

House of Representatives
Office of Program Research

Interim Plans

2009



September 22, 2009

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

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**House of Representatives
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October 1	8:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee, joint with Technology, Energy & Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry's Role in the Environment, Jobs, and Biomass Energy 	Work Session
October 2	1:30 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildfire Response and Prevention • State Management of Natural Resources 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Resource Policy Considerations • Reclaimed Water and Water Rights Impairment 	Work Session

Project Title: Forestry's Role in the Environment, Jobs, and Biomass Energy

Project Goal:

Explore forestry and its role on the environment, jobs, and biomass energy.

Project Description:

Many issues that have been recently before various committees, and will again be before these committees in coming sessions, have a close nexus with the forest products industry in the state. Issues involving forestry are as diverse as endangered species management, climate change, economic stimulus, and biomass energy. Each of these issues are closely linked when viewed under the lens of forest practices.

The Agriculture & Natural Resources and the Technology, Energy & Communications Committees will jointly conduct a work session that invites representatives from the environmental community, federal and state government, labor, and the private sector to discuss these issues and the role the state can take, in light of changes at the federal level, to take a leadership role in addressing these critical issues.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session joint with Technology, Energy & Communications Committee

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan and Scott Richards

Project Title: Wildfire Response and Prevention

Project Goal:

Investigate the state's investments in preventing wildfires and the methods used to fight wildfires.

Project Description:

State forest fire management policy is primarily implemented by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Two significant services provided by the DNR are wildfire prevention efforts and the actual fighting of forest fires.

The Committee will investigate both aspects of the DNR's wildfire program to learn more about both the prevention and fighting of wildfires. This process will include an investigation into how the DNR maximizes its own state resource and how it chooses and utilizes the services provided by private contract firefighting crews. The Committee will also consider any recommendations brought forward regarding potential legislation that offers suggestions for making the fire prevention and fighting efforts at the DNR more effective and efficient, including ideas on how to more efficiently collect property assessments levied to cover fire prevention and response costs.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Title: State Management of Natural Resources

Project Goal:

Identify efficiencies, redundancies, and potential administrative streamlining measures in how the state manages its natural resources.

Project Description:

The state's natural resources are managed by a number of state agencies. Each agency has a set jurisdiction, management structure, and list of duties and responsibilities. In most instances the natural resource agencies operate independently from one another; however, there are other times when the jurisdictions and authorities of the agencies overlap and close coordination among the various agencies is required.

The Committee will investigate the current natural resources management structure with the goal of identifying efficiencies, redundancies, and potential administrative streamlining measures. This investigation will include the management and governance structures of the various agencies, areas where agency jurisdictions and authorities overlap, and programs within each natural resource agency that may be managed more efficiently and effectively by other agencies or under a different model.

As part of this process, the Committee will monitor the processes required in: (1) section 907 of the state operating budget involving a governor's advisory body for consolidation opportunities with natural resource agencies and (2) HB 2157 regarding increasing efficiencies in grant programs and assessing coordination in watershed and salmonid management. The Committee may invite the participants to present their results to the Committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Title: Water Resource Policy Considerations

Project Goal:

Explore options and consider recommendations on important water policy issues, and start preparing legislation for the 2010 Legislature.

Project Description:

Several water policy issues have emerged over the past few years that require thoughtful discussions and creative brainstorming in order to resolve. Issues revolving around exempt wells, stock watering, instream flows, rain harvesting, relinquishment, storm water, and water transfers have all surfaced as potential issues for the 2010 Legislature.

The Committee will explore options and consider recommendations from various stakeholders on pressing water policy issues. The Committee will brainstorm on how to resolve these issues, and ultimately draft legislation for the 2010 Legislature that addresses the concerns of the Committee members and the public.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jaclyn Ford

Project Title: Reclaimed Water and Water Rights Impairment

Project Goal:

Monitor and verify that reclaimed water use rulemaking is consistent with Legislative intent and that the impairment recommendations are received in a fair and equitable manner.

Project Description:

Reclaimed water is an effluent derived from a wastewater treatment system that has been treated in order to be suitable for a beneficial use or a controlled use that otherwise would not occur. The Department of Ecology (DOE) and the Department of Health (DOH) must adopt rules addressing all aspects of reclaimed water use by December 31, 2010. Rulemaking has begun and the DOE plans to continue with further rulemaking. Several task forces established by the DOE and the DOH have reviewed the current reclaimed water regulations and have suggested ways to make development of reclaimed water facilities easier and more efficient.

The Committee will monitor the Reclaimed Water Committee and Reclaimed Water and Water Rights Advisory Committee to ensure that legislative intent is maintained and the DOE delivers a valid and substantial recommendation to the Legislature by November 30, 2009, on the impairment requirements and the standards for reclaimed water, as well as the positions of the stakeholders on those issues.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jaclyn Ford

**House of Representatives
Audit Review & Oversight
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	• Briefing on Quality Management and Performance Auditing	Work Session
October	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	• Review Selected Agencies' Implementation of Quality Management	Work Session
December	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	• The State's recent experience with performance audits	Work Session
January 6, 2010	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	• Status of Performance and Quality Management Processes within State Government	Work Session

Project Title: Briefing on Quality Management and Performance Auditing

Project Goal:

To brief the committee and staff assigned to the committee on the purpose, use, and benefit of quality management systems and tools, and performance auditing to facilitate legislative decision making affecting the operation of state government.

Project Description:

Members will have a presentation by a quality management professional on the purpose of quality management systems and techniques and their use and benefit to government agencies and other organizations. Representatives of major businesses and quality organizations who have used these tools and techniques will share their experiences.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 Work Session

Completion Date: September 2009

Staff Assigned:

Project Title: Review Selected Agencies' Implementation of Quality Management

Project Goal:

To further brief the committee on examples in this state where quality management tools were used to improve the operation of state government.

Project Description:

Selected state agencies will present their experience with assessment, feedback and potential for improvement.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 Work Session

Completion Date: October 2009

Staff Assigned:

Project Title: The State's recent experience with performance audits

Project Goal:

Review the status and experience of performance audits and seek input on ways to evaluate and improve the quality of performance audits, establish performance measures, and ensure the implementation of audit recommendations.

Project Description:

Review lessons learned from performance audits under Initiative 900 (I 900). Request that the Auditor report on his experience with conducting I 900 performance audits and what opportunities for improvement have been identified. Review the status of the statewide performance audit being conducted by the State Auditor. Receive public input on ways to evaluate the quality of audits, establish proper performance measures, and ensure the implementation of audit recommendations.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 Work Session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned:

Project Title: Status of Performance and Quality Management Processes within State Government

Project Goal:

Legislation may be developed to address identified process improvements to state performance management systems.

