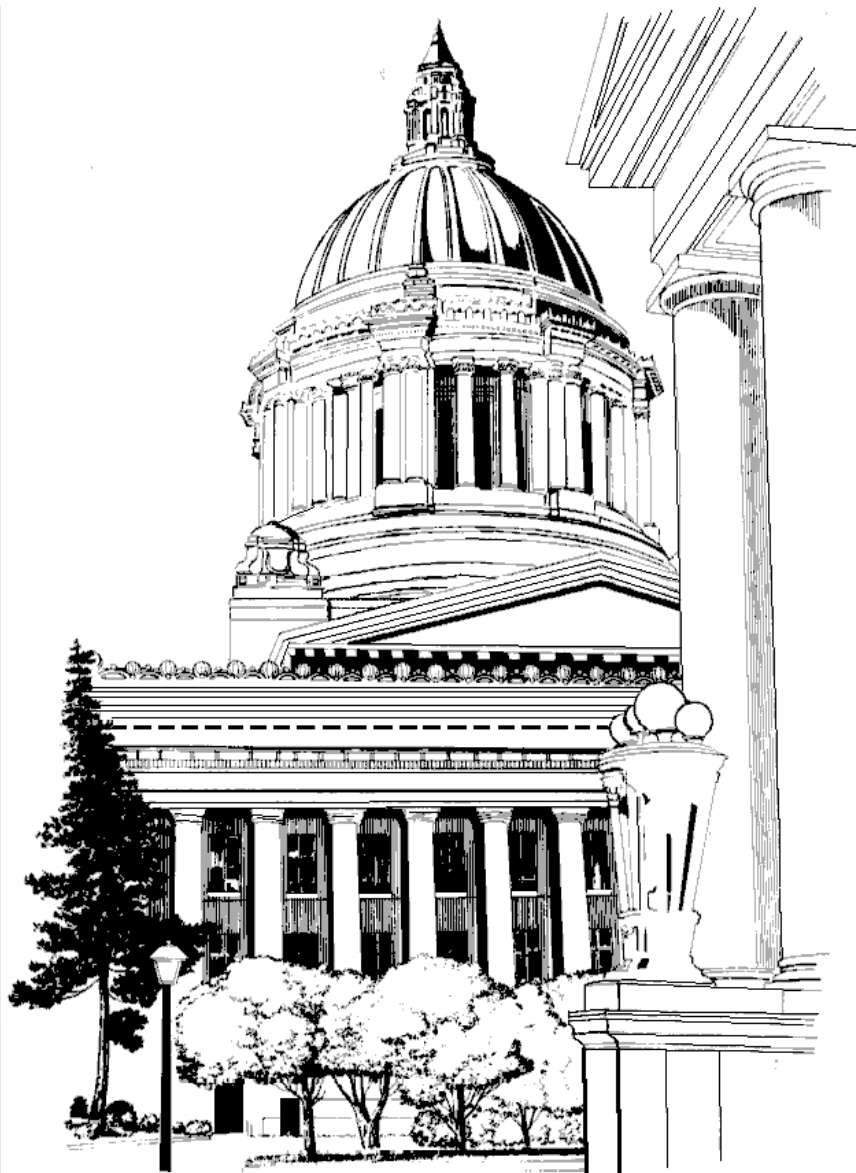


House of Representatives
Office of Program Research

Interim Plans

2011



**Office of Program Research
Washington House of Representatives
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7100**

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House of Representatives Office of Program Research

2011 Interim Plans

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

July 2011

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**House of Representatives
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September	Evening	Okanogan County	Full Committee	State and Local Natural Resource Partnerships	Public Hearing/ Work Session
October	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Water Policy	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Agricultural Production Criminal Enforcement of Natural Resources Laws	Work Session

Project Title: Agricultural Production

Project Goal:

Develop an understanding of production issues facing the agricultural industry.

Project Description:

The agricultural industry is facing new challenges and opportunities, and, as a result, the Legislature is being asked with increasing frequency to make significant policy decisions related to agricultural production. The Committee will be better situated to address the issues inherent in these challenges and opportunities by investing time into a better understanding of the issues, laws, and markets that affect the industry.

Elements of the agricultural industry that the Committee will focus on include: the potential for developing a state meat inspection program; the implementation of the livestock traceability program; domestic and international food markets; food safety rules; and the enhancement of niche agricultural markets.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Title: Water Policy

Project Goal:

Develop a better understanding of the issues underlying water management in the state and prepare for emerging issues.

Project Description:

Water policy, both in terms of resource management and quality, is an important segment of Washington's environment, economy, and culture. The Committee will work to gain a better understanding of the existing regulatory and legal framework that supports the management of water resources and water quality in the state. The Committee will also explore emerging issues that will likely be debated before the Committee during the 2012 legislative session.

Specific issues that the Committee may address include: the management of permit exempt wells; the trust water rights program; statutory relinquishment reform; water rights processing efficiencies; stormwater permits; and processes and requirements for issuing water quality violations.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: July 2011

Staff Assigned: Courtney Barnes

Project Title: State and Local Natural Resource Partnerships

Project Goal:

Foster improved communications and partnerships between the state government and local governments in the management of natural resources.

Project Description:

Decisions made by the state government regarding the management of natural resources necessarily reflect statewide goals, commitments, and values. However, statewide policies often have disproportionate and unique local effects in communities that are located in close proximity to the resources being managed or that have local values which may differ from the overall statewide policy.

This distinction between statewide policies and local effects is a undercurrent in many bill discussions and policy developments that occur before the Committee. It has been, and will continue to be, evident in issues such as carnivore management, endangered species management, and forest health policies.

The Committee will engage in discussions with the leaders of local governments in rural counties with an economic reliance on sound natural resources management that are located in areas of the state bringing its residents in daily proximity to the species and resources managed by the state. A better understanding of local concerns, hopes, and values will provide the Committee with a broader depth of knowledge to be utilized in legislative decision making during the 2012 Legislature.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: July 2011

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Title: Criminal Enforcement of Natural Resources Laws

Project Goal:

Review the natural resources laws that are enforceable through criminal prosecution to determine if compliance could be improved, and enforcement costs reduced, through either enhancing or lessening the statutory penalties.

Project Description:

Many of the laws governing natural resources management are enforceable through criminal prosecution. Criminal enforcement can be a highly successful and effective mechanism to ensure compliance with the underlying law. However, successful prosecution requires clear criminal elements and some cost due to the involvement of the judicial system, local prosecutors, and, potentially, the jail and prison systems.

The Committee will review the various criminal enforcement provisions applicable to natural resource management. The Committee will attempt to identify provisions that could be enforced more effectively with clearer criminal elements or improved integration into applicable sentencing guidelines. The Committee will also review these provisions in an attempt to determine if enforcement goals could be reached in a more effective and less costly manner through greater use of the civil natural resources infraction provisions and, if so, which enforcement tools may be lost with civil enforcement.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Support for Fish and Wildlife Management Research

Project Goal:

Develop legislation allowing for voluntary donations to support fish and wildlife research.

Project Description:

Sound management of fish and wildlife requires reliable, credible research in the fish and wildlife management sciences. This research can be the critical underpinnings of state management decisions; however, funding for the desired research is not always readily available.

The Committee will explore legislative options for the development of a program that supports the collection of voluntary donations that can be used to support fish and wildlife management research through private sector retail operations. Development of the supporting legislation may require the identification of barriers to private retail stores being willing and able to collect donations at the time of customer purchases, impacts on the bookkeeping and tax ramifications from participating retail stores, and processes by which the money can be collected and allocated for targeted research through a non-governmental process.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: January 2012

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

**House of Representatives
Business & Financial Services
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usage-based Auto Insurance Mixed Martial Arts Impacts of State-based Regulation on Financial Institutions and Insurers.	Work Session

Project Title: Usage-based Auto Insurance

Project Goal:

Review issues relating to usage-based auto insurance and discuss possible legislation.

Project Description:

Bills regarding usage-based auto insurance have been introduced twice in the last three years. The Committee will review the legislation from 2009 (SSB 5708) and 2011 (SSB 5730) on the subject. These previous bills focused exclusively upon providing confidentiality for certain insurer rating information that must be filed with the Insurance Commissioner.

The Committee will review new and emerging technologies related to usage-based insurance and policies based on those technologies. The Committee will review issues related to confidentiality but will also focus on issues related to disclosure and protecting consumer privacy.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

Project Title: Mixed Martial Arts

Project Goal:

Review issues relating to the regulation of mixed martial arts and discuss possible legislation.

Project Description:

Certain types of athletic events, including boxing, martial arts, and professional wrestling are regulated by the Department of Licensing. The statutes provide a number of exemptions from regulation. In the 2011 session, HB 1062 was introduced to alter the current regulatory framework.

The Committee will take up the subject again. In particular, the Committee will look at issues related to amateur mixed martial arts events.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

Project Title: Impacts of State-based Regulation on Financial Institutions and Insurers.

Project Goal:

Develop an understanding of the differences in federal and state regulatory oversight for banks and credit unions and the importance of the state of domicile for insurers.

Project Description:

Banks and credit unions may choose a national or a state charter. The charter determines the primary regulator (although some federal laws apply regardless of charter). A state-chartered institution is subject to the laws of the chartering state while a federally-chartered institution is exempt from much of state law applying to banks or credit unions.

Insurers are subject to the laws of the state where they do business. The state in which the insurer is domiciled has additional regulatory duties, particularly in the area of financial regulation.

The Committee will review the differences between federal and state charters for banks and credit unions. The Committee will look at the impacts of recent federal legislation and the instability of the financial markets on Washington-based institutions. The Committee will also review the nature of Washington-domiciled regulation and the impacts on Washington-based insurers.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard and Alison Hellberg

**House of Representatives
Capital Budget
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee, Joint with Community Development & Housing Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable Housing 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten-Year Capital Needs and Projected Resources Commission on State Debt Modernization of State Infrastructure Programs 2012 Session Preview 	Work Session

Project Title: Affordable Housing

Project Goal:

Provide housing policy and budget information to inform future legislation and/or budget recommendations.

Project Description:

There are numerous affordable housing and homeless programs, with multiple state, federal, and local funding streams. With this project, the Committee, jointly with the Community Development & Housing Committee, will map out: how housing agencies determine the need for affordable housing and the projected level of need, the resources available for affordable housing; the level of state investment, other known investments, types of investments (project types, number of units, average cost, population served, etc.); administrative costs; eligibility criteria for different programs; how state and local investment decisions are made upon receiving funds, and best practices. Information on housing vouchers, including a comparison of using vouchers vs. capital investments to meet housing needs, and a review of other states' voucher programs will be included.

Research will be conducted in coordination with Committee, Community Development & Housing, and Ways & Means staff, as well as the Department of Commerce and the Housing Finance Commission. There will be a site visit of a project receiving state funding.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session and site visit, joint with the Community Development & Housing Committee

Completion Date: September 2011

Staff Assigned: Meg VanSchoorl, Jennifer Thornton, and Andy Toulon

Project Title: Ten-Year Capital Needs and Projected Resources

Project Goal:

Analyze ten-year capital needs and projected resources available to fund future capital budgets.

Project Description:

The Washington State Budget and Accounting Act (chapter 43.88 RCW) mandates a long range approach to capital budget planning. The Act requires state agencies and institutions to submit a plan of proposed capital spending for a ten-year period. This long range planning is designed to identify future needs and capital projects proposed to address those needs. The Governor then proposes a ten-year capital plan based on agency proposals and policy considerations. During this work session, the Committee will: (1) analyze agency ten-year capital plans, deferred maintenance backlog reduction plans, and facility condition information; (2) consider the ten-year capital needs of local governments that traditionally receive funding through the capital budget; (3) review the impact of 2011-13 Capital Budget decisions; and (4) estimate future resources to address identified needs.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson, Steve Masse, and Meg VanSchoorl

Project Title: Commission on State Debt

Project Goal:

Consider the findings and recommendations of the Commission on State Debt.

Project Description:

Legislation enacted in 2011 (SSB 5181) creates a Commission on State Debt (Commission) to examine the following: (1) trends in the use of state obligations including general obligation bonds, revenue bonds and other debt that supports the transportation budget, financing contracts, lease purchase agreements, and other forms of obligations including long-term leases and pension liabilities; (2) major uses of state debt and associated debt service expenditures; and (3) existing limitations and policies in other states with similar or higher credit ratings, including an examination of relative debt burden and the relationship between state debt and debt incurred by local governments. The Commission must report its findings and recommendations to the State Finance Committee and the Legislature by December 1, 2011. The Committee will monitor the progress of the Commission throughout the interim and consider its findings and recommendations in December.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson, Steve Masse, and Meg VanSchoorl

Project Title: Modernization of State Infrastructure Programs

Project Goal:

Consider the findings and recommendations in the Public Works Board's proposed plan to "modernize" state programs that support local infrastructure.

Project Description:

The 2011 Capital Budget (ESHB 1497, Section 7028) requires the Public Works Board (Board) to submit a plan to the Legislature by November 1, 2011, to create a reformed state system for infrastructure financing and technical assistance. The Board as well as other state and local agencies must consider consolidating state appropriations to support policy-focused investments, streamlining application processes, consolidating assistance packages, and clarifying state and local responsibilities. The plan is to include draft legislation and budgetary changes needed to implement the new system by the 2013-15 biennium. The Committee will monitor meetings throughout the interim and consider the Board's findings and recommendations in December.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Meg VanSchoorl

Project Title: 2012 Session Preview

Project Goal:

Provide an update on the debt limit, interest rate and revenue forecasts, and agency capital budget requests for the 2012 supplemental capital budget.

Project Description:

The Committee will be briefed on key capital budget issues for the upcoming legislative session including the debt limit, interest rate and revenue forecasts, and agency priorities as submitted to the Office of Financial Management and the Governor.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson, Steve Masse, and Meg VanSchoorl

**House of Representatives
Community Development & Housing
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 21	9:30 AM	Portland, OR	Full Committee joint with Senate Economic Development, Trade and Innovation	Fostering Innovation	Work Session
September	All Day	Grays Harbor	Full Committee joint with Senate Economic Development, Trade and Innovation	Economic Development Efforts in a Distressed Community	Work Session
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee joint with Captial Budget	Affordable Housing	Work Session
October	Half Day	Olympia, Tacoma, or Seattle	Full Committee	Building Communities Fund	Work Session
December (day before Committee Assembly)	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee joint with General Government Appropriations	Budget and Program Review of Economic Development Programs (Department of Commerce and Economic Development Commission)	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	International Trade	Work Session

Project Title: Fostering Innovation

Project Goal:

Attend educational meeting on fostering innovation through regional collaboration.

Project Description:

The Committee will hold a joint work session with the Senate Economic Development, Trade and Innovation Committee in conjunction with the Pacific Northwest Economic Region's Innovation Working Group. The joint work session will focus on fostering innovation through regional collaboration. It will include presentations from Joe Cortright, President and Principal Economist, Impresa, and Egils Milbergs, Executive Director, Washington Economic Development Commission.

