

STATE OF WASHINGTON

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# AGENDA

June 20, 2012  
10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.  
John A. Cherberg Building  
Senate Hearing Room 4  
Olympia, Washington

## OTHER COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- A. Legislative Implementation of State Auditor Performance Audit Recommendations
  - B. Other
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- \*1. Approval of May 17, 2012, JLARC Meeting Minutes
  - \*2. Involuntary Treatment Judicial Costs: Actual Cost Data Not Available; Estimates Suggest Wide Range in Average Case Costs — Proposed Final Report
  - \*3. Workplace Safety & Health Program: Activities Are Responsive and Preventative, Using Data-Driven Approaches — Proposed Final Report
  - 4. Workers' Compensation Claims Management: Evaluation Design— Briefing

\* Action Item

**Please note: All listed times are estimates only and the Committee reserves the right to move agenda items as needed**

- \*1. **Approval of May 17, 2012, JLARC Meeting Minutes**
  
- \*2. **Involuntary Treatment Judicial Costs: Actual Cost Data Not Available; Estimates Suggest Wide Range in Average Case Costs — Proposed Final Report:** In 2011, the Legislature provided a process, effective July 1, 2012, for counties to be reimbursed for judicial services costs associated with involuntary mental health civil commitments. The intent of the legislation (SSB 5531) is to “prevent the burden of these costs from falling disproportionately on the counties or regional support networks where the commitments are most likely to occur.” In the bill, JLARC was directed to assess the direct costs counties incur when providing judicial services associated with involuntary commitments, analyze cost differences among counties, and investigate methods for and identify factors associated with the periodic updating of judicial costs. JLARC found that actual cost data are not available and that estimates suggest a wide range in average case costs. JLARC provides two recommendations for improving the expenditure and case data, and offers possible methods for updating rates to account for changes over time.
  
- \*3. **Workplace Safety & Health Program: Activities Are Responsive and Preventative, Using Data-Driven Approaches — Proposed Final Report:** JLARC reviewed the state’s workplace safety and health activities at the Department of Labor and Industries, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH). The report concludes DOSH complies with federal and state law, and it allocates resources for data-driven prevention activities. Further, research shows a reduction in claims after DOSH activities, and cautions policy makers about comparing injury and illness rates across states. The report does not make recommendations.
  
4. **Workers’ Compensation Claims Management: Evaluation Design— Briefing:** JLARC staff will brief the Committee on a future performance audit of the worker’s compensation claims management system, including self-insured claims. The 2011 Legislature directed this audit in Engrossed House Bill 2123, which enacts a number of major reforms to the state’s workers’ compensation system. JLARC is conducting this audit in two phases. The first phase focuses on developing methods and cost estimates for evaluating the claims management process administered by the Department of Labor and Industries, and a review of the processes used by self-insured employers. JLARC staff will then evaluate a number of elements of the claims management system in the second phase, to be completed by June 2015. The methods used to address the study elements will depend upon future resources available to JLARC.