Project Description:

Review the status of various processes used in state government to manage performance including Priorities of Government (POG), Washington State Quality Award (WSQA), Government Management Accountability and Performance (GMAP), and the Statewide Performance Audit under the State Auditor.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 Work Session

Completion Date: January 6, 2010

Staff Assigned:

**House of Representatives
Capital Budget
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October 1	3:30 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Savings Performance Contracting • Federal Energy Funds 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 Session Preview • Capitol Campus Development • Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Policies for Competitive Infrastructure and Economic Development Capital Programs • Feasibility Study of Closing State Institutional Facilities and Eliminating Beds 	Work Session

Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	• Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding	Work Session
October	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	• Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding	Work Session
November	TBA	Olympia	Task Force	• Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding	Work Session

Project Title: Energy Savings Performance Contracting

Project Goal:

Research the current and potential uses of Energy Savings Performance Contracting and potential methods that the state may implement to assist entities in using the program.

Project Description:

Energy Savings Performance Contracting is used by state and local governments to increase the energy efficiency of buildings. Building improvements are financed and loans repaid through energy savings realized from the improvements. The Committee's research will address entities that use the program and those that do not, the barriers to using the program, and ways to overcome the barriers. The Committee will hear from the Department of General Administration, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, other state agencies, and Energy Savings Contractors to understand Energy Savings Performance Contracting and the barriers, and ways to overcome the barriers to Energy Savings Performance Contracting.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Nona Snell

Project Title: Federal Energy Funds

Project Goal:

Monitor, review, and evaluate the use of federal energy funds appropriated in the capital budget, including State Energy Program, Energy Freedom Program, and weatherization, and other the use of other federal energy funds distributed through competitive processes.

Project Description:

Funds were appropriated in the state capital budget for implementation of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2289 (2009) and Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5649 (2009) that create and revise programs providing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and innovative energy technologies in government, non-profit, and private business facilities. In addition, a significant amount of federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds are designated through the state of Washington and through national competitive processes for implementation of the energy programs and technologies. The Committee will monitor, review, and evaluate the use of the energy funds for consideration of current and future distribution of state funds and implementation of statutes.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Nona Snell

Project Title: 2010 Session Preview

Project Goal:

Preview to 2010 session and the supplemental budget.

Project Description:

The Committee will be provided a summary of 2009-2011 capital budget decisions, the current bond market environment, a forecast of general state revenues, and the bond debt capacity and the amount available for the supplemental budget.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Nona Snell and Steve Masse

Project Title: Capitol Campus Development

Project Goal:

Monitor new capitol campus construction projects with regard to agency office moves and capital budget impacts.

Project Description:

The 2009-11 Capital Budget (ESHB 1216) authorizes a predesign and design to develop the Pro-Arts site as an office building near the capitol campus, and the 2009 Supplemental Capital Budget authorizes the Department of Information Services to proceed with the development of the Wheeler Lot for a state data center and office building. Relocation of tenants from the existing General Administration building may be required if the building is razed. The two new office buildings may accommodate the relocations. The Committee staff will monitor and receive a report on the activities and meetings held by the Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee and the State Capitol Committee that address these capitol campus development activities.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Steve Masse

Project Title: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Policies for Competitive Infrastructure and Economic Development Capital Programs

Project Goal:

Update on implementation of E2SSB 5560(9) (2009) regarding reduction of greenhouse gas emissions when awarding funds for infrastructure and economic development capital projects.

Project Description:

The Department of Commerce will make a presentation to the Committee regarding implementation of Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5560, section 9, (2009) requiring consideration of policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions when awarding funds for competitive capital infrastructure and economic development programs.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Nona Snell

Project Title: Feasibility Study of Closing State Institutional Facilities and Eliminating Beds

Project Goal:

Monitor the Office of Financial Management's study of the feasibility of closing and eliminating institutional beds at Department of Social and Health Services and the Department of Corrections facilities.

Project Description:

The Committee will be update on the Office of Financial Management's study of the feasibility of closing and eliminating beds in the Juvenile Rehabilitation Facilities, Residential Habilitation Centers, and in the Department of Corrections' system. A report, including capital facility impacts, is due November 1, 2009.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Steve Masse

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEES & TASK FORCES

Project Title: Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding

Project Goal:

Provide staff support and research for the Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding.

Project Description:

The 2009-11 Capital Budget authorizes the Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding (task force) to continue the work of the 2007-09 task force but with revised membership. The 2009-11 task force consists of six members, and is mandated to explore the following: (1) the state funding assistance ratio used in the school construction assistance grant program formula; (2) methods to accommodate specialized program space or unique building circumstances (such as all-day kindergarten and science labs); and (3) ways to account for regional cost differences in the school construction assistance grant program formula. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction will update the task force on the tracking system to increase accuracy in predicting the timing of school district claims for reimbursement for school construction assistance grants. A task force report is due to the Legislature by January 1, 2010. The task force must conduct its work without incurring travel, per diem, or other costs.

Number & Type of Meetings: Three Task Force Meetings (See separate meeting schedule)

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Nona Snell and Steve Masse

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Higher Education Scoring System

Project Goal:

Participate in revisions to the scoring system for the four year higher education institutions and participate in facilitation of the scoring teams.

Project Description:

By statute, the Office of Financial Management (OFM) must submit a scored categorical project list for the four year higher education institutions for consideration of funding in the capital budget. The projects are scored within categories by teams assembled by the OFM. Legislative staff may participate by facilitating the scoring teams.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: August 2009

Staff Assigned: Steve Masse

Project Title: Law Enforcement Academy Study

Project Goal:

Support and evaluate the Law Enforcement Academy Study steering committee.

Project Description:

The Office of Financial Management will contract for a study that analyzes options for delivering basic law enforcement training to local law enforcement agencies and the Washington state patrol. The study must consider current activities and costs, consolidation, the potential for the community college system to provide classroom training, and online learning. A steering committee, consisting of one member from both the House and Senate, will guide the study. A report on the findings is due November 1, 2009.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Steve Masse

Project Title: Health, Safety, and Small Repair Grants

Project Goal:

Monitor and research the use of the health, safety, and small repair grants awarded by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Project Description:

The 2009-11 Capital Budget (ESHB 1216) appropriated \$20 million for health, safety, and small repair grants to K-12 schools. Up to \$3 million is for school facility repairs and renovations necessary for health and safety. The remaining amount is for energy operational cost savings and safety and health infrastructure improvements to school facilities. Office of Program Research Capital Budget Committee staff will monitor and analyze the use of the funds and the ability of schools to access the Energy Savings Performance Contracting program.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Nona Snell

Project Title: Infrastructure Investment System

Project Goal:

Continue to evaluate the Office of Financial Management's (OFM) Infrastructure Investment System study and the policy goals and priorities for the allocation of the infrastructure assistance funds appropriated in the Capital Budget.