NOTE: The hearing will be held during the PNWER 2011 Annual Summit: A Toast to Innovation on July 21, 2011, in Portland, Oregon.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session joint with Senate EDTI Committee

Completion Date: July 2011

Staff Assigned: Jennifer Thornton

Project Title: Economic Development Efforts in a Distressed Community

Project Goal:

Monitor economic development activities and impacts.

Project Description:

Grays Harbor struggles with high unemployment and has received funding from numerous state economic development programs and leveraged other investments.

The Committee's work session will focus on: 1) increasing the Committee's understanding of Grays Harbor including its challenges and resources; 2) receiving information on state investments in the community; and 3) identifying results, and what is and isn't working. Potential information covered/ external presentations will include: local businesses; Port of Grays Harbor; Satsop Development Park; CERB funds; .09 Rural Economic Development Funds; Grays Harbor EDC; the Innovation Partnership Zone - Sustainable Industries Research and Development Center; and workforce housing.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session joint with Senate EDTI Committee

Completion Date: September 2011

Staff Assigned: Jennifer Thornton, Chris Cordes, and Senate EDTI staff

Project Title: Affordable Housing

Project Goal:

Provide housing policy and budget information to inform future legislation and/or budget recommendations.

Project Description:

There are numerous affordable housing and homeless programs, with multiple state, federal, and local funding streams. With this project, the Committee, jointly with the Capital Budget Committee, will map out: how housing agencies determine the need for affordable housing and the projected level of need; the resources available for affordable housing; the level of state investment, other known investments, types of investments (project types, number of units, average cost, population served, etc.); administrative costs; eligibility criteria for different programs; how state and local investment decisions are made upon receiving funds; and best practices. Information on housing vouchers, including a comparison of using vouchers vs. capital investments to meet housing needs, and a review of other states' voucher programs will be included.

Research will be conducted in coordination with Committee, Capital Budget, and Ways & Means staff, as well as with the Department of Commerce and the Housing Finance Commission. There will be a site visit of a project receiving state funding.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session and site visit, joint with Capital Budget Committee

Completion Date: September 2011

Staff Assigned: Jennifer Thornton, Meg Van Schoorl, and Andy Toulon

Project Title: Building Communities Fund

Project Goal:

Attend educational meeting and monitor program activities.

Project Description:

The Building Communities Fund (BCF) Program provides capital and technical assistance grants to nonprofit organizations to acquire, develop, or rehabilitate qualified community and social service capital projects in distressed areas of the state.

The Committee's work session will include a review of projects funded to date, the funding process, and community development activities supported through this program. The Department of Commerce, and several funded projects will give a panel presentation, and the Committee will tour at least one BCF facility.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session and site visit to a project

Completion Date: October 2011

Staff Assigned: Jennifer Thornton

**Project Title: Budget and Program Review of Economic Development Programs
(Department of Commerce and Economic Development Commission)**

Project Goal:

Provide policy and budget information on economic development programs to inform future legislation and/or budget recommendations.

Project Description:

The Committee, jointly with the General Government Appropriations Committee, will review economic development approaches used by other states and provide an analysis of economic development programs in Washington.

Research will be conducted by policy and fiscal staff in consultation with the Washington Economic Development Commission and Department of Commerce. Presentations to the Committee will include: What are the different programs? How much money is the state investing in each one? What is being measured? What are the challenges to measuring the effectiveness of economic development programs? What are the objectives, known results in economic growth and job creation, and return on investment?

After presentations to the committees, the discussion will focus on: Are the necessary data quality, transparency, and accountability of programs in place? What is the return on investment (ROI) for Washington state? What are the different types of economic development approaches that should be prioritized? What are the opportunities for improvement?

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session joint with General Government Appropriations & Oversight Committee

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Jennifer Thornton and Andy Toulon

Project Title: International Trade

Project Goal:

Provide information to develop trade-related legislation and/or budget recommendations.

Project Description:

Increasing exports is increasingly touted as an effective way to grow the economy and increase jobs. What products and services are currently being exported from Washington and what are the emerging markets (countries) and products? The House budget would have eliminated the Department of Commerce's foreign service contracts and the Department of Agriculture's international marketing program. As passed the Legislature, 2ESHB 1087, retained the Department of Agriculture's international marketing program funding at the 09-11 level, and reduced, rather than eliminated the Department of Commerce's foreign service contracts. What is measured? What are the outcomes? What is the return on investment?

Small and mid-size businesses will make presentations on what is and is not working in this area. Agencies will deliver presentations that build on previous work sessions. Using the information presented, the Committee will assess policy priorities and budget options.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jennifer Thornton

**House of Representatives
Early Learning & Human Services
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Learning Update 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption Support Performance-Based Contracting for Child Welfare Services (2SHB 2106) Juvenile Record Sealing Task Force Implementation of New Programs Under HB 2082 (2011) 	Work Session

Project Title: Early Learning Update

Project Goal:

Receive an update regarding developments in early learning.

Project Description:

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) is the state agency charged with regulating early learning and child care services. The DEL is involved in a variety of early learning initiatives that are generally related to child care licensing, enhancing the quality of care, and expanding home visiting services.

The Committee will receive an update on: (1) portable licenses; (2) "evergreen" licensing; (3) Early Learning Challenge Grant; (4) I-Labs work; and (5) other early learning developments.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2011

Staff Assigned: Megan Palchak

Project Title: Adoption Support

Project Goal:

Receive recommendations to reduce adoption support expenditures, while supporting permanency for dependent children.

Project Description:

During the 2011 session, legislation was introduced to modify the adoption support program. This legislation was not enacted. However, further work to review the adoption support program and generate recommendations was contemplated by members and stakeholders.

In this project, a member of the Early Learning & Human Services Committee will meet with a variety of stakeholders to focus on: (1) reviewing applicable federal and state laws, rules, and guidelines which govern the adoption support program; (2) reviewing adoption support program statistics and research; (3) evaluating how the current adoption support program and benefits are meeting the needs of adoptive children and families; (4) reviewing adoption support programs and benefits utilized by other states of similar size and with similar child welfare programs for a comparison; and (5) describing the potential impact of recommendation implementation, and how it relates to the ongoing child welfare savings reinvestment work.

Staff will provide research, analysis, and administrative support.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Megan Palchak

Project Title: Performance-Based Contracting for Child Welfare Services (2SHB 2106)

Project Goal:

Provide updates to the Committee regarding the implementation of performance-based contracting for child welfare services.

Project Description:

The Committee will monitor and hold a work session on the work of the Child Welfare Transformation Design Committee and activities related to the implementation of performance-based contracting for child welfare services set forth in 2SHB 2106 which was enacted in 2009, modified by SSB 6832 in 2010, and suspended in 2011 due to a preliminary injunction.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Megan Palchak

Project Title: Juvenile Record Sealing Task Force

Project Goal:

Develop recommendations regarding restricting access to juvenile records.

Project Description:

Juvenile records, unless sealed, may be obtained and disseminated by consumer reporting agencies. A person must meet certain statutory criteria before he or she is eligible to seal juvenile records. For some offenses, juvenile records may never be sealed. During the 2011 Legislative session, the Early Learning & Human Services Committee considered a version of HB 1793 that required the courts to automatically seal juvenile records once a juvenile has met the statutory criteria. Though the bill passed the Legislature, the final version did not include a provision which required courts to automatically seal juvenile records. The final bill created a Legislative Task Force whose members must include eight legislators, four from each house of the Legislature, and representatives from stakeholders such as the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the Washington Defender's Association, the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration, and others.

Two of the legislative members must convene the first task force which is required to: (1) determine how to cost-effectively restrict public access to juvenile records when an individual has met the statutory requirements for sealing juvenile records without requiring the person who is the subject of the records to file a motion with the court; (2) determine whether and how to restrict access to diversion records; and (3) address other issues related to juvenile criminal records that may arise during the work of the task force.

OPR staff will provide support for this task force.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Implementation of New Programs Under HB 2082 (2011)

Project Goal:

Provide the Committee with an update regarding the implementation of the Disabled, Blind, Aged Assistance Program, the Pregnant Women's Program, and the Essential Needs and Housing Support Program.

Project Description:

The Committee will monitor and hold a work session on the mechanisms used by the Department of Social and Health Services, the Department of Commerce, and county entities in the implementation of the programs created after the termination of the disability lifeline programs and the termination of cash grants for persons who remain unemployable but not eligible for federal supplemental security income.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Child Care Cooperatives

Project Goal:

Understand what role the Department of Early Learning might have in supporting child care cooperatives.

Project Description:

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) is the state agency charged with licensing child care in Washington. Child care providers are required under RCW 43.215.010 to obtain licensure through the DEL. The same statute provides several categorical exemptions to child care licensing requirements. One exemption applies to parents who exchange care for one another's children on a mutually cooperative basis.

In this project, staff will work with interested members regarding their vision for child care cooperatives, and will explore what role the DEL may have in supporting that vision.

Number & Type of Meetings: N/A

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Megan Palchak

Project Title: Monitor Systems Integration

Project Goal:

Understand status of ongoing efforts to integrate background check systems.

Project Description:

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) and the Office of the Superintendent of Public of Instruction (OSPI) utilize independent systems to conduct background checks for the same or similar purposes. Legislation was enacted during the 2011 session (2SHB 1903) requiring the DEL to: (1) develop a portable background check registry; and (2) develop a proposal with the OSPI to coordinate background check duties. Staff will monitor ongoing efforts to coordinate activities and integrate systems.

Number & Type of Meetings: N/A

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Megan Palchak

Project Title: IV-E Waiver

Project Goal:

Monitor the status of the IV-E Waiver bill as it moves through Congress; gather information regarding demonstration projects implemented in other states; and provide a description regarding Differential Response.

Project Description:

The federal government is considering a proposal that would allow states to implement demonstration projects in which federal funds currently dedicated to foster care may be reinvested to pursue innovative approaches to obtain improved outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system. (Title IV-E funding requirements are waived.)

Some states previously qualified for a IV-E waiver implemented Differential Response Systems as an alternative to using Child Protective Services investigations as the primary governmental response to children and families reportedly involved in abusive or neglectful behaviors.

Staff will: (1) monitor IV-E waiver progress on the federal level; (2) gather information regarding demonstration projects implemented in other states; (3) provide a description of Differential Response efforts; and (4) help coordinate a meeting with stakeholders to explore Washington's vision regarding a potential IV-E waiver demonstration site.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Megan Palchak

Project Title: Foster Care to 21

Project Goal:

Research and gather information regarding Foster Care to 21.

Project Description:

Staff will provide supplemental research and analysis to members regarding state level policy development related to the Federal Fostering Connections to Success Act/Foster Care to 21.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Megan Palchak

Project Title: Monitor Pre-School Work Group (SSB 6759)

Project Goal:

Understand outcomes from pre-school work group meetings and the vision going forward.
Provide supplemental support as needed.

Project Description:

Legislation enacted in 2010 (SSB 6759) established a work group that included representatives from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Department of Early Learning, and the Early Learning Advisory Committee. The same legislation directed the group to develop a comprehensive plan for a voluntary program of early learning. A progress report from the group is due July 1, 2011, with a final report and comprehensive plan by November 1, 2011. The Quality Education Council is assigned to monitor and oversee this work group, and is expected to submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2012, with its recommendations for a comprehensive plan for early learning.

Staff will monitor work related to the work group and provide supplemental research, analysis, and support to House members of the work group as needed.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Megan Palchak

Project Title: Monitor Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Initiative

Project Goal:

Understand the status of the ACEs Initiative.

Project Description:

Legislation was enacted during the 2011 legislative session (E2SHB 1965) to establish an initiative to reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as defined by extensive public health research conducted, in part, by the Centers for Disease Control. This legislation also established a work group to begin forming a private-public partnership to mobilize community-based efforts to prevent and mitigate ACEs.

Staff will monitor the efforts of the work group and related activities.

Number & Type of Meetings: N/A

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Megan Palchak

Project Title: Programs and Services for Juveniles Involved in Sex Trafficking

Project Goal:

Review programs providing wrap-around services to juveniles who have entered into a diversion agreement.

Project Description:

Staff will: (1) review a program model for delivery of services to juveniles who have been involved in sex trafficking, including those who have been granted a diversion pursuant to HB 1505 (2009); (2) follow up with program administrators regarding effectiveness of model; and (3) review current programs in other states and cities for providing services to juveniles involved in prostitution.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: October 2011

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Juveniles with Developmental Disabilities Work Group

Project Goal:

Develop recommendations regarding the identification of and provision of services to juveniles who enter correctional and detention facilities.

Project Description:

When a youth enters the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) system, the JRA evaluates the youth for various vulnerabilities and places the youth in accordance with those vulnerabilities. The JRA and other detention facilities do not have specific screening tools to use with youth who are, or are suspected of being, developmentally disabled. Legislation enacted in 2009 (HB 2078) required the Developmental Disabilities Council and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to convene a work group to develop a screening tool for adults with developmental disabilities who are detained in correctional or detention facilities. The work group developed a screening tool and a model policy regarding the use of the tool.

To address the same issues for juveniles who have developmental disabilities, the Washington Developmental Disabilities Council, the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and other entities and agencies involved with juveniles with developmental disabilities, will participate in a work group that will develop recommendations regarding: (1) how to expeditiously review and determine eligibility for services for juveniles with a developmental disability prior to the juvenile's release from detention or other confinement; (2) alternatives to confinement for juveniles with developmental disabilities; (3) the feasibility of developing and adopting law enforcement training protocols for responding to juveniles with developmental disabilities; (4) the need for a screening tool to identify juveniles with developmental disabilities who are admitted into correctional or detention facilities; and (5) a practical guide for families and juvenile justice staff regarding programs and services available to youth with developmental disabilities who are referred to the juvenile justice system.

Staff will monitor the progress of the work group, and, in addition, research literature and programs regarding the assessment of and services for juveniles with fetal alcohol spectral disorder who enter the juvenile justice system.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: WorkFirst Oversight Task Force

Project Goal:

Oversight of the redesign of the WorkFirst program by the legislative and executive branches.

Project Description:

Washington's WorkFirst program was created by the state Legislature in 1997 following the passage of federal legislation governing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, a public assistance program for adults with children. WorkFirst implemented the provision of the federal legislation that required the adults receiving assistance under TANF to participate in activities designed to lead to employment. In February 2011, a subcommittee of the Executive branch released a report containing recommendations for the re-design of the WorkFirst program. Subsequent legislation enacted during the 2011 session (ESSB 5921) required that a legislative task force be convened to provide oversight of the re-design. The composition of the task force must include two members from each house of the Legislature and representatives from state agencies, including the Department of Social and Health Services, the Department of Early Learning, the Employment Security Department, and others.

The legislation required the task force to: (1) oversee implementation of the redesign of the WorkFirst program and operation of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program; (2) determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst program; (3) develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients and state agencies responsible for their progress to self-sufficiency; (4) make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature regarding early identification of recipients likely to have short or long stays on the program and characteristics of families who have been unsuccessful in the program and subject to sanctions.

Staff will provide support to this task force.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Developmental Disability Service System Task Force

Project Goal:

Make recommendations regarding the operation and capacity of residential habilitation centers.

