Legislative Implementation of SAO Recommendations <i>Report: July 2015 and July 2016</i> Directive: I-900 (2005)	JLARC annually reports on the Legislature's implementation of the State Auditor's performance audit recommendations. <i>Staff: Keenan.Konopaski@leg.wa.gov</i>
Use of Lodging Tax Revenues by Municipalities: Annual Report <i>Report: July 2015 and July 2016</i> Directive: ESHB 1253 (2013)	Municipalities must report their use of lodging tax revenues for tourism promotion. The on-line reporting system was developed and is maintained by JLARC. <i>Staff: Steven.Meyeroff@leg.wa.gov</i>
Medicaid Fraud Sunset <i>Report: Sep 2015</i> Directive: ESSB 5978 (2012)	The Medicaid Fraud Program is designed to find areas of significant fraud and to help recover state money that could be used to support the state's Medicaid program. This sunset will answer a number of questions, including the extent to which the program has achieved expected performance goals. <i>Staff: Mark.Fleming@leg.wa.gov</i>
Analysis of K-12 Health Benefits <i>Report: Dec 2015</i> Directive: ESSB 5940 (2012)	JLARC will report on progress by school districts and their benefit providers in achieving the goals and performance expectations established in the bill and discuss options and impacts of consolidated purchasing. <i>Staff: John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov</i>
Analysis of the Unemployment Insurance Training Benefits Program <i>Report: Jan 2016</i> Directive: EHB 1091 (2011)	JLARC will complete an evaluation of the training benefits program administered by the Employment Security Department. The program allows eligible individuals to receive additional weeks of unemployment benefits while they are in approved training. <i>Staff: Ryan.McCord@leg.wa.gov</i>
Washington Health Care Exchange: Understanding Options for K-12/Higher Ed Part-time Employees <i>Report: Phase 1, Jan 2016</i> Directive: JLARC sponsored	This multi-part study will first review what data is available and what analysis can be completed to understand the benefit packages for part-time employees, and costs associated with those benefits, if provided through the Exchange or existing K-12 and Higher Education health benefit plans. <i>Staff: Eric.Thomas@leg.wa.gov</i>
Services for Homeless Youth <i>Report: July 2016</i> Directive: 2SSB 5404 (2015)	JLARC will review state-funded programs that serve unaccompanied homeless youth under the age of 18. The review will determine what performance measures exist, what statutory reporting requirements exist, and whether there is reliable data on ages of youth served, length of stay, and effectiveness of program exit and reentry. <i>Staff: Rebecca.Connolly@leg.wa.gov</i>

University of Washington Alternative Public Works Sunset Review <i>Report: Sep 2016</i> Directive: Capital Budget (2015)	JLARC will conduct a sunset review of the alternative process for the University of Washington to award contracts for the building of university buildings and facilities for critical patient care or specialized medical research. <i>Staff: Steven.Meyeroff@leg.wa.gov</i>
Interagency Coordinating Council on Health Disparities Sunset <i>Report: Sept 2016</i> Directive: SB 6197 (2006)	The sunset review will determine if the Council's activities are consistent with legislative intent. Health disparities are differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of disease that exists among specific population groups. The Council is to create an action plan and statewide policy to address any such disparities. <i>Staff: John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov</i>
Puget Sound Partnership <i>Report: Dec 2016</i> Directive: ESSB 5372 (2007)	The Legislature created the Puget Sound Partnership to coordinate and lead the effort to restore the Puget Sound by 2020. The Legislature directed JLARC to conduct two performance audits of the Partnership, the first in 2011 and this second audit in 2016. <i>Staff: Melanie.Stidham@leg.wa.gov</i>
Washington Health Care Exchange: Understanding Options for K-12/Higher Ed Part-time Employees <i>Report: Phase 2, Dec 2016</i> Directive: JLARC sponsored	Based on the results of the first phase of this study, the Committee may proceed with a detailed analysis of the benefit packages for part-time employees, and calculate estimated costs associated with those benefits, through the Exchange and existing K-12 and Higher Education health benefit plans. <i>Staff: Eric.Thomas@leg.wa.gov</i>
Forest Fire Protection Assessment <i>Report: Dec 2016</i> Directive: Operating Budget (2015)	JLARC is to review the process DNR uses to determine forest fire assessments, the efficiency of the administrative process, assessment rates, the relationship between rates and protection and suppression expenditures, how other states assess for protection and suppression, and parcels assessed as forest lands that are developed and not covered by a fire protection district. <i>Staff: Ryan.McCord@leg.wa.gov</i>
Habitat and Recreational Lands and Regulations Study <i>Report: Dec 2016</i> Directive: Capital Budget (2015)	The study is to determine what existing or potential objective outcome measures can be used to evaluate the success of major regulatory programs or state expenditures that are intended to protect and conserve habitat and expand outdoor recreation. In addition, the study is to compare the amount of habitat lands protected through acquisitions and easements with the amount of lands protected through major regulatory programs within three counties west of the Cascades and three counties east of the Cascades. <i>Staff: Eric.Thomas@leg.wa.gov</i>