Project Description:

The 2008 Supplemental Capital Budget (ESHB 2765) required the OFM to develop options for the organization and coordination of state infrastructure programs into an improved infrastructure investment system. The OFM did not complete the analysis.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Nona Snell

**House of Representatives
Commerce & Labor
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
June 29	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee (Joint with Senate Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee)	• Gambling Policy	Work Session
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	• Agricultural Labor	Work Session
September - same day as Agricultural Labor meeting	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee (joint with Senate Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee)	• Human Trafficking Disclosure Statement	Work Session
October 2	8:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	• Worker Protection and Representation Issues • Unemployment Compensation Modernization Incentive Payment	Work Session
November	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	• Agricultural Labor	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	• Workers' Compensation • Workforce Training for Dislocated Workers	Work Session

Joint Legislative Task Force on the Underground Economy

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 15	All Day	Olympia	Task Force	• Underground Economy Task Force	Work Session
September	All Day	Olympia	Task Force	• Underground Economy Task Force	Work Session
November	All Day	Olympia	Task Force	• Underground Economy Task Force	Work Session

Project Title: Gambling Policy

Project Goal:

Review recent issues and consider possible legislation for the 2010 session.

Project Description:

For many years, the Committee has dealt with the issue of city and county authority with respect to house-banked card rooms. There have also been discussions about other aspects of the state's gambling policies.

During the 2009 interim, the Committee will receive an update on card room and other recent gambling legislation and consider potential legislation for the 2010 session. The Committee will also review the state's gambling policies and receive an update on issues before the Gambling Commission.

Number & Type of Meetings: Joint work session with Senate

Completion Date: January 1, 2010

Staff Assigned: Joan Elgee

Project Title: Agricultural Labor

Project Goal:

Monitor key issues related to agricultural labor in Washington.

Project Description:

During the 2009 interim, the Committee will hold two work sessions to examine issues related to agricultural labor in Washington. The Committee will monitor the supply of seasonal and immigrant workers in the agricultural community. The Committee will also review proposed changes to federal immigration laws (e.g., the federal Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits and Security (AgJOBS) Act), the state Farm Labor Contractor Act, and the state human trafficking disclosure statement requirement, as well as the impact of these changes on the agricultural labor market in Washington. Parties invited to participate in work sessions will include representatives of farm workers, agricultural employers, the Department of Agriculture, and the Employment Security Department.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: January 1, 2010

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth

Project Title: Human Trafficking Disclosure Statement

Project Goal:

Review outstanding issues and develop legislation for the 2010 session.

Project Description:

During the 2009 session, E2SSB 5850 relating to protecting workers from human trafficking violations was enacted. The act requires that disclosure statements be provided by employers of foreign workers and international labor recruitment agencies to foreign workers referred to or hired by a Washington employer. Foreign workers are persons who are not U.S. citizens and who come to the state based on an offer of employment, but not persons who hold H-1B visas. A section classifying a violation of the disclosure statement requirement as a violation of the Consumer Protection Act was vetoed.

During the 2009 interim, the Committee will review outstanding issues with the Senate Labor, Commerce, & Consumer Protection Committee and stakeholders, and develop legislation for the 2010 session. Such issues include: (1) exemptions from the definition of "foreign worker;" and (2) enforcement and penalties related to violations of the disclosure statement requirement.

Number & Type of Meetings: One joint meeting with the Senate Labor, Commerce, & Consumer Protection Committee. (Meeting will be scheduled on the same day as one of the work sessions on agricultural labor.)

Completion Date: January 1, 2010

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth

Project Title: Worker Protection and Representation Issues

Project Goal:

Review recent issues regarding collective bargaining between the state and various bargaining units, as well as recent proposals establishing collective bargaining rights.

Project Description:

During the 2009 session, there were concerns regarding certain procedures governing collective bargaining between the state and various bargaining units. Key issues included: (1) the Governor's obligation to request funds in the budget to implement compensation and fringe benefit provisions; and (2) the Governor's authority to renegotiate agreements to address budget shortfalls. There were also proposals to establish collective bargaining and/or binding arbitration rights for other workers.

During the 2009 interim, the Committee will review these concerns and discuss any changes needed to these procedures. The Committee will also continue its consideration of proposals to establish collective bargaining and binding arbitration rights for other workers.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 1, 2010

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth and Alison Hellberg

Project Title: Unemployment Compensation Modernization Incentive Payment

Project Goal:

Receive an update on the unemployment compensation modernization incentive payment (special Reed Act transfer) under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Project Description:

The federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides up to \$7 billion for modernization incentive payments (special Reed Act transfers) to states that meet certain requirements. One-third of the incentive payment is contingent on state law providing for an alternative base period. Two-thirds is contingent on state law providing for at least two of the following: (1) No denial of benefits to part-time workers seeking only part-time work; (2) no disqualification from benefits for separating from employment for compelling family reasons, including domestic violence, an immediate family member's illness or disability, and the need to accompany a spouse to a place from which it is impractical to commute due to a change in the location of the spouse's employment; (3) continuation of weekly benefits for exhaustees in state-approved training; and (4) dependents' allowances of at least \$15 per dependent per week.

During the 2009 interim, the Committee will receive an update from the Employment Security Department on the incentive payment.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 1, 2010

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth

Project Title: Workers' Compensation

Project Goal:

Receive updates on recent initiatives and rate setting, and consider possible legislation for the 2010 session.

Project Description:

Several significant workers' compensation initiatives have been considered by the House Commerce & Labor Committee in recent years. These include the passage of a vocational rehabilitation pilot program and a study of retrospective rating program issues, as well as consideration of the continuation of death benefits for surviving spouses regardless of remarriage.

During the 2009 interim, the Committee will hear an update on recent initiatives, and will also review rate setting and related issues.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 1, 2010

Staff Assigned: Joan Elgee

Project Title: Workforce Training for Dislocated Workers

Project Goal:

Monitor expansion of the training benefits program and development and implementation of the high-demand training incentive program.

Project Description:

During the 2009 session, the House Commerce & Labor Committee considered two bills that were enacted related to training for dislocated workers and others.

One of the bills, ESHB 1906, expands eligibility for the training benefits program. The expanded program will serve dislocated workers, as well as certain low-wage workers, military personnel and National Guard members, and persons who are disabled. The act requires a report to legislative committees on the program's status and outcomes by December 1, 2009, and each year thereafter.

The other bill, E2SSB 5809, creates incentives for education and training for individuals enrolled in training for high-demand and certain other occupations. The Employment Security Department (ESD) is directed to match funds provided by workforce development councils to increase training capacity and provide student financial aid. The act also requires the ESD to periodically bring together representatives of particular agencies, workforce development councils, business, labor, and the Legislature to review development and implementation of the high-demand training incentive program and the training benefits program.