Project Description:

Washington state operates five residential habilitation centers (RHCs) which are established in statute to provide services and housing for persons with developmental disabilities. The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) also provides community-based services through a number of programs. These are designed as alternatives to the RHCs for eligible persons with developmental disabilities who have living arrangements in the community. Legislation enacted in 2011 (2SSB 5459) requires the closure of one RHC by December 31, 2011, and requires the DSHS to use a person-center approach to transition residents out of the RHC. This legislation also created the Development Disability Service System Task Force consisting of two members from each house of the Legislature, representatives from executive branch agencies, and other stakeholders.

The legislative task force is required to make recommendations regarding: (1) the development of a system of services to provide a balanced range of health, social, and supportive services at home or in another residential setting; (2) the state's long-term needs for residential habilitation center (RHC) capacity; (3) efficient consolidation of institutional capacity; (4) mechanisms through which any savings that result from downsizing, consolidation, or closure of RHCs can be used to create additional community-based capacity; (5) strategies for the use of surplus property that results from the closure of one or more entities; and (6) strategies for reframing the mission of Yakima Valley School.

Staff will provide support to the task force.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Domestic Violence Prevention

Project Goal:

Examine the most effective methods for domestic violence prevention and training.

Project Description:

Staff will monitor the progress of an ongoing informal work group which examines the issues regarding domestic violence prevention and training and treatment for persons involved in domestic violence events.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Brain Development in Juveniles

Project Goal:

Review current research regarding brain development in juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system and examine court application of such research at trial and sentencing.

Project Description:

Staff will review literature and case law regarding application of brain development research in the prosecution of juvenile cases, sentencing, and consideration of requests for modification of sentences, particularly for juveniles sentenced to life or the equivalent of a life sentence.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: September 2011

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Chemical Dependency Assessment

Project Goal:

Examine assessment tools for individuals with chemical dependencies.

Project Description:

During the 2011 session, the Early Learning & Human Services Committee considered legislation which modified the standards for chemical dependency assessments. In this project, experts and stakeholders will consider and provide recommendations for the most effective tools for chemical dependency assessments and examine the feasibility of more uniform standards for entities that provide assessments and treatment individuals for chemical dependency.

Staff will provide support, as needed, and monitor progress.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Budget Impact on Dependency Court Cases

Project Goal:

Examine the impact of the budget on the Office of Attorney General's pursuit of dependency court cases.

Project Description:

Policy staff will work with fiscal staff regarding the 2011-2013 budget's effect on staffing for and pursuit of dependency matters in Superior Court by the Office of the Attorney General.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: September 2011

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Research/Monitor: Early Learning Developments

Project Goal:

Assess recent efforts to develop early learning.

Project Description:

There are a variety of early learning initiatives underway, which include but are not limited to improving the quality of care and expanding home visiting services. In October 2011, the Committee will receive an update on: (1) portable licenses; (2) "evergreen" licensing; (3) Early Learning Challenge Grant; and (4) llabs work and other developments in early learning. Staff will research and monitor these and other early learning efforts in conjunction with the October work session.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: October 2011

Staff Assigned: Megan Palchak

**House of Representatives
Education
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 13	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee, Joint with Education Appropriations & Oversight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Finance: Levies and Levy Equalization Alternative Learning Experience Programs 	Work Session
October	TBA	Toppenish	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School and Community Partnerships to Close the Opportunity Gap 	Work Session
October	All Day	Tri-Cities (AM) / Davenport (PM)	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovations in Science Instruction Through School and Community Partnerships Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems Issues of Concern to Rural School Districts 	Work Session
October	Morning	Spokane	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovations in Science Instruction Through School and Community Partnerships 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Improvement and Accountability System Update Health and Nutrition in Schools 	Work Session

Project Title: Local Finance: Levies and Levy Equalization

Project Goal:

Consider findings and recommendations from the Local Finance Technical Working Group.

Project Description:

Legislation enacted in 2009 (ESHB 2261) established a Local Finance Technical Working Group to examine the state's system of local finance for public education in light of reforms to Basic Education programs and funding included in that legislation. The Working Group has been meeting since April 2010, and its recommendations to the Legislature are due June 30, 2011. The Committee will meet jointly with the Education Appropriations and Oversight Committee to consider the report from the Working Group and to coordinate education policy and fiscal implications of the recommendations.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work session, joint with Education Appropriations & Oversight

Completion Date: September 2011

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain, Wendy Polzin, and Ben Rarick

Project Title: Alternative Learning Experience Programs

Project Goal:

Examine state policy and funding options for alternative learning experience programs.

Project Description:

Enrollment in alternative learning experience (ALE) programs has doubled over the last ten years, with much of the increase in online and parent-partnership programs. The last comprehensive review of ALE programs was done by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee in 2005. Legislation establishing state approval of certain online learning programs was enacted in 2009, and legislation to provide further oversight and authorize differential funding for these programs was enacted in 2011. Because ALE programs were established largely by administrative rule and school district practice, there is little statutory framework to establish a state policy and state funding mechanism that reflects the unique nature of these programs. The Education Committee, jointly with the Education Appropriations and Oversight Committee, will examine policy and funding options for ALE programs and considered issues of state oversight, monitoring, and guidance.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work session, joint with Education Appropriations & Oversight

Completion Date: September 2011

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain and Ben Rarick

Project Title: School and Community Partnerships to Close the Opportunity Gap

Project Goal:

Examine partnerships between schools, communities, and higher education aimed at improving student learning and closing the educational opportunity gap.

Project Description:

Toppenish School District is located in a small rural community with a student population that is 79 percent Hispanic, 14 percent Native American, and 98 percent low-income. Although Toppenish students continue to face challenges in student achievement, Toppenish High School received the 2010 state Achievement Award for Language Arts and has been recognized by US News and World Reports as one of America's Top High Schools. One of the keys to the success of the district has been working with other partners, including the Mid-Valley Readiness to Learn Consortium, the Rivers of Culture early learning coalition, and Heritage University alternative teacher certification programs.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2011

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain and Cece Clynych

Project Title: Innovations in Science Instruction Through School and Community Partnerships

Project Goal:

Examine two examples of innovations in science instruction through school and community partnerships to identify opportunities for replication in other schools.

Project Description:

Two priorities for the Committee during the 2011 Interim are examining models of science instruction and identifying successful school and community partnerships. Delta High School in the TriCities is a partnership between multiple school districts, institutions of higher education, businesses, and the community to offer innovative instruction in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2011

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain and Cece Clynych

Project Title: Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems

Project Goal:

Monitor implementation of revised teacher and principal evaluation systems.

Project Description:

Legislation enacted in 2010 established new minimum criteria for evaluating the performance of teachers and principals and provided support for selected school districts to pilot test the criteria and develop new evaluation models. All school districts will be required to implement the revised evaluation systems beginning in 2013-14. One of the pilots is a consortium of eight rural school districts led by Educational Service District 101 in Spokane. The Committee will meet with teachers and principals from districts in the consortium, including the Davenport School District, to learn about their progress and the challenges of implementing the new evaluation systems in small districts.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2011

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain and Cece Clynych

Project Title: Issues of Concern to Rural School Districts

Project Goal:

Explore a number of topics of concern to rural school districts, including technology, unfunded mandates, state requirements, and sustainability.

Project Description:

As part of its Interim Plan, the Committee identified a number of priority topics including access to technology in rural districts, unfunded mandates, financial sustainability of small districts, and the challenges for small school districts to implement such state policies as revised teacher evaluation systems and increased graduation requirements. The Committee will explore these issues in-depth in collaboration with the Davenport School District, located in a farming community 35 miles West of Spokane with enrollment of 600 students in grades K-12. The Superintendent of Davenport previously served on the State Basic Education Finance Task Force and is the Director of WSU's Rural Education Center.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2011

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain and Cece Clynych

Project Title: School Improvement and Accountability System Update

Project Goal:

Monitor progress and implementation of the school and district accountability system.

Project Description:

Legislation enacted in 2010 authorized a new system of school and district accountability focused on persistently lowest-performing schools as defined by federal rules and guidelines. Eighteen schools received federal grants and have been implementing three-year turnaround plans starting in 2010-11. A second cohort identified in early 2011 includes four schools that fall under the new state law for Required Action. Teachers, principals, and administrators from a sample of the identified schools will be invited to make presentations on their progress in implementing their school turnaround plans.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain and Cece Clynych

Project Title: Health and Nutrition in Schools

Project Goal:

Identify best practices for improving student health through health and nutrition programs in schools.

Project Description:

Research supports a link between student health and student achievement. One key health indicator is good nutrition. The 2010 Classified School Employee of the Year is a Child Nutritionist from the Auburn School District. The Committee will hear from a sample of school programs that support improved health and nutrition in order to identify best practices and possible state policies to support their expansion into additional schools.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Cece Clynych

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Education Data

Project Goal:

Improve knowledge and understanding of the current state of education data.

Project Description:

There have been a number of efforts in recent years to improve the capacity of data to answer important questions in education. Efforts include data governance, data collection, data warehouses, longitudinal data systems, etc. Yet policymakers continue to have questions about whether the right data is being collected for the right purposes and whether sufficient progress is being made in the ability of the data to be used by teachers, parents, administrators, and policymakers. There are also questions about whether the data being collected is fair and unbiased, or is adequate to answer questions about fairness and bias. Staff will prepare a series of white papers summarizing these issues for the Committee.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain

Project Title: Career, College, and Life Readiness

Project Goal:

Examine research on current efforts to improve career, college, and life readiness of students as they exit high school.

Project Description:

It is common to think about a key purpose of high school as ensuring that students graduate "college-ready." In recent years, there has been increased attention to the idea that the traditional notion of "college" does not adequately describe all potential positive pathways for students. Thus the term "career and college" ready is now often used as the desired outcome of high school. The idea that students should also be "life-ready" is less well articulated. Staff will examine the research literature and promising programs designed to make students career, college, and life ready and identify possible state policies to support them.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain and Cece Clynych

**House of Representatives
Education Appropriations & Oversight
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
August 10	9:30 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School to College Transitions High School Graduation Rates Higher Education Biennial Budget and Tuition Policy Changes K-12 Budget Overview and Impact of Budget Reductions on Districts 	Work Session
September 13	TBD	Olympia	Full Committee Joint with Education Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Finance: Levies and Levy Equalization Alternative Learning Experience Programs 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBD	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to the Higher Education Coordinating Board Department of Early Learning Update Implementation of K-12 Basic Education Reform 	Work Session

Project Title: High School to College Transitions

Project Goal:

Review programs that help students successfully transition from high school to college or from high school to vocational development/training programs.

Project Description:

There are a variety of high school to college transition programs in Washington that receive state funding. The Committee will review the different types of programs in Washington, discuss how well the programs and funding appear to be working, and review approaches taken in other states and countries.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick and Trista Zugel

Project Title: High School Graduation Rates

Project Goal:

Discuss why high school graduation rates are not higher and discuss possible options the state could take to facilitate higher graduation rates.

Project Description:

High school graduation rates are significantly below the goal that all students successfully complete high school. The Committee will analyze current high school graduation rates overall and among various student populations, review programs receiving state funding targeted at improving high school graduation rates and discuss why they are not more successful, and develop approaches for consideration by the Legislature to improve high school graduation rates.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick

Project Title: Higher Education Biennial Budget and Tuition Policy Changes

Project Goal:

Review the final state 2011-13 Operating Budget for higher education.

Project Description:

The 2011-13 biennial operating budget reduced state support for state institutions of higher education by a net of just over \$530 million. This reduction represents approximately 20 percent of higher education state funding excluding tuition. The Higher Education Opportunity Act (E2SHB 1795) gave tuition setting authority to all state four-year institutions. The legislation did not provide tuition setting authority for the community and technical colleges; this authority remains with the Legislature. The Committee will review how institutions plan to implement the budget reductions and tuition changes under E2SHB 1795.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Trista Zugel

Project Title: K-12 Budget Overview and Impact of Budget Reductions on Districts

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on the final state K-12 budget for 2011-13 and how districts are implementing and being impacted by budget reductions.

Project Description:

A number of budget reductions enacted in the 2011-13 operating budget are subject to school district and/or Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) discretion in terms of how they are implemented, including the reductions to alternative learning experience programs, as well as state salary reductions. The Committee will follow up on these and other budget items to analyze how districts and the OSPI are implementing reductions enacted by the Legislature.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick and Wendy Polzin

Project Title: Local Finance: Levies and Levy Equalization

Project Goal:

Consider findings and recommendations from the Local Finance Technical Working Group.

Project Description:

Legislation enacted in 2009 (ESHB 2261) established a Local Finance Technical Working Group (Working Group) to examine the state's system of local finance for public education in light of reforms to Basic Education programs and funding included in that legislation. The Working Group has been meeting since April 2010 and its recommendations to the Legislature are due June 30, 2011. The Committee will meet jointly with the Education Committee to consider the report from the Working Group and to coordinate education policy and fiscal implications of the recommendations.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session, joint with Education Committee

Completion Date: September 2011

Staff Assigned: Wendy Polzin, Ben Rarick, and Barbara McLain

Project Title: Alternative Learning Experience Programs

Project Goal:

Examine state policy and funding options for alternative learning experience programs.

Project Description:

Enrollment in alternative learning experience (ALE) programs has doubled over the last 10 years, with much of the increase in online and parent-partnership programs. The last comprehensive review of ALE programs was done by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee in 2005. Legislation establishing state approval of certain online learning programs was enacted in 2009, and legislation to provide further oversight and authorize differential funding for these programs was enacted in 2011. Because ALE programs were established largely by administrative rule and school district practice, there is little statutory framework to establish a state policy and state funding mechanism that reflects the unique nature of these programs. The Education Appropriations & Oversight Committee, jointly with the Education Committee, will examine policy and funding options for ALE programs and consider issues of state oversight, monitoring, and guidance.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session, joint with Education Committee

Completion Date: September 2011

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick and Barbara McLain

Project Title: Alternative Learning Experience Programs - Site Visit

Project Goal:

To better understand alternative learning experience (ALE) programs.

Project Description:

The Committee will visit one or more sites to see in person how the ALE programs work. ESHB 2065 proposed significant changes to alternative learning experience programs, both in how they are funded and what requirements are made of each type of ALE program. (See the joint work session with the Education Committee on ALE programs.) Site visits, likely in Clark County, will help the Committee better understand how programs are implementing the required changes.

Number & Type of Meetings: Site visit

Completion Date: October 2011

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick

Project Title: Changes to the Higher Education Coordinating Board

Project Goal:

Review the implementation of E2SSB 5182, which eliminates the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) in the second year of the biennium.

Project Description:

E2SHB 5182 provides for the elimination of the HECB and the creation of two successor agencies, the Council for Higher Education and the Office of Student Financial Assistance, effective July 1, 2012. The bill creates the Higher Education Steering Committee, to be chaired by the Governor or her designee. The steering committee will establish the purpose and functions of the Council for Higher Education. The Committee will review and monitor the implementation of E2SSB 5182.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Trista Zugel

Project Title: Department of Early Learning Update

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on the activities/programs of the Department of Early Learning (DEL), especially Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP) slots.