During the 2009 interim, the Committee will monitor expansion of the training benefits program and development and implementation of the high-demand training incentive program.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 1, 2010

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEES & TASK FORCES

Project Title: Underground Economy Task Force

Project Goal:

Prepare a report to formulate a state policy to increase the oversight and regulation of underground economy practices in the state, including any recommendations on seller's permits.

Project Description:

Legislation enacted in 2007, SB 5926, created the Joint Legislative Task Force on the Underground Economy in the Construction Industry. A number of recommendations of the task force were enacted in 2008, including an extension of the task force. The task force met again during the 2008 interim and made additional recommendations. In 2009, SHB 1555 was enacted, adopting some of those recommendations and also extending the task force until December 15, 2009, and expanding its scope beyond construction. SHB 1555 authorizes the task force to consider issues previously addressed as well as the role of local governments. A related 2009 bill, SB 6173, directs the task force to study the newly created seller's permit which will replace the resale certificate as a means to exempt businesses making wholesale purchases from the retail sales tax.

During the 2009 interim, the task force will identify, study, and make recommendations for reducing the underground economy in the state, including any changes to seller's permits.

Number & Type of Meetings: Three work sessions

Completion Date: December 1, 2009

Staff Assigned: Joan Elgee and Alison Hellberg

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Sweatfree Purchasing

Project Goal:

Develop a proposed sweatfree purchasing policy for Washington.

Project Description:

During the 2009 session, the House Commerce & Labor Committee held a work session to discuss sweatfree purchasing policies and the multi-state Sweatfree Consortium. During the 2009 interim, the Committee will continue to examine polices adopted in other states and begin developing a proposed policy for Washington.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: January 1, 2010

Staff Assigned: Alison Hellberg

Project Title: Wage and Hour

Project Goal:

Examine wage and hour enforcement issues.

Project Description:

The House Commerce & Labor Committee considered several wage and hour bills during the 2009 session. A few of those bills specifically addressed issues such as mandatory overtime and meal and rest breaks for health care workers. During the 2009 interim, the Committee will work with stakeholders and the Department of Labor and Industries to examine issues related to wage and hour enforcement, including issues affecting health care workers.

Number & Type of Meetings: None.

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Alison Hellberg

**House of Representatives
Community & Economic Development & Trade
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October 2	10:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	• Small Business Summit	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	• The Department of Commerce, the State's Current and Future Economy	Work Session

Project Title: Small Business Summit

Project Goal:

Prepare small business legislation for 2010.

Project Description:

The U.S. Department of Commerce reports that in 2006 Washington state had 132,500 non-farm employers with fewer than 20 employees, and that firms of that size created more than 75 percent of the state's net new jobs between 2004 and 2005. Our state is also well known for business churn: a high rate of both start-ups and failures. Through staff research into other states' approaches and an October Small Business Summit conducted in partnership with local organizations, the Committee will identify factors that support small business creation, those that challenge small business survival, and possible ways in which the state can assist in firm start-ups and endurance. The Committee will also monitor progress related to state procurement policies and procedures and assistance by Small Business Development Centers as required by SSB 5723.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Meg Van Schoorl

Project Title: The Department of Commerce, the State's Current and Future Economy

Project Goal:

Track the status of 2009 economic development-related issues and initiatives and prepare subsequent 2010 legislation.

Project Description:

Several laws connected to the state's future role in economic development began as bills in the CEDT Committee during 2009 including: EHB 2242 (Department of Commerce); E2SHB 2227 (Evergreen Jobs Act); SHB 1323 (Workforce and Economic Development); and SHB 1128 (Innovation Partnership Zones). For this interim project, the Committee will participate in and staff will monitor external activities associated with each bill. At December's Committee Assembly, the Department of Commerce director, and other officials, will present: recommendations on the Department of Commerce's future direction; the status of American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding awards; the status of the Evergreen Jobs and associated state energy initiatives; designation of additional Innovation Partnership Zones; and other relevant issues.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Meg Van Schoorl

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Tracking 2009 Legislation, Executive Orders, and Policy Issues

Project Goal:

Track 2009 policy issues that could result in 2010 legislative activity.

Project Description:

In addition to the acts listed in project #2, staff will monitor developments from the following 2009 acts, executive orders, and outstanding issues that could result in 2010 legislative activity:

EHB 1087 - Minority and Women's Business Enterprises
ESHB 2125 - Community Preservation and Development Authorities
E2SHB 2227 - Evergreen Jobs Act
2SSB 5045 - Local Revitalization Financing
ESSB 5473 - Projects of Statewide Significance
ESSB 5901 - Local Infrastructure Financing Tool
E2SSB 6015 - Life Sciences and Information Technology Commercialization
Washington Council on Aerospace
Washington Economic Development Commission
Community Economic Revitalization Board Programs
Public Works Trust Fund Programs
Tourism Commission Programs

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Meg Van Schoorl and Chris Cordes

Project Title: Washington's State and Local Economic Development Organizations

Project Goal:

Compile a comprehensive list of the types of state and local organizations that have economic development as a core mission.

Project Description:

A number of state agencies, local governments, and nonprofit organizations have state, local, and regional economic development as a primary mission. During legislative session, members often have questions about the role of these organizations and how their missions complement, duplicate, or otherwise relate to one another. For this project, staff will research this range of organizations and compile a matrix including: type of organization; statutory or administrative authority; fund source(s) and budgets; typical projects; and other relevant information.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: November 2009

Staff Assigned: Meg Van Schoorl

**House of Representatives
Early Learning & Children's Services
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 30	10:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Learning Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS) Pilots 	Work Session
October 2	1:30 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background Checks and Licensing 	Work Session
Adjacent to December Committee Assembly	Half Day	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services for Adolescents Emancipating from Foster Care • Educational Attainment of Youth in Foster Care 	Work Session
Adjacent to December Committee Assembly	Half Day	Olympia	Full Committee, Joint with Education, Ways & Means, and Education Appropriations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Learning as Part of Basic Education 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance-Based Contracting for Child Welfare Services • Child Welfare Transformation Design Committee 	Work Session

Project Title: Background Checks and Licensing

Project Goal:

Consider whether to propose revisions to the background check laws and processes relating to licensing by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

Project Description:

The DSHS issues licenses for various occupations serving children and vulnerable adults. Licensing involves a combination of state and federal laws and requires a background check, including a criminal history records check. There currently are three separate lists of disqualifying crimes applied for the temporary or permanent disqualification for certain licenses. The Committee will review the background check and fingerprint criminal history records check laws and processes.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Early Learning Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS) Pilots

Project Goal:

Receive updates from the Department of Early Learning and Thrive by Five Washington regarding the QRIS pilot sites.

Project Description:

Thrive by Five, Washington and the Department of Early Learning (DEL) are implementing the QRIS pilot program in various communities in Washington. The Committee will receive updates from Thrive and the DEL regarding progress of implementation at the pilot sites.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Educational Attainment of Youth in Foster Care

Project Goal:

Review information relating to the educational attainment of youth in foster care.

Project Description:

The Committee will receive a report from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding outcomes for youth in foster care who are enrolled in the state's K-12 schools. The Committee also will receive an update from the Children's Administration regarding the implementation of requirements in the 2008 federal Fostering Connections for Success and Increasing Adoptions Act relating to educational planning and progress for youth in foster care.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Services for Adolescents Emancipating from Foster Care

Project Goal:

Consider proposals for legislation to streamline and integrate the various programs and services to prepare and support the success of adolescents transitioning from foster care to independent living.

Project Description:

The Children's Administration has begin working with its partners to improve the integration and delivery of programs for adolescents who are transitioning from foster care to independence. Youth advocates have expressed the goal of creating a common point of entry and intake for accessing the various programs designed to support youth transitioning out of foster care. The Committee will examine the work underway and consider legislation to support the streamlining and integration of multiple programs.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Child Welfare Transformation Design Committee

Project Goal:

Receive updates from the Child Welfare Transformation Design Committee (Transformation Design Committee) regarding implementation of HB 2106.

Project Description:

HB 2106, section 8, establishes the Transformation Design Committee (TDC) for the purpose of selecting two demonstration sites and developing a transition plan for the contracting out of all child welfare services, including case management services, in two demonstration sites. The TDC is required to report quarterly to the Legislative Children's Oversight Committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Performance-Based Contracting for Child Welfare Services

Project Goal:

Receive updates from the Children's Administration regarding implementation of section 3, subsection (1) of HB 2106 (Child Welfare Outcomes).

Project Description:

HB 2106, section 3, subsection (1), directs the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to convert current contracts for the purchase of child welfare services to performance-based contracts and to decrease the total number of contracts. Conversion of all contracts to performance-based contracts must be accomplished by January 1, 2011.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Early Learning as Part of Basic Education

Project Goal:

Discuss the legal and policy issues associated with including early learning as part of Basic Education.

Project Description:

ESHB 2261 (2009) establishes a framework for a new definition of Basic Education and funding formulas to be phased-in in future years. As passed by the Legislature, ESHB 2261 added early learning for at-risk children to the definition of Basis Education; the Governor vetoed this provision. The Education Appropriations, Ways & Means, Education, and Early Learning and Children's Services Committees will review the Governor's rationale for the veto and discuss the legal and policy issues associated with including early learning as part of Basic Education. Included will be a discussion of how to define children eligible for early learning services should they be included in the definition of basic Education in the future.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session joint with Education Appropriations, Ways & Means, and Education Committees.

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester, Barbara McLain, Wendy Polzin, Ben Rarick, and Kristen Fraser.

Project Title: Early Learning and School-age Program Workforce: Preparation and Professional Development

Project Goal:

Receive a status report from the Professional Development Consortium (Consortium) convened by the Department of Early Learning (DEL).

Project Description:

In September 2008, the DEL convened the Consortium for the purpose of engaging multiple stakeholders in discussions for mapping the process to create an integrated professional development system for the state's early learning and school-age program workforce. HB 1943 directs the DEL to develop recommendations for the Legislature and the Governor regarding a statewide system of preparation and continuing professional development for the early learning and school-age program workforce. Status reports on the Consortium's work plan are due September 15, 2009, and December 15, 2009.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester

**House of Representatives
Ecology & Parks
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
June 29	10:00 am	Burien	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Policies • Solid Waste Management • Implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership 	Work Session
July 27	10:00 am	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Environmental Policy Act • Climate Change Policies 	Work Session
October 2	8:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid Waste Management • Implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership 	Public Hearing/ Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Policies • State Environmental Policy Act • Implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership • Solid Waste Management 	Public Hearing/ Work Session

Project Title: Climate Change Policies

Project Goal:

Monitor federal and regional climate change and carbon emission policies and develop strategies to ensure Washington State interests are reflected in any regional or federal policies.

Project Description:

In 2008 legislation was enacted requiring the following statewide greenhouse gases (GHG) emission reductions: by 2020 reduce overall GHG emissions in the state to 1990 levels; by 2035 reduce overall GHG emissions in the state to 25 percent below 1990 levels; and by 2050 reduce overall GHG emissions in the state to 50 percent below 1990 levels, or 70 percent below the state's expected GHG emissions that year.

In May 2009, the Governor enacted Executive Order 09-05, directing the Department of Ecology and the Department of Transportation to develop strategies and provide recommendations on several aspects of climate change policy. A number of reports will be written by state agencies outlining climate policy recommendations.

In 2007 the governors of Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington formed the Western Climate Initiative (WCI). They were later joined by Montana and Utah, and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. Other U.S., Canadian, and Mexican states have joined as observers.

President Obama's budget contains items for creating a "clean energy economy." It recognizes an economy-wide GHG cap-and-trade program, sets targets for reducing emissions, and invests in new low-carbon technologies. The budget also calls for a trading system to be up and operating by 2012.

The Committee will monitor climate change and carbon reduction policies at the federal, regional, and state level, including a review of the economic consequences of climate change and carbon reduction policies, and develop strategies to ensure Washington State's interests are reflected in those policies.

Number & Type of Meetings: Three public hearings/work sessions

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jaclyn Ford

Project Title: Solid Waste Management

Project Goal:

Brief committee members on current statutes, policies and issues on solid waste and develop legislation for the 2010 Legislature.

Project Description:

The Waste Not Washington Act of 1989 established a policy framework for waste reduction, reuse, and recycling that included setting a goal for the state to recycle 50 percent by 2007. Through the waste reduction and recycling efforts of the last 20 years, Washington is now diverting about 48 percent of the solid waste generated in the state to reuse, recycling and beneficial use applications.

The Beyond Waste Implementation Work Group of the Climate Action Team had a goal to make recommendations that would significantly expand source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting, and develop an environmentally and economically sustainable implementation plan targeting products and organic materials with the largest greenhouse gas reduction potential.

The Committee will focus on the education of committee members on current statutes, policies, and issues relating to solid waste. The Committee will identify barriers and opportunities to increase the reduction, reuse and recycling of solid waste and solicit input from industry, local governments, state agencies, and other stakeholders, including the Beyond Waste Implementation Work Group. The Committee will focus on issues that will lead to the development of legislation for the 2010 Legislature.

Number & Type of Meetings: Three public hearings/work sessions

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jaclyn Ford

Project Title: Implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership

Project Goal:

Review the requirements of the Puget Sound Partnership in the enabling legislation and develop potential legislation for the 2010 Legislature.

Project Description:

The Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) was created by legislation enacted in 2007. The Partnership's task is to restore the Puget Sound by the year 2020. The Partnership has several major components: (1) the Action Agenda, which states the goals and responsibilities of the Partnership; (2) the Leadership Council, which leads the Partnership; (3) the executive director, who administers the agency; (4) the Coordination Board, consisting of stakeholders, which serves as the communication link between the Partnership and local entities; and (4) the Puget Sound Science Advisory Council, consisting of technical and scientific representatives, which advises the Leadership Council and the executive director.