Project Description:

In the 2011 legislative session several programs were transferred, expanded, or created within the DEL including: the Medicaid Treatment Childcare Program (transferred from the Department of Social and Health Services); the Individualized Child Care Background Check Registry Program (created in 2SHB 1903); and the Expansion of Home Visiting funds and services. The Committee will be briefed on these programs, as well as the ECEAP.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Wendy Polzin

Project Title: Implementation of K-12 Basic Education Reform

Project Goal:

Review the implementation of SHB 2776 (2010) and E2SSB 6696 (2010), especially the Quality Education Council (QEC) Compensation Work Group.

Project Description:

The Committee will review the status of the work of the QEC in recommending strategies for implementing the new basic education funding structure and related changes to teacher evaluation, data governance, and other factors. In particular, the review will include the progress of the Compensation Working Group, the Levy Working Group, the Early Learning Working Group, and reforms to the funding methodology for Transitional Bilingual students, all of which are topics addressed by the QEC during the interim.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick and Wendy Polzin

**House of Representatives
Environment
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 26	1:00 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable Energy Standards Federal Clean Air Act Compliance 	Work Session
October	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Environmental Policy Act Federal Clean Air Act Compliance How Science Affects Environmental Policy 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable Energy Standards The Puget Sound Partnership Reducing Toxins in the Environment 	Work Session

Project Title: Renewable Energy Standards

Project Goal:

Examine ways to improve Washington's Energy Independence Act and consider developing legislation for the 2012 legislative session.

Project Description:

The Energy Independence Act (EIA) requires electric utilities with 25,000 or more customers to meet targets for energy conservation and for using eligible renewable resources. Each qualifying utility must use eligible renewable resources or acquire equivalent renewable energy credits, or a combination of both, to meet the annual targets specified in the EIA.

The Committee will solicit input and explore ways to improve the EIA for the benefit of the environment, consumers, Washington businesses, and the economy— while maintaining the goals and effectiveness of the EIA. The work of the Committee will include a review of the definition of eligible renewable resources, including biomass. As part of its research, the Committee will tour a biomass facility or project in the Puget Sound region.

The Committee will consider developing legislation for the 2012 legislative session.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions and site visit

Completion Date: January 2012

Staff Assigned: Courtney Barnes

Project Title: Federal Clean Air Act Compliance

Project Goal:

Develop a better understanding of air quality regulations affecting the state, monitor the activities of agencies with the authority to regulate air quality within Washington, and review legislation developed in anticipation of the 2012 legislative session.

Project Description:

Activities affecting Washington's air quality are regulated at federal, state, and local levels. The federal Clean Air Act (federal CAA) establishes both policies for protecting air quality and specific requirements applicable to states and industries. Washington fulfills its responsibility under the federal CAA through the Washington Clean Air Act, which vests authority to regulate air quality in the Department of Ecology (DOE), the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, and any of seven local air authorities in the state.

The Committee will develop a greater independent understanding of air quality regulations and issues affecting the state. In particular, the Committee will review both legislative and regulatory actions necessary to address current and potential non-attainment problems within the state. The Committee will evaluate proposed solutions to non-attainment concerns, including reviewing and commenting on any legislation developed for the 2012 legislative session.

In addition to non-attainment issues, the Committee will study the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's updates to National Ambient Air Quality Standards and greenhouse gas reporting, and state and federal regulation of biomass projects, anaerobic digesters, and other renewable energy sources. The Committee will also receive a status report from the DOE on all rule-making activities related to air quality, including the progress made on rules concerning anaerobic digesters.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: January 2012

Staff Assigned: Courtney Barnes

Project Title: Reducing Toxins in the Environment

Project Goal:

Explore state regulation of substances or materials that present a threat to human and environmental health and consider developing legislation for the 2012 legislative session.

Project Description:

During the 2011 legislative session, the Committee heard a number of bills concerning hazardous substances and materials in the environment. The Committee also heard debate concerning the proper disposal of materials that present a threat to human safety and environmental health, including items such as unwanted prescription medication, used syringes and needles, and other medical waste.

The Committee will work with the disposal industry and other stakeholders to explore policy proposals for the safe and efficient disposal of hazardous substances and materials, including considering developing legislation for the 2012 legislative session to address the safe handling and disposal of used syringes and needles and the safe disposal of unwanted prescription medication. To gain a better understanding of disposal and recycling technology, the Committee will tour municipal solid waste disposal or recycling facilities in the Puget Sound region.

The Committee also will receive an update from the Department of Ecology (DOE) concerning the implementation of the Children's Safe Products Act, which limits certain chemicals in children's products and requires the DOE to identify chemicals of high concern for children.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session and site visit

Completion Date: January 2012

Staff Assigned: Courtney Barnes

Project Title: The State Environmental Policy Act

Project Goal:

Consider changes to the State Environmental Policy Act and begin developing potential legislation for the 2012 legislative session.

Project Description:

During the 2011 legislative session, the Committee heard HB 1952 and other bills that would make changes to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). HB 1952 would create new statutory categorical exemptions to the SEPA. The bill passed out of the House, but it did not receive a hearing in the Senate.

Committee members will work with stakeholders to review proposed reforms to the SEPA. The Committee will consider developing a legislative proposal on amendments to the SEPA based on discussions with members, state agencies, and other stakeholders. The Committee will coordinate its efforts with the Local Government Committee to review how the SEPA overlaps with the Growth Management Act, Shoreline Management Act, and local development regulations.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2012

Staff Assigned: Courtney Barnes

Project Title: How Science Affects Environmental Policy

Project Goal:

Develop a better understanding of the nexus between state environmental policy and science and consider developing legislation for the 2012 legislative session.

Project Description:

Decisions regarding environmental policy are made in Washington both by the Legislature and by various state agencies. The ultimate decision on any given policy is the result of a number of factors, including the knowledge gleaned from credible scientific research. Although policies are influenced to varying degrees by information other than science, having access to and some degree of reliance on peer-reviewed science is critical in formulating appropriate, defensible state policies, and maintaining the public's trust and acceptance in the decisions and decision makers.

The Committee will build upon the foundations of HB 1307, which passed out of the Committee but failed to move out of the House. HB 1307, as introduced, would have required all state agencies to use peer-reviewed science prior to taking any regulatory action related to the environment, natural resources, land and water access, or land use management. The Committee will endeavor to develop a greater understanding of how state environmental agencies use peer-reviewed science by focusing on how agencies rely on science when developing policies, implementing programs, and writing new rules. The Committee will also discuss how appropriate science should be identified for policy makers, and the most efficient ways to build trust with the governed through the disclosure of the scientific information that was considered as part of a policy's development.

The Committee will consider developing legislation aimed at basing policy decisions on sound and accurate science.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2012

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Title: The Puget Sound Partnership

Project Goal:

Oversee the activities of the Puget Sound Partnership and review the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee's report on the Puget Sound Partnership.

Project Description:

In 2007 the Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) was created as a new state agency charged with coordinating and leading the effort to restore the Puget Sound by 2020. The enabling legislation, ESSB 5372, directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) to conduct two performance audits of the Partnership, with the first report due in 2011 and the second report due in 2016.

The first audit will review: whether accountability measures are in place to assess progress in restoring the Puget Sound; the Partnership's oversight of action agenda implementation; and any applicable lessons learned from other large scale ecosystem based management efforts in other states.

The Committee will review the JLARC's report on the Partnership to better understand the findings and consider any resulting recommendations. The Committee will also receive a status report directly from the Partnership. The report from the Partnership will have a particular emphasis on future plans as the agency moves forward under new leadership and changes its focus from the development of the action agenda to the implementation of the agenda.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin

**House of Representatives
General Government Appropriations & Oversight
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 27	1:30 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	Update on the Wheeler Office Facility and the State Data Center	Work Session
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Agency Performance Measurement: How Are Efficiency and Effectiveness Best Measured? ▫ Review of Government Management Accountability & Performance (GMAP) and Government Accountability Measures ▫ Priorities of Government (POG) Performance 	Work Session
October	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Update on General Government Consolidation Proposals from the 2011 Session	Work Session
December (day before Committee Assembly)	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee joint with Community Development & Housing Committee	Budget and Program Review of Economic Development Programs (Department of Commerce and Economic Development Commission)	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Budget Outlook for the 2012 Legislative Session ▫ State Parks and Recreation Commission: Update on the Discover Pass Revenue ▫ Prison Safety: Recommendations of the Statewide Security Advisory Committee ▫ State Auditor's Performance Audit Work Plan 	Work Session

Project Title: Site Visit to the Wheeler Office Facility

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on the move into the Wheeler Office Facility.

Project Description:

State agencies are scheduled to move into the Wheeler Office Facility by July 2011. The Committee will visit the facility in the morning.

Number & Type of Meetings: One site visit

Completion Date: July 2011

Staff Assigned: Jeff Olsen, Wendy Polzin, Alex MacBain, and David Pringle

Project Title: Update on the Wheeler Office Facility and the State Data Center

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on the move into the Wheeler Office Facility and plans for the relocation of the State Data Center.

Project Description:

State agencies are scheduled to move into the Wheeler Office Facility by July 2011. The Committee will be briefed on the status of the agency moves. The newly created Consolidated Technology Services Department will brief the Committee on the status of the detailed implementation plan for the move of the State Data Center functions into the new facility.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: July 2011

Staff Assigned: Jeff Olsen, Wendy Polzin, David Pringle, and Alex MacBain

Project Title: Agency Performance Measurement: How Are Efficiency and Effectiveness Best Measured?

Project Goal:

Brief the Committee on agency performance measures for general government agencies.

Project Description:

Under the state's Budget, Accounting, and Reporting Act, state agencies are required to establish objectives for each major activity they perform that measure whether the agency is achieving or making progress toward the purpose of the activity and toward statewide priorities. Agencies are required to perform continuous self-assessments of each activity, and the Office of Financial Management (OFM) is required to regularly conduct reviews of selected activities to analyze whether the objectives and measurements submitted by agencies demonstrate progress toward statewide results.

The Committee will be briefed on agency performance measures for general government agencies.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2011

Staff Assigned: Alex MacBain, Andy Toulon, Wendy Polzin, Michael Bennion, Jeff Olsen, and David Pringle

Project Title: Review of Government Management Accountability & Performance (GMAP) and Government Accountability Measures

Project Goal:

Understand whether the strategic planning process and measures in place to improve quality, management, accountability, and performance systems are performing well.

Project Description:

Chapter 384, Laws of 2005 requires state agencies to develop and implement a quality management, accountability, and performance system to improve public services. The Committee will examine whether the performance system is achieving the desired results for general government agencies. Areas that will be examined include: whether managers and staff are adequately trained; whether strategic business planning and activity measures are being accomplished well; and whether the required quarterly reporting of progress toward agency objectives is leading to improved performance.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2011

Staff Assigned: Alex MacBain, Wendy Polzin, Andy Toulon, Michael Bennion, Jeff Olsen, and David Pringle

Project Title: Priorities of Government (POG) Performance

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on how the Priorities of Government (POG) process is performing.

Project Description:

The Committee will be briefed on the Office of Financial Management's Priorities of Government (POG) process and how it is performing for general government agencies. Topics will include: whether the performance measures and results are adequate; whether budgets are sustainable; and whether priority criteria are used consistently and reliably.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2011

Staff Assigned: Alex MacBain, Wendy Polzin, Andy Toulon, Michael Bennion, Jeff Olsen, and David Pringle

Project Title: Update on General Government Consolidation Proposals from the 2011 Session

Project Goal:

Review the consolidation proposals from the 2011 legislative session and to explore opportunities for the 2012 legislative session.

Project Description:

In the 2011 legislative session there were a number of consolidation proposals involving general government agencies, including: merging portions of the Department of Personnel, the Department of General Administration, and the Department of Information Services into the Department of Enterprise Services (DES); merging natural resources agencies; consolidating arts and heritage programs; combining the Caseload and Economic and Revenue Forecast councils; merging the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board with the Department of Corrections; and merging the Sentencing Guidelines Committee into the Caseload Forecast Council and the Office of Financial Management. The Committee will be briefed on the status of the DES merger and other consolidations that were enacted, and will discuss additional opportunities for consolidation in the 2012 legislative session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2011

Staff Assigned: Alex MacBain, Jeff Olsen, Michael Bennion, Wendy Polzin, Andy Toulon, and David Pringle

**Project Title: Budget and Program Review of Economic Development Programs
(Department of Commerce and Economic Development Commission)**

Project Goal:

Provide policy and budget information on economic development programs to inform future legislation and/or budget recommendations.

Project Description:

The Committee, jointly with the Community Development & Housing Committee, will review economic development approaches used by other states and provide an analysis of economic development programs in Washington.

Research will be conducted by policy and fiscal staff in consultation with the Washington Economic Development Commission and Department of Commerce. Presentations to the committee will include: What are the different programs? How much money is the state investing in each one? What is being measured? What are the challenges to measuring the effectiveness of economic development programs? What are the objectives, known results in economic growth and jobs creation, and return on investment?

After presentations to the committees, the discussion will focus on: Are the necessary data quality, transparency and accountability of programs in place? What is the return on investment (ROI) for Washington state? What are the different types of economic development approaches that should be prioritized? What are the opportunities for improvement?

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Andy Toulon and Jennifer Thornton

Project Title: Budget Outlook for the 2012 Legislative Session

Project Goal:

Provide a preview of major budget issues facing the 2012 Legislature.

Project Description:

The 2012 Legislature will consider a 2012 supplemental operating budget for the 2011-13 biennium that ends June 30, 2013. The Committee will be briefed on the budget outlook facing the 2012 Legislature, focusing on the status of the balance sheet based on recent revenue and caseload forecasts, and other adjustments.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Charlie Gavigan and Dave Johnson

Project Title: State Parks and Recreation Commission: Update on the Discover Pass Revenue

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on funding for the State Parks and Recreation Commission and the impact of the Discover Pass Program.

Project Description:

Chapter 320, Laws of 2011 (2SSB 5622) creates the \$30 annual Discover Pass and the \$10 Day-Use Permit and requires these permits to be visible in any vehicle located at state recreational sites or recreation lands managed by State Parks, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Proceeds from fees will support the maintenance and operation of state recreational lands, and are assumed to raise \$71 million during the 2011-13 biennium. The Committee will be updated on the implementation of the Program and on revenue projections.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Alex MacBain

Project Title: Prison Safety: Recommendations of the Statewide Security Advisory Committee

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on the recommendations of the Statewide Security Advisory Committee.

Project Description:

Chapter 252, Laws of 2011 (ESB 5907) requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to: 1) establish a Statewide Security Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) to conduct comprehensive reviews of the DOC's security-related policies and procedures; 2) develop a training curriculum regarding staff safety issues; 3) establish multi-disciplinary teams at each facility to evaluate offenders' placement in job assignments and custody promotions; and 4) study the feasibility of implementing a statewide system for utilizing body alarms and proximity cards for prison staff, deploying video monitoring cameras, and using pepper spray as a security measure for staff.