The Committee will review each of the requirements in the enabling legislation and the progress and degree to which the Partnership has met those requirements. The Committee will facilitate opportunities to inform committee members and provide input to the Partnership staff and Leadership Council. The Committee will determine if legislation is needed to improve efficiency and the targeting of resources, and if so, develop legislation for the 2010 legislative session.

Number & Type of Meetings: Three public hearings/work sessions

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Title: State Environmental Policy Act

Project Goal:

Brief members on the State Environmental Policy Act, track local government and executive branch actions, and develop potential legislation for the 2010 Legislature.

Project Description:

The State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) requires all branches of government in the state, including state agencies, municipal and public corporations, and counties to include a detailed environmental impact statement (EIS) in every report or recommendation for major actions that significantly affect the quality of the environment. The EIS must include: (1) the environmental impact of the proposed action; (2) any adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided if the proposal is implemented; (3) alternatives to the proposed action; (4) the relationship between local short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity; and (5) any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved in the proposed action should it be implemented.

The Committee will focus on informing committee members on various aspects of the SEPA. The Committee will solicit information from the SEPA Implementation Group of the Climate Action Team, as well as other stakeholders and experts, to consider how the SEPA can incent more climate-friendly development. The Committee will also track local government ordinances and executive branch rulemaking and guidance documents to follow how they are incorporating climate change policies into the SEPA and to determine if there are additional policies that may utilize the SEPA.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two public hearings/work sessions

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jaclyn Ford

**House of Representatives
Education
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October 2	8:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gang Activity in Schools • Implementation of ESHB 2261 (Basic Education) • Progress to Address the Achievement Gap 	Work Session
October	All Day	TBA (Seattle area)	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEM High School Initiative 	Work Session
Adjacent to December Committee Assembly	Half Day	Olympia	Full Committee joint with Education Appropriations, Early Learning & Children's Services, and Ways & Means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of ESHB 2261 (Basic Education) • Early Learning as Part of Basic Education 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Learning • Statewide Student Assessment System 	Work Session

Project Title: Gang Activity in Schools

Project Goal:

Gain greater understanding of prevalence and trends of gang activity in schools and identify best practices for communities and schools to work together to address these problems.

Project Description:

The Committee will explore in more detail recent reports from a Task Force on Gang Activity in Schools, as well as other information gathered through staff research, regarding prevalence of gang activity, trends, possible solutions, and best practices. At a work session during October Committee Assembly, expert panels from law enforcement, communities, and schools across the state will be invited to share their experiences and recommended solutions.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Cece Clynch

Project Title: Implementation of ESHB 2261 (Basic Education)

Project Goal:

Monitor implementation of ESHB 2261 (Basic Education) and gain more in-depth understanding of the various issues that must be addressed in 2010 and beyond.

Project Description:

ESHB 2261 establishes a framework for a new definition of Basic Education and funding formulas, to be phased-in in future years. In the near-term, the act establishes a number of working groups, assigns specific tasks to state agencies such as the State Board of Education and the Professional Educator Standards Board, and creates a Quality Education Council to monitor and oversee this work and make recommendations to the 2010 Legislature regarding next steps in implementing the legislation.

Throughout the Interim, staff will prepare briefing papers on selected topics and provide updates and summaries to Committee members on the progress of the working groups.

The Committee will receive a brief status update during October Committee Assembly.

The Education, Education Appropriations, and Ways & Means Committees will meet jointly in a special work session before December Committee Assembly for a thorough briefing and discussion in preparation for the 2010 Session.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions, one joint with Education Appropriations and Ways & Means

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain, Ben Rarick, Cece Clynch, Wendy Polzin, and Kristen Fraser

Project Title: Progress to Address the Achievement Gap

Project Goal:

Continue efforts to close the achievement gap by monitoring implementation of 2SSB 5973 (Achievement Gap).

Project Description:

The 2009 Legislature received five comprehensive, community-based reports on strategies to address the achievement gap for various groups of students. The next step toward implementing the findings and recommendations of the reports is 2SSB 5973, which establishes the Achievement Gap Oversight & Accountability Committee to create a single implementation plan and directs the Professional Educator Standards Board to review standards for educator cultural competency and present an analysis to the Education Committees. The first report from the Oversight & Accountability Committee is due in January 2010. The Education Committee will hear a brief status update at a work session during October Committee Assembly, and during the remainder of the Interim, staff will closely monitor and provide summaries of meetings and progress to Committee members. Staff will also prepare briefing papers on selected key topics to provide members with additional background on common issues raised in the five studies.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Cece Clynych and Barbara McLain

Project Title: STEM High School Initiative

Project Goal:

Explore opportunities and challenges in creating STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) High Schools in Washington.

Project Description:

Washington has a vibrant economy of STEM industries, each of which has expressed concern about the adequacy of educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, not only at the postsecondary level but also in K-12 public schools. Batelle and the school districts in the Tri-Cities have launched a new STEM-focused high school called Delta High School which will begin enrollment in the Fall of 2009. Aviation High School in the Highline School District is another example of a school with a rich academic curriculum organized around themes of aviation and aerospace. During the 2009 Interim, the Education Committee will explore STEM High School initiatives in other states to learn what state policies support their creation. During a work session in the Fall, the Committee will learn about the STEM schools in our own state, and the Committee will convene a roundtable discussion with key business and education leaders in STEM to explore how additional schools might be created in partnership with these industries.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain

Project Title: Early Learning as Part of Basic Education

Project Goal:

Discuss the legal and policy issues associated with including early learning as part of Basic Education.

Project Description:

ESHB 2261 (2009) establishes a framework for a new definition of Basic Education and funding formulas to be phased-in in future years. As passed by the Legislature, ESHB 2261 added early learning for at-risk children to the definition of Basic Education; the Governor vetoed this provision. The Education, Education Appropriations, Early Learning and Children's Services, and Ways & Means Committees will review the Governor's rationale for the veto and discuss legal and policy issues associated with including early learning as part of Basic Education. Included will be a discussion of how to define those entitled to early learning services should they be included in Basic Education in the future.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session joint with Education Appropriations, ELCS, and Ways & Means

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain, Sydney Forrester, Wendy Polzin, Kristin Fraser, and Ben Rarick

Project Title: Online Learning

Project Goal:

Monitor implementation of SSB 5410 and identify additional quality assurance policies regarding online learning that might be considered.

Project Description:

SSB 5410 establishes a new state approval process for online learning programs that deliver instruction to K-12 students, particularly for contracted providers that enroll students from multiple school districts under contract with a single host district. The act also directs the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to conduct a baseline study to gain a greater understanding of current enrollment, contract terms, provider practices, and other issues. In addition to monitoring the implementation of both the approval process and the study, the Committee will examine policies that have been adopted in other states regarding online learning programs and will explore in more detail how online learning programs are currently funded. The Committee will convene a work session during the December Committee Assembly to review findings from the study and its Interim research.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain, Cece Clynych, and Ben Rarick

Project Title: Statewide Student Assessment System

Project Goal:

Monitor continuing improvements in the state's student assessment system.

Project Description:

In 2009, SSB 5414 was enacted which implemented many of the recommendations from the Legislative WASL Workgroup of 2008 in terms of establishing a vision for and desired principles and components of a student assessment system that includes a balance of formative, diagnostic, and summative assessment tools. The act also directed the Superintendent of Public Instruction to re-examine several aspects of the assessment system, including the portfolio assessment for students with severe disabilities and the alternative assessments for high school graduation. At the same time, the Superintendent of Public Instruction has initiated additional modifications of the system, most notably to offer the WASL entirely online. The Committee will receive an update on the status of these assessment issues during December Committee Assembly.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain

**House of Representatives
Education Appropriations
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 14, 2009	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Early Learning Budget Reductions • K-12 Operating Budget for 2009-11 • Higher Education Budgets for 2009-11 • Higher Education Student Finances 	Work Session
October 1	1:30 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School District Budget Reductions • Update Changes Made to Online Learning 	Work Session
Adjacent to December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee joint with Education, Early Learning & Children's Services, and Ways & Means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of ESHB 2261 (Basic Education) • Early Learning as Part of Basic Education 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study on Alternatives for Assuring Long-Term Financial Solvency of GET • Tuition Policy Report (ESHB 2344) • Passport to College Promise Program Pipeline Study 	Work Session

Project Title: Implementation of Early Learning Budget Reductions

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on implementation of budget reductions for early learning.

Project Description:

The Committee will review the budget reductions included in the 2009-11 operating budget for the Department of Early Learning, and will review the implementation of those reductions, including the reduction in funding for Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) slots.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2009

Staff Assigned: Wendy Polzin

Project Title: K-12 Operating Budget for 2009-11

Project Goal:

Review the enacted K-12 operating budget for 2009-11.

Project Description:

The House and Senate had different approaches to funding K-12 public schools in their budget proposals. The Committee will receive a summary of the final operating budget for K-12 public schools that passed the Legislature and was signed by the Governor.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2009

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick

Project Title: Higher Education Budgets for 2009-11

Project Goal:

Review the higher education operating budget for 2009-11, particularly the implementation of budget reductions.

Project Description:

Higher education institutions received authorization to increase tuition by up to 14 percent per year for 4-year institutions and up to 7 percent per year for community and technical colleges. Higher education institutions also received a portion of the federal stimulus funds that offset some budget reductions. The Committee will review the higher education portion of the 2009-11 operating budget and how the institutions are implementing the budget, particularly the net budget reductions. The impact on enrollment will also be reviewed.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2009

Staff Assigned: Debbie Driver

Project Title: Higher Education Student Finances

Project Goal:

Discuss the financial cost of attending higher education institutions and available financial assistance.

Project Description:

Tuition costs and fees will increase in the 2009-11 biennium. The Committee will discuss the cost of higher education for students and financial resources available to them.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2009

Staff Assigned: Debbie Driver

Project Title: School District Budget Reductions

Project Goal:

Review various approaches taken by school districts to manage budget reductions.

Project Description:

School districts received a reduction on average of approximately 5 percent in Near General Fund-State appropriations for the 2009-11 biennium, or an average of approximately 3 percent when federal stimulus funds are included. The Committee will review some of the approaches school districts have taken to accommodate these budget reductions.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick

Project Title: Update Changes Made to Online Learning

Project Goal:

Review the implementation of SSB 5410 regarding online learning.

Project Description:

SSB 5410 establishes a program to regulate online learning programs for K-12 public education. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) must adopt criteria and a process for approving and rescinding approval of certain online course providers. OSPI is to create an Office of Online Learning. State funding for students enrolled in online courses, beginning in the 2011-12 school year, is to be provided only if the courses are offered by an approved online provider, through a school district program where fewer than 10 percent of students in the program are from other districts, or through an inter-district cooperative. School districts must adopt policies and procedures regarding student access to online learning by the 2010-11 school year.

The Committee will be briefed on the implementation of SSB 5410.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick

Project Title: Implementation of ESHB 2261 (Basic Education)

Project Goal:

Monitor implementation of ESHB 2261 (Basic Education) and gain more in-depth understanding of the various issues that must be addressed in 2010 and beyond.

Project Description:

ESHB 2261 establishes a framework for a new definition of Basic Education and funding formulas, to be phased-in in future years. In the near-term, the act establishes a number of working groups, assigns specific tasks to state agencies such as the State Board of Education and the Professional Educator Standards Board, and creates a Quality Education Council to monitor and oversee this work and make recommendations to the 2010 Legislature regarding next steps in implementing the legislation.

The Education Appropriations, Education, Early Learning & Children's Services, and Ways & Means Committees will meet jointly in a special work session before December Committee Assembly for a thorough briefing and discussion in preparation for the 2010 Session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session joint with Education, Early Learning & Children's Services, and Ways & Means

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick, Wendy Polzin, Kristen Fraser, Barbara McLain, Sydney Forrester, and Cece Clynn

Project Title: Early Learning as Part of Basic Education

Project Goal:

Discuss the legal and policy issues associated with including early learning as part of Basic Education.

Project Description:

ESHB 2261 (2009) establishes a framework for a new definition of Basic Education and funding formulas to be phased-in in future years. As passed by the Legislature, ESHB 2261 added early learning for at-risk children to the definition of Basis Education; the Governor vetoed this provision. The Education Appropriations, Ways & Means, Education, and Early Learning and Children's Services Committees will review the Governor's rationale for the veto and discuss legal and policy issues associated with including early learning as part of Basic Education. Included will be a discussion of how to define children eligible for early learning services should they be included in the definition of Basic Education in the future.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session joint with Education, Early Learning & Children's Services, and Ways & Means

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Wendy Polzin, Ben Rarick, Kristen Fraser, Barbara McLain, and Sydney Forrester.

Project Title: Study on Alternatives for Assuring Long-Term Financial Solvency of GET

Project Goal:

Review alternatives for assuring the long-term financial solvency of the Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) program.

Project Description:

The Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) program was created in 1998 as Washington's 529 (IRS) prepaid college tuition plan. This program allows the purchase of GET units now to cover college tuition later. The state guarantees that 100 GET units will cover one year of residential tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive Washington public university, either UW or WSU. GET assumes a long-term average annual tuition increase of up to 7 percent; for 2009-11, four year universities are authorized to increase tuition up to 14 percent per year and CTCs are authorized to increase tuition up to 7 percent per year.