The legislation directs the DOC to report by November 1, 2011, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee including recommendations for additional resources to address security concerns. The Committee will be briefed on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Alex MacBain

Project Title: State Auditor's Performance Audit Work Plan

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on State Auditor performance audits related to general government agencies.

Project Description:

The State Auditor's 2010-2013 State Government Performance Audit Work Plan identifies 390 audits to be carried out under the authority of Initiative 900. The Committee will be updated on the scope, status, and timelines for planned performance audits related to general government agencies.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2011

Staff Assigned: Wendy Polzin

**House of Representatives
Health & Human Services Appropriations & Oversight
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October	TBA	TBA	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Health Care Reform Update Implementation of WorkFirst Legislation 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Mental Health Implementation of Disability Lifeline Legislation 	Work Session

Project Title: Federal Health Care Reform Update

Project Goal:

Receive an update on the implementation of federal health care reform.

Project Description:

Federal health reform requires the establishment of health insurance exchanges by 2014 where individuals can shop for and purchase insurance. SSB 5445 established the Washington Health Benefit Exchange (Exchange) as a public-private partnership, and it directed the Health Care Authority to work with the Joint Select Committee on Health Reform Implementation to request federal funding and develop options and interim plans for implementing the Exchange. The Health Care Authority will update the Committee on these efforts.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Erik Cornellier

Project Title: Implementation of WorkFirst Legislation

Project Goal:

Receive an update on the implementation of ESSB 5921, regarding the WorkFirst program.

Project Description:

Legislation enacted in 2011 (ESSB 5921) makes a number of changes to the WorkFirst program, including modifying participation requirements and time limits, establishing a joint WorkFirst oversight task force, allowing permanent disqualification of families who have been terminated due to noncompliance three or more times, and prohibiting the use of electronic benefit cards for certain products and activities. The Committee will receive an update from the Department of Social and Health Services on the implementation of these changes.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Melissa Palmer

Project Title: Children's Mental Health

Project Goal:

Receive an update on the children's mental health system.

Project Description:

Legislation enacted in 2007 (2SHB 1088) established a legislative goal that by 2012, the children's mental health system in Washington would, among other things, deliver care through the use of developmentally appropriate evidence-based and research-based practices. The act also directs that the effectiveness of the children's mental health system be determined through the use of outcome-based performance measures developed by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and the Evidence Based Practice Institute in consultation with parents, caregivers, youth, Regional Support Networks (RSNs), mental health services providers, health plans, primary care providers, tribes, and others. Representatives from the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, Children's Administration, and the Evidence Based Practice Institute must provide an update on implementation of these requirements. Specific areas of focus will include: progress in implementing requirements for use of evidence-based practices in RSN contracts and monitoring of these requirements; the status of the child welfare system in implementing evidence-based practices for children with mental health issues; workforce and training challenges; and the status of the development and implementation of outcome-based performance measures.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Andy Toulon

Project Title: Implementation of Disability Lifeline Legislation

Project Goal:

Receive an update on the implementation of ESHB 2082, regarding the Disability Lifeline Program, the Aged, Blind, or Disabled Assistance Program, and the Essential Needs and Housing Support Program.

Project Description:

Legislation enacted in 2011 (ESHB 2082) terminates the Disability Lifeline program effective October 31, 2011. An Aged, Blind, or Disabled Assistance Program is established in November 2011 to provide assistance to people likely to meet the federal supplemental security income disability standard. An Essential Needs and Housing Support Program (ENHS) is established to provide services to Medical Care Service clients who are not receiving services through the Aged, Blind, or Disabled Assistance Program or Alcohol and Addiction Treatment. The Department of Commerce must distribute the round of funding for the ENHS by September 1, 2011, to entities providing the services to clients in each county. The Committee will receive an update on the implementation of ESHB 2082.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Melissa Palmer

**House of Representatives
Health Care & Wellness
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Health Care Reform Implementation Maternal and Child Health Access and Outcomes for Children 	Work Session

Project Title: Federal Health Care Reform Implementation

Project Goal:

Monitor state implementation of federal health care reform.

Project Description:

The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act contains a variety of provisions that apply to the states; e.g., the creation of health benefits exchanges, health insurance regulatory reform, and Medicaid expansion. There are a variety of activities underway to help implement these provisions. For example, the Legislature's Joint Select Committee on Health Reform Implementation is tasked with examining a variety of health care reform-related issues. The Insurance Commissioner's Realization Committee is also studying issues relating to health insurance regulatory reform and health benefits exchanges. The Health Care Authority was also charged with providing the Legislature with options on establishing a health benefits exchange. In this project, the Committee will monitor these state-level implementation activities.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2012

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima, Chris Blake, and Chris Cordes

Project Title: Maternal and Child Health

Project Goal:

Develop options for potential legislation related to short- and long-term strategies for improving maternal and child health outcomes.

Project Description:

The Committee held work sessions in the 2011 regular session to learn about efforts by state and tribal agencies and private associations to improve healthy birth outcomes and promote the use of evidence-based practice. The work sessions revealed several topics that could be addressed in legislative or budget proposals, including access to care during the first trimester, priorities in the Maternal Support Services program, home visiting models, reductions in the rate of inappropriate cesarean sections, and increases in infant birth weight. The Committee will hear from stakeholders to develop options for potential legislation.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2012

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Access and Outcomes for Children

Project Goal:

Monitor the progress of stakeholders developing quality measures for children with special health care needs.

Project Description:

The United States Department of Health and Human Services has begun a process for establishing a standardized set of measures to facilitate quality assessment and guide priorities for improving children's health care quality. The Center of Excellence on Quality of Care Measures for Children with Complex Needs (Center) has begun a project involving quality of care researchers and representatives of Medicaid programs in Washington and Minnesota as well as state chapters of the American Academy of Pediatrics. During this four year project, the Center expects to develop and test (1) measures of quality for children with special health care needs that are family-centered and address coordination of care in multiple sectors and (2) measures of quality of care for children with mental health conditions.

The Committee will hold a work session to learn about the study's findings to date.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2012

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Long-term Care Worker Training & Certification Statutes

Project Goal:

Review long-term care worker statutes for potential technical revisions.

Project Description:

Various statutes providing for long-term care worker basic training have been enacted over the years, most recently in Initiative 1029, which increases the number of hours required for basic training and adds a new requirement for home care aide certification. These training statutes and other requirements are found in several different chapters of law. In this project, committee staff will review the related statutes and provide options for making technical clarifying and/or streamlining changes without affecting the current policy.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Chris Cordes, Jim Morishima, and Chris Blake

Project Title: Patient Confidentiality Statutes

Project Goal:

Review patient health records privacy statutes for potential consolidation and elimination of inconsistent privacy standards.

Project Description:

Washington enacted protections for mental health records in the 1970's and protections for HIV/AIDS records in the 1980's. In the 1990's comprehensive standards for protecting health care information were adopted at the state and federal levels. The piecemeal development of these privacy laws has, in some cases, resulted in inconsistencies between the statutes and has impeded the electronic sharing of patient health information among health care providers. Committee staff will review the health-related records privacy statutes and meet with stakeholders to provide options for consolidating health privacy statutes and eliminating redundancies and inconsistencies.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Balance Billing

Project Goal:

Address the issue of balance billing for emergency services.

Project Description:

Balance billing occurs when a health care provider bills a patient for amounts not covered by insurance. Balance billing most often occurs when a patient receives services from a provider who does not contract with the patient's insurer. This issue is further complicated in the emergency department because (1) emergency departments are required by federal law to treat every patient with an emergency medical condition, without regard to ability to pay or insurance status, (2) insurers are required by law to pay for emergency services, even if they are rendered by out-of-network providers, (3) patients often have little choice as to which emergency department they utilize in an emergency, and (4) patients in an emergency department may be treated by a variety of providers, some of whom are in-network and some of whom are out-of-network. In this project, committee staff will monitor ongoing litigation related to balance billing and work with stakeholders to develop legislation to address balance billing for emergency services rendered by out-of-network providers in in-network facilities.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima

Project Title: Dental Access

Project Goal:

Address the issue of access to dental care for lower income populations.

Project Description:

Access to dental care can be challenging for lower income populations, particularly those without dental insurance coverage. To address this issue, other jurisdictions have created mid-level dental professionals, who are permitted to provide many dental services without the on-site supervision of a dentist. During the 2010 legislative session, legislation was introduced that would create two new dental professions in Washington, based on mid-level dental professions in Minnesota and Alaska. In this project, committee staff will work with stakeholders to develop further legislation on this issue.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima

Project Title: Nursing Home Medication Assistants

Project Goal:

Develop legislation establishing a new credential for medication assistants.

Project Description:

Medication assistants are nursing assistants who are authorized to administer certain medications and perform certain treatments in a licensed nursing facility under the supervision of a registered nurse. In this project, committee staff will monitor the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission as it develops a report on proposed legislation establishing this new profession.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima

Project Title: Medical Assistants

Project Goal:

Monitor the sunrise review process for medical assistants.

Project Description:

Legislation enacted in 2009 (HB 1414) directed the Department of Health to conduct a sunrise review regarding the regulation and scope of practice of medical assistants. The Department of Health, however, was unable to begin the sunrise review process due to the lack of a proposal to be reviewed.

Legislation introduced in 2011 (HB 2009) would create a new registered profession for medical assistants, who would be authorized to perform a variety of duties, including aseptic procedures, vital sign measurement, blood withdrawal, and non-intravenous injections. This proposal was forwarded to the Department of Health for sunrise review.

In this project, committee staff will monitor the sunrise review process for medical assistants.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima

Project Title: Direct Practices

Project Goal:

Examine laws in other states relating to direct practices.

Project Description:

Washington law currently authorizes "direct practices" in which providers are directly compensated by patients for primary care. Direct practices that meet statutory requirements are not regulated as insurers. In this project, committee staff will examine similar laws in other states.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima

Project Title: Professional Licensing Fees

Project Goal:

Examine alternate means of setting health professions licensing fees.

Project Description:

The costs of regulating individual health professions are required by statute to be fully borne by the members of each profession. In addition, licensing fees also help defray the costs of regulating licensed volunteer medical workers. License fees vary across health professions based on factors such as the number of credential holders and the number of disciplinary actions in each profession. In this project, staff will examine alternate means of setting health professions licensing fees to reduce the variance among the fees imposed on the various health professions.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima

Project Title: Transitions in Care between Long-Term Care Settings and Providers

Project Goal:

Develop policy options to promote coordinated transfers for patients while transitioning between long-term care settings and providers.

Project Description:

During the 2010 interim, representatives of several long-term care organizations met to develop ways to provide better care to residents of long-term care settings, particularly through improved management of transitions between care settings. Chapter 366, Laws of 2011 (ESSB 5708) allows for increased cooperation between long-term care settings and providers in several respects, including providing transitional care management services to patients following discharge from a nursing facility. The legislation also requires the Department of Social and Health Services to convene a work group to develop incentives for nursing homes to reduce the number of beds in their facilities.

The Committee will monitor the progress and findings of the DSHS work group and continue meetings with stakeholders to develop potential legislative proposals to further improve transitions between long-term care facilities and providers.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: January 2012

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Mandated Coverage for Prosthetics and Orthotics

Project Goal:

Monitor the sunrise review process for mandated coverage for prosthetics and orthotics.

Project Description:

Prosthetics and orthotics are the practices that involve evaluating, designing, and fitting certain devices that replace external parts lost due to amputation or deformities (prosthetics) or that support or correct neuromuscular or musculoskeletal dysfunction (orthotics). Legislation introduced in 2011 (HB 1612) would require individual and group health plans to provide coverage for prosthetics and orthotics at least equivalent to the coverage provided by the federal Medicare program. This legislation has been forwarded to the Department of Health for sunrise review. In this project, staff will monitor the sunrise review process.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima

Project Title: Mandated Coverage for Smoking Cessation

Project Goal:

Monitor the sunrise review process for mandated coverage for smoking cessation.

Project Description:

The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) requires group and individual health insurers to provide coverage for preventive services, including smoking cessation. Legislation introduced in 2011 (ESSB 5039) would require health carriers to provide these preventive services. The legislation would require carriers to cover at least two courses of tobacco cessation treatment in a 12 month period. The courses of treatment would include counseling and over-the-counter medication and prescription pharmacotherapy. This legislation has been forwarded to the Department of Health for sunrise review. In this project, staff will monitor the sunrise review process.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima

**House of Representatives
 Joint Select Committee on Health Reform Implementation
 Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 26	1:00 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	Implementing National Health Care Reform	Work Session
September	TBA	TBA	Full Committee	Implementing National Health Care Reform	Work Session
October	TBA	TBA	Full Committee	Implementing National Health Care Reform	Work Session
November	TBA	TBA	Full Committee	Implementing National Health Care Reform	Work Session
December	TBA	TBA	Full Committee	Implementing National Health Care Reform	Work Session

Project Title: Implementing National Health Care Reform

Project Goal:

Monitor, and provide a forum for expert advice and public comment on, the state's response to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

Project Description:

The Joint Select Committee on Health Reform Implementation (JSCHRI) was re-established in ESHCR 4404 (2011). The JSCHRI will monitor state-level implementation of federal health care reform as well as provide a public forum for expert advice and public comment. The JSCHRI is authorized to establish advisory committees to focus on specific subject areas, such as insurance regulation, access to and expansion of public and private programs, cost containment, and workforce. Additionally, the JSCHRI is required to (a) form an advisory committee to provide advice and recommendations to the Department of Social and Health Services and the Health Care Authority in the development of its implementation plan to coordinate the purchase and delivery of acute care, long-term care, and behavioral health services (pursuant to 2E2SHB 1738); (b) provide recommendations regarding whether the Basic Health Plan should be offered as an enrollment option for persons who qualify for federal premium subsidies (pursuant to HB 1544); and (c) collaborate with the Health Care Authority on developing the health benefits exchange required under the PPACA (pursuant to SSB 5445). The Health Care Authority applied for and received a grant, which includes funding for JSCHRI meetings; per the requirements of the grant, meetings of the JSCHRI will be held throughout the state. Both the JSCHRI and its advisory committees will be staffed by legislative staff.

Number & Type of Meetings: Four to five work sessions, plus advisory committees

Completion Date: January 2012

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima, Chris Blake, and Chris Cordes

**House of Representatives
Higher Education
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 20-21	TBA	Tri-Cities, Ellensburg, Yakima	Full Committee	Meeting Washington's Higher Education Needs	Work Session
October 12-13	TBA	Seattle	Full Committee	Meeting Washington's Higher Education Needs	Work Session
November 2	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	Meeting Washington's Higher Education Needs	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	Morning	Olympia	Full Committee	Meeting Washington's Higher Education Needs	Work Session

Project Title: Meeting Washington's Higher Education Needs

Project Goal:

Create a comprehensive legislative proposal for 2012 to improve higher education governance and define legislative goals for higher education.

Project Description:

Washington's higher education system is undergoing significant transformation and, at the same time, facing major challenges. Legislation enacted in 2011 grants the four-year public baccalaureate institutions tuition-setting authority for eight years, outlines new accountability measures related to student outcomes, and requires a reorganization of the state agency that creates the state strategic master plan for higher education and coordinates the state's higher education system to ensure progress is made to meet the state's goals.

The reductions in state funding for higher education have set back the state's ability to meet higher education goals. Major challenges include providing access to students at a time of increasing demand, providing financial aid for those who need it, as well as helping students to complete their education when many who enter are not ready for college-level work.

In addition to examining a variety of higher education issues during the 2011 interim, the Committee will monitor the following major activities:

- The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) is required to update the state strategic master plan for higher education and submit it to the Legislature in December.
- E2SHB 1795 requires a legislative task force to review the basis for higher education funding and submit a proposal ready for the 2012 Legislature to consider.
- E2SSB 5182 requires the Governor with legislators and higher education stakeholders to review the purpose and functions of a new Council for Higher Education that will replace the HECB by July 1, 2012.
- ESB 5749 requires a legislative committee to advise on how to keep the Guaranteed Education Tuition program fully solvent in the face of rising tuition.

During these times of vast changes and challenges, meeting with local communities, higher education leaders, students and stakeholders in Eastern and Western Washington will provide insights on how higher education institutions are currently meeting the state's needs. To this end, the Committee will hold meetings throughout Washington to gather these valuable insights. These meetings will focus on the following questions:

1. What are Washington's higher education needs?
2. To what extent are our higher education institutions meeting those needs?
3. How can our higher education system be improved to better meet the needs of our local communities, our students, our economy, and our state?
4. What are the state's top priorities for higher education over the next ten years?

Specific issues the Committee may explore include:

Access

- The number of students being served, and their demographics.
- The state's responsibility to provide financial aid.
- Students ability to transfer and the impacts of new policies under HB 1795.
- Students' ability to complete certificates and degrees in a timely fashion.
- Students' ability to exit and enter the education system at different stages in life.
- Students' ability to leave high school and enter higher education.

Funding

- Understanding the cost of higher education, including the marginal cost of adding new enrollments.

- Coordinating and integrating planning, policy decisions, and operating and capital funding.
- Providing funding for various programs despite different program costs.
- Understanding the relationship between state funding and the ability of the state to influence institutional behavior.

Education delivery

- How higher education services should be delivered and by which institutions.
- How various service delivery models such as distance learning and off-campus center models meet the changing nature of the student population, including mid-career and place-bound students.

Accountability

- Establishing the state's priorities for student outcomes.
- Understanding the new accountability measures (per HB1795) and the kinds of information they will provide over time.

Higher education's relationship to economic development

- Understanding higher education's role in developing research, including research that can be commercialized in the state.
- Responding to the needs of employers seeking qualified individuals in particular high demand fields.
- Examining students' transitions once they have left school.

Guiding Higher Education institutions to meet state goals

- What type of state agency will be needed to replace the HECB?
- What should be the key role and purpose of this agency? Who should be represented? How should this agency interact with the Legislature and the system that it guides?

A legislative proposal will be developed that includes the goals and priorities for Washington's higher education system and lays the ground for improving the state's ability to meet higher education needs.

Number & Type of Meetings: Four work sessions

Completion Date: December 12, 2011

Staff Assigned: Madeleine Thompson, Cece Clynych, and Trista Zugel

**House of Representatives
Judiciary
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
June 29	10:00 am	Olympia	Full Committee	Homeowners' Association Act and Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act	Work Session
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Immigration Services and Assistance	Work Session
October	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Government Liability Wrongful Conviction Compensation Self-Defense Reimbursement Statute	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Uniform Collaborative Law Act TBA	Work Session

Project Title: Homeowners' Association Act and Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act

Project Goal:

Review and develop legislation relating to homeowners' associations, including evaluating the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act.

Project Description:

In recent years the Committee has considered several bills involving homeowners' associations with respect to the general powers of associations and the obligations of individual homeowner members. The Real Property, Probate and Trust Section of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) is currently undertaking a review of the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act (UCIOA) proposed by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws for the purposes of developing legislation that will revise the law governing the formation, management, and termination of common interest communities, including homeowners' associations, condominium associations, planned communities, and other real estate cooperatives. The UCIOA aims to address critical aspects of association governance, including the relationship between the association and its individual members, election and recall of officers, use and occupancy restrictions, and warranties.

In anticipation of this future legislation, the Committee will have a work session involving the WSBA and other interested stakeholders to discuss the concerns expressed in recent legislative proposals involving homeowners' associations and to educate the members of the Committee on the provisions of the UCIOA.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Kelly Pfundheller

Project Title: Immigration Services and Assistance

Project Goal:

Provide a forum to examine issues related to services provided to immigrants by non-attorneys and attorneys in immigration matters.

Project Description:

Request legislation from the Attorney General's Office (AGO) enacted in 2011 (SSB 5023) amends the 1989 Immigration Assistant Practices Act (Act). The legislation prohibits persons from using the title "immigration assistant" and prohibits certain practices by non-attorneys and others who are not recognized by the federal government to represent immigrants. In its explanation for the legislation, the AGO stated that the original Act "has inadvertently opened the doors to the unauthorized practice of law." During the hearing and subsequent meetings on SSB 5023, questions arose regarding what assistance non-attorneys may and may not provide to immigrants and when such assistance constitutes the practice of law.

SSB 5023 requests the Supreme Court's Practice of Law Board (Board) to evaluate: (1) services non-attorneys may provide that do not rise to the level of the practice of law in immigration matters; (2) the need immigrants have for non-legal and legal services in immigration matters; and (3) the level of access to and quality of non-legal and legal services available to immigrants. A report of the Board's findings and recommendations must be presented to the Legislature no later than December 1, 2011.

The Committee will hold a work session to examine issues related to services provided to immigrants by non-attorneys and attorneys in immigration matters. Members of the Practice of Law Board will be invited to attend and participate in the work session. In addition, the work session will include input from the Attorney General's Office and various stakeholders providing services to immigrants.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Trudes Tango

Project Title: Government Liability

Project Goal:

Review government liability issues and discuss risk management and other strategies for preventing harm to citizens and reducing government liability exposure.

Project Description:

The tort liability of governmental entities has been a recurring subject of legislation referred to the Committee. In recent years, the Committee has dealt with legislation relating to governmental liability resulting from negligence in the supervision of criminal offenders, negligence in the investigation of child abuse and neglect referrals, and negligence of government employee drivers resulting in harm to passengers.

The Committee will have a work session involving various stakeholders and governmental entities to review the current status of governmental liability, address areas of concern, and discuss strategies for reducing governmental exposure to liability while maintaining a balance with the right of victims to seek redress for their injuries. The work session will focus on risk management strategies to prevent harm to citizens resulting from negligence in the provision of government services.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Edie Adams

Project Title: Wrongful Conviction Compensation

Project Goal:

Review issues and possible legislation regarding compensation for persons wrongfully convicted.

Project Description:

For the past few sessions, legislation has been introduced to provide compensation to persons wrongfully convicted of crimes. The Committee had a work session and public hearings on this issue in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Bills were introduced in 2010 and 2011, but not heard. In general, the bills create a civil cause of action under which a person who was wrongfully convicted may sue for money damages.

The Committee will examine issues raised by these bills, including what elements the person must prove and by what standard, the types of damages that would be recoverable and to what extent, the fiscal impact to the state or counties, and other relevant issues. The Committee will examine these issues in conjunction with a discussion of the policy considerations of providing state reimbursement to persons acquitted of crimes on the grounds of self defense or defense of others.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Trudes Tango

Project Title: Self-Defense Reimbursement Statute

Project Goal:

Examine the scope and use of the "self defense reimbursement statute" and whether policy considerations justify the continued use or repeal of the statute.

Project Description:

A state statute, RCW 9A.16.100, allows persons who are acquitted of criminal charges on the grounds of self defense, defense of others, or defense of property to be reimbursed by the state for the costs they incurred as a result of the criminal prosecution. This statute is often referred to as the "self-defense reimbursement statute," although it applies not only to self defense but also defense of others and defense of property. This session, legislation was introduced (HB 2067) to repeal this statute. The bill did not receive a hearing.

The Committee will hold a work session involving various stakeholders to review the history, scope, and use of the self-defense reimbursement statute, and discuss whether policy considerations justify the continued use or repeal of the statute. The Committee will examine this issue in conjunction with a discussion of proposals to provide compensation for persons wrongfully convicted of crimes.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Edie Adams

Project Title: Uniform Collaborative Law Act

Project Goal:

Review and discuss proposed legislation creating a Uniform Collaborative Law Act.

Project Description:

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws enacted the Uniform Collaborative Law Act (Act) in 2009 and adopted amendments to the Act in 2010. Collaborative law is a legal process where lawyers and clients agree that the lawyers will represent the clients solely for the purposes of settlement, and that the clients will hire new counsel if the case does not settle. Collaborative law is a voluntary, client-driven process where the parties work together openly in order to find an equitable resolution. The Act standardizes important aspects of collaborative law, including establishing minimum requirements for participation agreements, codifying the disqualification requirement for collaborative lawyers when the process concludes, and creating a privilege for communications during the process. The Act also establishes uniformity in core procedures and consumer protections.

The Washington Uniform Law Commission proposes adoption of the Act in Washington. The Committee will hold a work session to educate the members of the Committee on the provisions of the Act for potential adoption in 2012.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Kelly Pfundheller

**House of Representatives
Labor & Workforce Development
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September	All Day	Everett	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labor Market Updates Aerospace Skills Gap 	Work Session
October	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal and State Labor Law Enforcement Efforts 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labor Market Updates Review of Workers' Compensation and Workplace Safety Workforce Development System 	Work Session

Project Title: Labor Market Updates

Project Goal:

Receive reports from the Employment Security Department on the state's labor market and from the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce on job development trends.

Project Description:

During the 2011 interim, the Committee will receive reports from the Employment Security Department (Department) on the state's labor market and from the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) on job development trends. The Department report will examine the growth and decline of various industries and occupations, the reasons for these changes, and the state's future needs. The Chamber report will focus on results of its job sector survey in King County as well as plans to expand the survey to include neighboring counties.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: January 1, 2012

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth and Alison Hellberg

Project Title: Aerospace Skills Gap

Project Goal:

Examine the aerospace skills gap and related workforce development strategies.

Project Description:

During the 2011 interim, the Committee will hold a work session to examine the aerospace skills gap and related workforce development strategies. The work session will include an overview of the aerospace labor force and an in-depth discussion of the need for training. Participants in the work session will be asked to comment on: (1) the reasons for the skills gap; (2) the types of training that are needed; and (3) the steps that policymakers should be taking.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 1, 2012

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth and Alison Hellberg

Project Title: Federal and State Labor Law Enforcement Efforts

Project Goal:

Review the coordination of efforts by the federal Department of Labor and the state Department of Labor and Industries.

Project Description:

Both federal and state laws address such workplace issues as prevailing wage, minimum wage, and the misclassification of workers and other aspects of the underground economy. Regarding the underground economy, the state has increased enforcement efforts in the last several years as a result of the work of the Joint Legislative Task Force on the Underground Economy. A proviso in the 2011 Operating Budget appropriates funds to expand underground economy enforcement efforts.

The Committee will hear from the federal Department of Labor and the state Department of Labor and Industries regarding coordination of efforts to address workplace violations. The Committee will also hear an update on efforts by the Department of Labor and Industries and other agencies to address the underground economy. Business and labor stakeholders will have an opportunity to participate.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 1, 2012

Staff Assigned: Alison Hellberg and Joan Elgee

Project Title: Review of Workers' Compensation and Workplace Safety

Project Goal:

Monitor and receive an update on implementation of 2011 legislation and 2012 industrial insurance rate-making.

Project Description:

In 2011, multiple changes to Washington's workers' compensation system were enacted. These include the creation of a health care provider network under SSB 5801 and the authorization of claims resolution structured settlement agreements, creation of a Rainy Day Fund, and other changes under EHB 2321. An initial report on the implementation of settlement agreements and a report on the Rainy Day Fund asset limit are due on December 1, 2011.

In the summer/fall, the Department of Labor and Industries begins the industrial insurance rate-making process for the upcoming year.

The Committee will receive an update on implementation of changes to the workers' compensation system as well as on ESSB 5608, which addresses abatement of safety and health violations during appeals. The Committee will also hear a report on the 2012 rate making process. Business and labor stakeholders will have an opportunity to participate.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Joan Elgee

Project Title: Workforce Development System

Project Goal:

Continue examination of the workforce development system, and monitor the Retooling Washington's Workforce Initiative.

Project Description:

During the 2011 session, the Committee held work sessions on the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Worker Retraining Program. These work sessions included: (1) overviews of the relevant programs; (2) recent evaluations of net impacts and program outcomes; and (3) business, labor, and other stakeholder comments.

During the 2011 interim, the Committee will continue its examination of the workforce development system. This examination will cover relevant laws and rules on policymaking and investments of WIA and other program funds, as well as opportunities for greater efficiency and improved coordination between WIA and other programs.

The Committee will also receive periodic updates on the Retooling Washington's Workforce Initiative. These updates will focus on the Initiative's three priorities: coordinated outreach to unemployment insurance exhaustees, expanded use of on-the-job training, and coordinated employer outreach combined with improved job referral/skills matching.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 1, 2012

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth and Alison Hellberg

**House of Representatives
Local Government
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land-use and Shoreline Regulations Affecting Local Governments 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodating Population Growth Through Land-Use Actions Conservation Easements 	Work Session

Project Title: Land-use and Shoreline Regulations Affecting Local Governments

Project Goal:

Examine potentially duplicative land-use and shoreline regulations affecting local governments.

Project Description:

Cities and counties have expressed recent interest in examining potentially duplicative requirements prescribed of them by Washington's land-use and shoreline regulations. In completing this project, the Committee will examine land-use and shoreline-related regulations and associated regulatory reform proposals, with an emphasis on reviewing potentially duplicative statutory requirements. The Committee will also conduct a work session to receive information from persons with relevant public and private sector expertise.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2011

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno

Project Title: Accommodating Population Growth Through Land-Use Actions

Project Goal:

Examine state and local government approaches to accommodating population growth through land-use actions.

Project Description:

Recently released data from the 2010 census indicates that Washington's population increased by 14.1 percent (870,000 persons) in the last decade to 6.7 million residents. With forecasts for continued and significant population growth, Washington and its counties and cities will need to develop and implement land-use planning actions to meet the needs of current and future residents. In completing this project, the Committee will examine state and local government approaches to accommodating population growth through land-use actions and will conduct a work session to receive related information and perspectives from public and private sector representatives.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 15, 2011

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno

Project Title: Conservation Easements

Project Goal:

Examine the use and practices of conservation easements.

Project Description:

Legislation considered by the Committee and subsequently adopted into law (ESSB 5253) included provisions pertaining to conservation easements, privately developed landowner agreements that restrict development on the affected land. This project will include an examination of the use and practices of conservation easements in and outside Washington, and a work session for the Committee to receive information from persons with relevant public and private sector expertise.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 15, 2011

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno

**House of Representatives
Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Sexually Violent Predators and the Washington State Supreme Court Case of In re Detention of McCuiston ▫ Bail and Pretrial Release Practices ▫ Department of Correction's Security-Related Policies and Procedures for Institutional and Community Corrections Staff 	Public Hearing/ Work Session

Project Title: Sexually Violent Predators and the Washington State Supreme Court Case of *In re Detention of McCuiston*

Project Goal:

Review of the Washington State Supreme Court Case of *In re Detention of McCuiston*.

Project Description:

A sexually violent predator (SVP) housed at the Special Commitment Center may annually petition for release. The person must demonstrate probable cause at a show cause hearing that he or she is no longer an SVP or that release to a less restrictive alternative would be in his or her best interests and would adequately protect the community. If the person establishes probable cause, a jury trial is held to determine whether he or she should be released.

In 2005, the statute was amended to limit the evidence that establishes probable cause at the show cause hearing. In *In re Detention of McCuiston*, the Washington Supreme Court struck down that portion of the SVP statute, holding that it violated substantive due process by artificially limiting the evidence relevant to release. During the 2011 legislative session, the Court granted a motion for reconsideration. Oral arguments were held in May 2011.

Two bills, HB 1842 and SB 5202, were introduced during the 2011 legislative session to modify the procedures for commitment and release of SVPs. The bills addressed jury verdicts, annual evaluations, polygraph testing, and the burdens of proof at release proceedings. Neither bill was enacted.

The PSEP Committee will receive a briefing on the Court's decision upon reconsideration of the *McCuiston* case.

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

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Alexa Silver

Project Title: Bail and Pretrial Release Practices

Project Goal:

Review the practices for bail for the release of a person arrested and detained for a felony offense.

Project Description:

The Bail Practices Work Group, established by legislation enacted in 2010 (SSB 6673), submitted a report to the Legislature in December 2010. The report contained 15 recommendations regarding the following bail-related issues: availability and use of risk assessment tools in bail hearings; access to mental health information for use at bail hearings; the definition of bail; bail schedules; justification of bail bond agents; collateral; surety bonds filed with the Department of Licensing (DOL); background checks of bail bond agents; general powers of attorney; surrender of clients to court; the DOL's audit authority; and court notification of failure to appear.

In addition to the report, the Work Group submitted draft legislation, which was introduced in the 2011 legislative session as SB 5056. SSB 5056 passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee, but died in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Subsequently, the Senate Judiciary Committee amended SHB 1194, a bill concerning bail schedules, to include some of the recommendations from the Work Group that had minimal fiscal impact. The Committee held a work session during the 2011 legislative session to consider the Senate Judiciary Committee's amendment to SHB 1194. SHB 1194 died in the Senate Rules Committee.

The Committee will review the Work Group recommendations from SSB 5056 and the amendment to SHB 1194.

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

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Alexa Silver

Project Title: Department of Correction's Security-Related Policies and Procedures for Institutional and Community Corrections Staff

Project Goal:

Review the policy recommendations resulting from the review by the National Institute of Corrections relating to prison safety and from the implementation of ESB 5907.

Project Description:

The Department of Corrections (DOC) requested that the National Institute of Corrections conduct an independent review of the Monroe Correctional Complex/Washington State Reformatory's policies and procedures relative to the death of a correctional officer that occurred in January 2011. The report was completed in March 2011 and identifies systems, policies, practices, protocols, and technology within the correctional facility that relates to the safety and security for staff and others within that facility.

Legislation enacted in 2011 (ESB 5907) requires the DOC to: 1) establish statewide and local Security Advisory Committees to provide a comprehensive review of the DOC's security policies and procedures within its prisons; 2) develop a training curriculum relating to staff safety issues in prisons; 3) establish a multidisciplinary team at each prison to evaluate offenders' placement in job assignments and custody promotions; and 4) consider and study the feasibility of implementing a statewide system for utilizing body alarms and proximity cards for prison staff, deploying the use of video monitoring cameras in prisons, and using pepper spray as a security measure for prison staff.

The PSEP Committee will receive a briefing on the DOC's findings and recommendations relating to implementing the policy recommendations resulting from the National Institute of Corrections review of prison safety, including but not limited to any findings from the new pilot projects implemented under ESB 5907, recommendations for the use of pepper spray, and any changes relating to increased correctional officer training.

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

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker

**House of Representatives
State Government & Tribal Affairs
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September	Afternoon	Olympia	Full Committee Joint with Senate Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election of Precinct Committee Officers 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Agency Rulemaking Overview of Winery, Brewery, and Distillery Industries and Related Laws Tribal Issues 	Work Session

Project Title: Election of Precinct Committee Officers

Project Goal:

Review ways in which elections may be held to elect precinct committee officers.

Project Description:

Previously, the election of precinct committee officers (PCOs) has occurred at the primary election. In January 2011 the United States District Court, in its ruling regarding the state's implementation of the "top two primary," determined that the state's method of electing PCOs is unconstitutional because it "severely burdens the political parties' ability to identify and associate with members of their respective parties." At issue was the top two primary ballot which allows all voters, regardless of party affiliation, to vote for and elect PCOs.

Legislation was introduced this session to combine the PCO elections with the presidential primary if the parties agreed to use the results of that primary for the selection of their delegates to the national convention.

The Committee, in conjunction with the Senate Government Operations, Tribal Relations, and Elections Committee, will explore ways in which PCOs may continue to be elected.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session joint with Senate Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Marsha Reilly

Project Title: State Agency Rulemaking

Project Goal:

Brief the Committee on the rulemaking process and provide an update on the State Auditor's performance audit of rulemaking by state agencies.

Project Description:

The Committee will be briefed on the State Auditor's proposed performance audit on the rulemaking process, including the effectiveness of small business economic impact statements. Staff will also provide an overview of the agency rulemaking process and the background information necessary for an understanding of that process.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Marsha Reilly

Project Title: Overview of Winery, Brewery, and Distillery Industries and Related Laws

Project Goal:

Brief the Committee on the winery, brewery, and distillery industries and the liquor tied-house laws.

Project Description:

The winery, brewery, and distillery industries, including the related growing of grapes, hops, grains and other products, are expanding sectors of Washington's economy. The number of wineries and breweries has grown by about 36 percent since 2006, and 34 craft distilleries have been licensed since the license was created in 2008. The Committee will receive a briefing on these industries.

The tied-house laws address the relationship between the manufacturer, distributor, and retailer tiers of the liquor industry. The Committee will receive a briefing on these laws.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Joan Elgee

Project Title: Tribal Issues

Project Goal:

Brief the Committee on the Centennial Accord, tribal jurisdiction, tribes and economic development, and retrocession.

Project Description:

Several bills were introduced this session regarding issues important to tribes, including tax laws changes, adopting the Centennial accord in statute, and state retrocession of civil and criminal jurisdiction over tribes.

In addition, the Governor and legislative leadership have established a Joint Executive-Legislative Work Group to study state retrocession over the interim. Staff will provide support to the work group. Also the Committee will be updated on the activities of the Governor's work group.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Thamas Osborn

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Ethics Commissions

Project Goal:

Explore possible means for streamlining ethics oversight and effectiveness.

Project Description:

There are four different state entities that oversee ethics issues: the Legislative and Executive Ethics commissions, the Public Disclosure Commission, and the Commission on Judicial Conduct. At least 41 states have an ethics board or commission. Washington is the only state that has four different entities that oversee ethics issues. Staff will research the various models for enforcing ethics laws in other states.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Marsha Reilly

Project Title: Contracting Out

Project Goal:

Identify legal issues regarding state contracting-out laws and provide legislative proposals for the clarification and/or revision of the pertinent statutes.

Project Description:

State civil service statutes, as well as state employees' union contract provisions, establish the process by which state agencies may enter into contracts with private entities for the provision of services customarily provided by state employees. Cases currently pending in the state courts regarding such "contracting-out" present issues pertaining to the contracting policies and procedures of state agencies as they relate to the legal rights of state employees.

In order to identify provisions of the contracting out laws that may be in need of clarification and/or revision, Committee staff will study the pertinent statutory provisions and practices of state agencies regarding contracting-out for services. Committee staff will also present legislative proposals necessary to address legal issues pertaining to current agency practices regarding contracting-out.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Thamas Osborn

**House of Representatives
Technology, Energy & Communications
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
December (day before Committee Assembly)	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Telecommunications Policy	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aviation Biofuels Distributed Energy Oversupply of Hydropower and Wind Energy 	Work Session

Project Title: Telecommunications Policy

Project Goal:

Continue examination of state telecommunications policy and develop legislation for the 2012 legislative session.

Project Description:

In response to recent legislative proposals, in 2010 the University of Washington School of Law's Technology Law Clinic (UW Tech-Law Clinic) began an 18-month review of Washington State's telecommunications policies. This review includes consideration of: (1) the tax treatment of telecommunications service providers; (2) the existing amount of competition in the market place; (3) what barriers to competition exist; and (4) the appropriate regulatory role of the Utilities and Transportation Commission.

During the 2011 session, the Committee received a briefing and an interim report from the UW Tech-Law Clinic on its progress to date and its future efforts. As part of this briefing, the UW Tech-Law Clinic identified nine key policy issues for further examination. A final report to the Legislature from the UW Tech-Law Clinic is anticipated in December of 2011.

The Committee will: (1) monitor the ongoing work of the UW Tech-Law Clinic and provide feedback on draft telecommunications policy recommendations, as appropriate; and (2) review the UW Tech-Law Clinic's final report and consider what legislation, if any, may be needed to implement some or all of its recommendations.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session adjacent to December Committee Assembly

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin

Project Title: Aviation Biofuels

Project Goal:

Monitor ongoing activities relating to the development of aviation biofuels and consider possible legislation for the 2012 Session.

Project Description:

With a strong aviation industry sector, significant biofuel research capabilities, and the availability of a diverse range of biofuel feedstocks, Washington has the potential to become a leader in the development and commercialization of aviation biofuels. State and private activities are underway to develop aviation biofuels from various feedstocks such as forest biomass, algae, and oilseed crops, and to build the infrastructure necessary to refine and distribute aviation biofuels.

During the 2011 session, the Committee held a work session to learn more about what efforts are underway in the state and the Pacific Northwest to develop and commercialize aviation biofuels. Also, during the 2011 session, legislation was enacted that directed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Commerce to cooperate and consult with the University of Washington and Washington State University in the development of forest biomass to aviation fuel. Additionally, the legislation requires the DNR, by December 2011, to report to the Legislature on: (1) activities relating to forest biomass to aviation fuel; (2) a summary of research activities, scientific reports, and pilot projects pertaining to forest biomass to aviation fuel by state research institutions; and (3) progress made to develop best management practices related to forest biomass harvest.

The Committee will monitor state activities and other efforts to develop aviation biofuels and determine what legislation, if any, may be needed to encourage further development of aviation biofuels in the state.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Scott Richards

Project Title: Distributed Energy

Project Goal:

Examine issues relating to distributed energy and consider possible legislation for 2012.

Project Description:

Distributed energy refers to a range of small power generation and energy storage technologies that are placed at or near the point of energy consumption. Distributed energy technologies may include wind turbines, solar energy systems, fuel cells, combined heat and power systems, district heating systems, load reduction technologies, and energy storage devices.

During the 2011 session, the Committee held a work session to better understand the role distributed energy plays in the electrical grid and what policies encourage the development of distributed energy.

The Committee will identify and develop a set of policy actions to advance distributed energy in Washington, and consider what legislation, if any, may be needed to further encourage the growth of distributed energy in the state.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Scott Richards

Project Title: Oversupply of Hydropower and Wind Energy

Project Goal:

Monitor activities to address oversupply of hydropower and wind energy.

Project Description:

Historically, high seasonal river flows in the Pacific Northwest can occasionally result in more hydropower being generated than is needed to meet regional electrical demand. In recent years, as more wind energy has been added to the region's electrical transmission grid, oversupply conditions have been compounded, especially in the spring when high water run-off and high wind energy production coincides with low electricity demand. Reducing hydropower generation during these events sends more water through dam spillways, resulting in high levels of dissolved gases, which may threaten protected fish populations.

In the spring of 2010 and 2011, high river flows and high wind energy production caused the Bonneville Power Administration to sell excess hydropower at very low rates or give it away to encourage fossil-fuel power plants to reduce output and deliver hydropower to their customers instead. Some electric utilities with hydropower generation in the Columbia River Basin have paid other utilities to take their surplus hydropower. This practice is referred to as negative pricing.

The Committee will monitor activities in the region to develop possible solutions to address the oversupply of hydropower and wind energy, and the impact negative pricing may have on electric utilities.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Scott Richards

**House of Representatives
Transportation
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
December Committee Assembly	Afternoon	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget and Revenue Update Ferry Construction Update IT Investments Status Mega-Project Update (Including Tolling) Report from the Governor's Transportation Advisory Group Update on Department of Transportation's Report on Strategic Facilities Plan 	Work Session

Project Title: Budget and Revenue Update

Project Goal:

Provide an update on the status of the transportation revenue forecast and of budget implementation and new issues since budget enactment.

Project Description:

I - Revenue Forecast.

The transportation revenue forecast provides projections of tax, fee, toll, fare, penalty, and other state governmental transportation-related revenue over a 16-year period. The forecast is updated on a quarterly basis, with adjustments made in June, September, November, and either February or March (depending on the year in the state budget cycle). The forecasts are based on several economic indicators which include the state's personal income, population, drivers moving in and out of Washington, inflation, projected future fuel prices, crude oil price trends, consumer spending, vehicle registration trends, and fuel efficiency.

For the December 2011 meeting of the Committee, staff will brief the Committee on changes in forecasted revenues for the 2011-13 biennium and future periods. Staff will report on any updates in the process to reauthorize six-year federal funding. Changes in forecasted revenues may require changes to the Transportation Budget enacted in May 2011 and the legislative financial plan. The briefing will provide a summary of the forecast for the next 16 years along with a comparison of the November 2011 forecast compared to the February 2011 forecast.

II - Budget Update.

The Transportation Budget for the 2011-13 biennium was enacted in May 2011 and implemented beginning in July. Staff will provide a report on the status of implementation, including program allotment and expenditure activity and progress toward meeting legislative goals in the budget. The report will also cover issues that have arisen since enactment of the budget in May that the Legislature may need to address in the 2012 session, and describe other agency-identified needs as provided in the preliminary executive budget development process.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Mark Matteson and Jerry Long

Project Title: Ferry Construction Update

Project Goal:

Inform members of the status of the three 64-car class vessel builds and the first 144-car vessel build.

Project Description:

The Washington State Ferries (WSF) will present an overview of the three 64-car class vessels which will include a final budget review and vessel operation update. The state has budgeted \$211.2 million for the construction of the three vessels. The first, the Chetzemoka, is currently serving the Port Townsend-Coupeville ferry route. The second, the Salish, is scheduled to begin service in July 2011 also on the Port Townsend-Coupeville route. The third, the Kennewick, is scheduled for delivery in the fall of 2011 and will begin service after training and sea trials are completed.

In addition, the WSF will provide a detailed overview of the contract with Vigor Shipyards (previously Todd Shipyards) for the first 144-car class vessel. The overview will include the vessel timeline, budget, and build schedule. As background, the passage of ESSB 5742 provided additional new funding for a 144-car vessel through the Capital Vessel Replacement Surcharge. The 25-cent surcharge is to be applied to every ferry fare and revenues are to be deposited into a new vessel replacement account. Funds in the account are to be used to support the construction of new vessels, the first being a 144-car class vessel. These new funds, along with additional funds budgeted for the 144-car project, provide sufficient funds for the WSF to build the first vessel.

The State Budget includes \$147 million for the first 144-car class vessel, of which the majority of funds are appropriated in the 2011-13 biennium. Funding for the second 144-car class vessel begins in the 2013-15 biennium and assumes an additional cost for outfitting the vessel for Liquid Natural Gas (LNG). The 2011-13 Transportation Budget plan includes \$167.3 million for the second 144-vessel.

The 2011-13 Transportation Budget also includes a proviso directing the Joint Transportation Committee to study the costs and benefits of outfitting the second vessel with the ability to use LNG for propulsion. The study will evaluate LNG as a fuel source for vessel propulsion, analyze the costs, risks, opportunities and benefits of LNG over diesel fuel, and outline any implementation requirements for utilizing LNG. As the LNG study is due December 31, 2011, the WSF will present an overview of the draft study results during the December 2011 Committee Assembly meeting.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Debbie Driver

Project Title: IT Investments Status

Project Goal:

Update the legislative members on technology projects included in the 2011-13 Transportation Budget.

Project Description:

The Department of Licensing (DOL), Washington State Patrol (WSP), and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) each have their own Information Technology (IT) programs that maintain their existing computer systems. These IT project investments are the largest new projects in the 2011-13 Transportation Budget.

The Committee work session will focus on the status and risk management efforts for the projects. The risk factors in an IT project depend on strong project management, with emphasis on keeping the project on budget along with meeting project milestones and timeframes. An IT project requires: well defined end user requirements; solid system design; data conversion and migration; interfacing with other systems, sometimes in other agencies; software and hardware compatibility; strong acceptance testing and end user training; and selection of appropriate project staff and contractors. Each one of these factors increases the risk that is associated with an IT project.

(1) The WSDOT's time, leave, and labor distribution system will be integrated with the state's accounting and human resource systems (cost of \$10.8 million). The project will automate the time and attendance system, improve management reporting for the Washington State Ferries, reduce manual entry of financial data, integrate the state's financial and human resource systems, train users, and decommission agency systems that will no longer be required.

While originally conceived as a WSDOT-specific project, the current plan is to meet multiple agency-client needs by working with the OFM and the newly created Department of Enterprise Services. This poses a challenge to timely meeting of the WSDOT's original goals.

(2) The WSP is required to be in compliance with the Federal Communication Commission's narrowbanding requirements by 2013 (cost of \$40.1 million). The requirement is to narrowband the agency's communications systems from 25 kHz to 12.5 kHz, which reduces the coverage area of the existing communication system. A new digital radio system must also ensure that there are no gaps in radio coverage that could impact the safety of law enforcement and the public.

The funding will provide P25 (digital) capability with microwave infrastructure and site improvements, update the land mobile infrastructure, provide system integration and engineering services, purchase seven new dispatch consoles, three master switches, and replace one-half of the existing officer portable radios. The Committee presentation will also address how the implementation plan recognizes and uses existing infrastructure in the state. The project must be completed by January 1, 2013.

(3) The DOL will purchase a prorated and fuel tax system to automate existing manual and spreadsheet processes (cost of \$7.4 million). Fuel tax collections are one of the largest revenue sources in the state at \$1.2 billion per fiscal year. This project will eliminate 20 information systems to administer the fuel tax program, and eliminate redundant data entry and excessive manual operations. The new system will provide safeguards to ensure efficient fuel tax collection and minimize revenue loss due to evasion or under-reporting of taxes. The system will allow fuel tax licensees to file electronic tax returns and will support the Federation of Tax Administrators uniformity guidelines for filing electronic tax return information.

(4) The WSP will begin implementing a mobile office platform and video cameras in each patrol vehicle. Phase one of three phases is to be completed during the 2001-13 biennium. This project will enable the WSP officers to run warrants and warrants, self dispatch to calls, automate filing of traffic tickets and accident reports, email and share data, provide automated patrol vehicle locations, and have video

cameras to document vehicle stops and contacts.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jerry Long and Debbie Driver

Project Title: Mega-Project Update (Including Tolling)

Project Goal:

Brief members regarding the highway megaprojects as well as the tolling program.

Project Description:

Highway "megaprojects" are defined in the 2011 Transportation Budget as the State Route (SR) 520 floating bridge, SR 99 viaduct replacement, Interstate 5 (I-5) Tacoma High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) project, Columbia River Crossing (CRC), I-405 corridor improvements, SR 167, North Spokane Corridor, and I-90 Snoqualmie Pass projects. These projects are of special interest to the Legislature due to their benefits for the traveling public as well as their costs. Several of these projects, including the SR 520 bridge, the SR 99 viaduct replacement, I-405 corridor improvements, and the CRC project, are expected to be funded in part by toll revenue.

The megaproject update will provide information about the status of these projects, including the current project budget, anticipated changes to the project budget, project schedule, environmental review status for those projects not yet under construction, and project risks and opportunities. Of particular interest will be the status of the SR 520 bridge construction contract, the status of SR 520 bridge pontoon construction, the record of decision for the viaduct replacement, Oregon's current approach to funding and supporting the CRC project, the status of right of way acquisition for the North Spokane Corridor, and wildlife issues associated with the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass project.

This update will also provide information on the tolling program. By December 2011, tolling will be operational on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, the SR 520 bridge, and the SR 167 High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes. Members will be provided with current information on tolling operating costs, tolling gross revenues, and tolling net revenues for each project. The update will include a review of the issues associated with changing tolling contractors on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, how these issues were resolved, what issues remain, what lessons were learned, and what the revenue and cost impacts are. The update will also include information on the beginning of SR 520 tolling operations, including a review of the challenges that lead to the delay of the start-up of operations, how these problems were resolved, and what the revenue and cost impacts are. Last but not least, members will be provided with a status update on planning for I-405 tolling, including the current budget and schedule.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Christie Parker

Project Title: Report from the Governor's Transportation Advisory Group

Project Goal:

Report on the transportation investment and revenue plan developed by the Governor's Transportation Advisory Group.

Project Description:

When the Governor signed ESHB 1175 (transportation appropriations), she announced her intention to form a Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) to develop a transportation investment and revenue plan for consideration by the 2012 Legislature.

The motor fuel tax, while still the primary source of transportation revenue, generates a revenue stream for which there has been little or no growth in recent years, due to factors such as increases in the fuel economy of the state's vehicle fleet and increasing fuel prices. The most recent revenue packages (2003 and 2005) are almost fully dedicated to debt payments on bonds issued under the Nickel and Transportation Partnership Act transportation construction programs. As a result, new revenues are being considered to finance significant new investments in the state's transportation system.

The Governor has directed the TAG to tackle funding strategies for:

- completing funding for mega-projects around the state, including the Columbia River Crossing, the North Spokane Corridor, and the State Route 520 Corridor;
- addressing shortfalls for local street and road systems, including the increased use of public transportation to meet travel demands;
- addressing the preservation and maintenance of the state's existing state and local transportation systems; and
- addressing shortfalls in the ferry operations and ferry capital accounts, which constrain the ability to preserve and modernize the ferry system.

The Governor has also stated that the TAG will work with business and community stakeholders to develop its recommendations.

The Committee presentation will include members of the TAG as well as representatives from stakeholder groups in the discussion of the investment plan developed by the TAG.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Beth Redfield and Mark Matteson

Project Title: Update on Department of Transportation's Report on Strategic Facilities Plan

Project Goal:

Update the legislative members regarding the Washington State Department of Transportation's strategic facilities plan.

Project Description:

The 2011 Transportation Budget (Section 604) directs the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to prepare a strategic facilities plan (Plan) to improve the oversight of real estate procurement and management practices across all departmental programs and regions, including the Washington State Ferries.

The Plan, which is due by September 1, 2012, must include:

- an inventory of all currently owned and leased office space, tunnel and bridge operations and maintenance facilities, and traffic management centers (TMCs);
- a list of facilities that will be needed for tunnel and bridge operations or maintenance in the next 10 years and the funding source that is assumed for these facilities;
- a prioritized list of all buildings that are planned for construction, renovation, or remodeling in the next 10 years and the funding source that is assumed for these facility improvements; and
- a list of options for consolidating staff and equipment operations activities to reduce costs.

This list must include: an evaluation of the costs and benefits of owning properties as compared to leasing them using a life-cycle cost analysis; and a process and plan for regularly evaluating needs for office space, tunnel and bridge operations and maintenance facilities, and traffic management.

The 2011 Transportation Budget also directs the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to conduct a budget evaluation study for the new TMC using data compiled as a result of the Plan. Budget language specifies that the Plan includes review relocation options for Washington State Ferries headquarters.

The update will provide members with information on the process for developing the Plan. To the extent that deliverables such as the inventory and lists are available, they will be shared with the Committee. The OFM will report on its study of the proposed new TMC in Shoreline, including a description of the study team, the options reviewed, and the results of the budget evaluation to the extent they are available. The WSDOT will provide schedule and budget information about the proposed renovation of the boat center in Fife, including the staffing plan and analysis of the costs and benefits of the renovation and staff relocation. The WSDOT also will provide information regarding the status of the purchase of the property at Hyak.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Christie Parker and Jerry Long

**House of Representatives
Ways & Means
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2011**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September Revenue Forecast Implementation of the 2011-13 Operating Budget Washington State's Economy 	Work Session
November	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Care Update Agency Reorganizations and Reforms Tax Items State Bank Proposals 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Outlook for the 2012 Session K-12 School Funding Reinvesting Foster Care Savings 	Work Session

Project Title: September Revenue Forecast

Project Goal:

To better understand the September revenue forecast.

Project Description:

The Committee will be briefed on the revenue forecast and related economic forecast, and discuss possible risks by reviewing the optimistic and pessimistic revenue forecasts.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2011

Staff Assigned: Rick Peterson

Project Title: Implementation of the 2011-13 Operating Budget

Project Goal:

Review implementation of selected items in the 2011-13 biennial operating budget and provide an update on other selected items.

Project Description:

The Committee will be updated on: (1) implementation of the K-12 budget by school districts; (2) implementation of higher education tuition policy changes and implementation of the higher education budget; (3) implementation of the Essential Needs and Housing Support program; and (4) liquor privatization.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2011

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick, Trista Zugel, Andy Toulon, Melissa Palmer, and Jeff Olsen

Project Title: Washington State's Economy

Project Goal:

To better understand Washington State's economy.

Project Description:

The Committee will conduct a comprehensive review of Washington State's economy, focusing among other things on drivers/indicators of economic activity, how national and international factors influence Washington's economy, the input-output models used to forecast economic activity and its impact on future state revenues, current and projected employment information, and the role various sectors play in the economy.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Rick Peterson, Jeff Olsen, and Jeff Mitchell

Project Title: Health Care Update

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on recent health care budget/program changes at the state level and update the Committee on national health care reform efforts.

Project Description:

The Committee will receive information and updates on a variety of health care related matters that impact the budget, including: (1) the merger of the Medical Assistance Administration into the Health Care Authority; (2) the Medicaid demonstration waiver request; (3) Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) payment methodology; (4) Provider One functionality; and (5) national health care reform.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2011

Staff Assigned: Erik Cornellier

Project Title: Agency Reorganizations and Reforms

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on selected agency reorganizations and reforms.

Project Description:

The Committee will be briefed on selected agency reorganizations and reforms with budget implications, including: (1) the Department of Enterprise Services; and (2) the Office of the Chief Information Officer; and (3) the State Data Center.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2011

Staff Assigned: Jeff Olsen

Project Title: Tax Items

Project Goal:

Review the distribution of the tax burden by household income and for businesses.

Project Description:

The Committee will: (1) review and summarize available data regarding the distribution of the tax burden on households based on income level, and the burden for businesses as well; and (2) review of the policy on tax preferences, particularly the net benefits to the state and reporting and enforcement provisions.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2011

Staff Assigned: Rick Peterson, Jeff Mitchell, and Jeff Olsen

Project Title: State Bank Proposals

Project Goal:

Discuss potential approaches to, and purposes of, creating a state bank to manage and invest state funds.

Project Description:

Currently the State Treasurer manages most state funds, investing them to generate returns while minimizing risk and preserving the state's ability to readily access the funds. (Pension funds and higher education institution funds are examples of state funds not managed by the State Treasurer.)

The Washington State constitution prohibits making gifts or loans of public funds to private entities, or making guarantees benefiting private entities. Other provisions limit the state investing in private firms and limit the amount of debt that can be incurred by the state.

There have been proposals to require that all state funds be deposited into a public Washington State bank or trust and invested to promote community and economic development, agriculture, education, housing, business/industry, and other purposes.

With this project, the Committee will be briefed on interim work relating to state bank proposals and will review potential advantages of creating a state bank, as well as potential issues and considerations that may arise.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2011

Staff Assigned: Charlie Gavigan and Rick Peterson

Project Title: Budget Outlook for the 2012 Session

Project Goal:

Preview the budget outlook for the 2012 legislative session.

Project Description:

The Committee will be updated on the status of the biennial operating budget heading into the 2012 session. The focus will be on how revenue forecast changes impacted the balance sheet and reserves, estimate the impact caseload and per cap changes may have on the budget, and note any significant policy level items that might be considered in 2012.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Dave Johnson, other staff.

Project Title: K-12 School Funding

Project Goal:

Review the activities of the Quality Education Council (QEC) regarding compensation and funding formulas, and discuss levies and levy equalization.

Project Description:

The Committee will review the implementation of education reform (primarily SHB 2776 and E2SSB 6696), focusing on the QEC activities related to compensation and the basic education funding structure.

The project will also discuss the findings and recommendations of the Local Finance Technical Work Group regarding levies and levy equalization, and discuss other levy related items.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick and Wendy Polzin

Project Title: Reinvesting Foster Care Savings

Project Goal:

To consider options regarding a methodology for calculating and budgeting foster care savings for reinvestment.

Project Description:

During the 2011 session, the Office of Financial Management released a proposal for reinvesting savings in foster care as required by Chapter 520, Laws of 2009. The report contained a proposal for reinvesting savings but also raised additional data needs. Over the interim, the chair will work with the ranking minority member to designate members to evaluate the data needs and develop a process in which to reflect foster care savings within the Children's Administration budget. In addition to being a committee hearing topic, this work will be used to inform legislation for the 2012 session.

With the goal of developing a common approach for both the executive branch and the legislative branch, in developing options, the following questions will be addressed:

1. How are savings defined?
2. What data is necessary to determine the amount of savings for reinvestment?
3. How will the foster care savings be calculated and included in the budgeting process?
4. What statutory changes, if any, are necessary to implement this process?

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2011

Staff Assigned: Melissa Palmer

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