The State Actuary is conducting a review of alternatives for assuring the long-term financial solvency of the GET program. The study and recommendations are to be completed by November 15, 2009. The Committee will hear the findings and recommendations of the study.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Debbie Driver

Project Title: Tuition Policy Report (ESHB 2344)

Project Goal:

Review the findings and recommendations of the tuition policy report under ESHB 2344.

Project Description:

The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) is to convene a group of stakeholders to examine tuition policy including: (1) a high tuition, high financial aid model; (2) a model with differential tuition based on income; and (3) other tuition models or approaches. The report is due by November 1, 2009.

The Committee will review the findings of the HECB's examination of various tuition policy options.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Debbie Driver

Project Title: Passport to College Promise Program Pipeline Study

Project Goal:

Review the study on Passport to College Promise program and financial aid opportunities for foster children.

Project Description:

The Passport to College Promise program is a recently created program that provides grants, counseling, and other support services to former foster care children who enroll in a Washington college or university. Not as many former foster care children are entering college as expected, which resulted in a reduction in funding to correspond to actual estimated expenditures. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy is to evaluate the adequacy of and access to financial aid and independent living programs for foster care youth going to college. The evaluation/study is due December 1, 2009.

The Committee will review the findings and recommendations of the evaluation/study.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Debbie Driver

**House of Representatives
Environmental Health
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unwanted Drugs from Residential Sources 	Work Session
September 30	1:30 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesticide Drift - Report on Airborne Pesticide Concentration Levels of Possible Concern to Human Health 	Work Session
November	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and Healthful Food • Mercury-containing Products 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Use of Bisphenol A in Consumer Products 	Work Session

Project Title: Unwanted Drugs from Residential Sources

Project Goal:

Develop legislation for the 2010 session.

Project Description:

Bills have been introduced in the last two legislative sessions that established a program to take back unwanted drugs from residential sources and appropriately dispose of them. In the 2009 session, 2SHB 1165 passed out of two committees and was on the floor calendar in the House of Representatives. Additional work will be done with stakeholders to develop legislation for the 2010 session. Committee members will receive background information on this issue including pilot projects in Washington and a drug take-back program in British Columbia.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson

Project Title: Pesticide Drift - Report on Airborne Pesticide Concentration Levels of Possible Concern to Human Health

Project Goal:

Review the study of off-target movement of certain pesticides to determine if levels are of concern to human health.

Project Description:

A two-year study was directed by the Department of Health through a contract with the University of Washington and Washington State University to examine airborne pesticide concentration levels in agricultural areas of the state to see if levels exceed those of concern to public health. The results of the study and any public health concerns were due by April 2009 and will be presented to the Committee at the October Committee Assembly.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson

Project Title: Safe and Healthful Food

Project Goal:

Develop legislation for the 2010 session.

Project Description:

HB 2309 was introduced in the 2009 session. The bill would establish a Commission on Safe and Healthful Food. The Commission would look at current issues regarding food borne illnesses and disclosure to consumers of food processes that preserve or enhance food for retail sale. The Commission would also serve as a forum for discussion and resolution of food safety and health issues. Additional stakeholder work will be done to develop legislation for the 2010 session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson

Project Title: Mercury-containing Products

Project Goal:

Develop legislation for the 2010 session.

Project Description:

Different approaches have been proposed for reducing the amount of mercury in the environment. 2SHB 1469 presented the approach of establishing a product stewardship program for mercury-containing lights. SHB 1799 took the approach of directing the Department of Ecology to research and recommend a recycling program for mercury-containing general purpose lights and banning the sale of bulk mercury. Neither bill was enacted. Additional work will be done with stakeholders to develop a legislative approach for the 2010 session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson

Project Title: The Use of Bisphenol A in Consumer Products

Project Goal:

Develop legislation for the 2010 session.

Project Description:

Both House and Senate members introduced bills to regulate or ban the use of bisphenol A (BPA) in certain consumer products. Additional work will be done with stakeholders to develop legislation for the 2010 session. The Committee will receive additional background on the issues raised during the 2009 session regarding the use of this chemical including the availability of alternatives to BPA and actions by other jurisdictions to prohibit its use in certain products.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson

**House of Representatives
Finance
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October 2	1:30 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and Revenue Forecast • Conversion of Resale Certificates to Seller's Permits • Streamlined Sales Tax Issues 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and Revenue Forecast • 2009 Performance Review of Tax Preferences • Electronic Filing of Tax Returns and Taxes • Business and Occupation and Sales and Use Tax Nexus Issues 	Work Session

Project Title: Economic and Revenue Forecast

Project Goal:

Brief Committee on economic and revenue forecast.

Project Description:

The state's economic and revenue forecast is updated four times a year. The forecast is adopted by the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council. The Council is made up of members of the House and Senate and two Governor appointees. The Committee will receive a briefing on the forecast after the September and November updates.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Rick Peterson

Project Title: Conversion of Resale Certificates to Seller's Permits

Project Goal:

Brief Committee on implementation of Conversion of Resale Certificates to Seller's Permits.

Project Description:

Legislation adopted in the 2009 session converts the resale certificates to a seller's permit. The resale certificate is used by wholesale purchasers of items subject to retail sales tax as a method of documenting the item is being purchased for the purpose of resale and that retail sales tax is not due. Due to concerns over misuse of these resale certificates, legislation (SB 6173) was enacted that will end the use of these certificates and implement a new system. Under the new system sellers will apply to the Department of Revenue for a seller's permit. The Committee will review the Department of Revenue's implementation of the conversion from resale certificates to seller's permits. The Committee will identify issues and concerns, and develop recommendations for legislative modifications.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Jeff Mitchell

Project Title: Streamlined Sales Tax Issues

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on Streamlined Sales Tax Issues.

Project Description:

Washington is a full member of the national Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (SSUTA). To maintain Washington's status as a full member, Washington must from time to time conform its sales and use tax law to policies adopted by the national agreement. The Committee will be updated on recent developments regarding the SSUTA including:

- A. Implementation issues related to small internet vendors – status of tools available to assist these sellers.
- B. Implementation of Washington's conformance to SSUTA definitions for digital goods (ESHB 2075).
- C. Update on recent activity at the Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board.
- D. Update on status of federal legislation related to streamlined sales tax.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Jeff Mitchell

Project Title: 2009 Performance Review of Tax Preferences

Project Goal:

Brief the Committee on the 2009 performance reviews of tax preferences.

Project Description:

The Citizen Commission for Performance Measurement of Tax Preferences was established by the 2006 Legislature (EHB 1069). The Commission schedules for review all tax preferences at least once every ten years. Tax exemptions due to expire within two years are also scheduled for review. The Joint Legislative Legislative Audit and Review Committee staff performs the audits and the Commission provides comments and recommendations. In 2009, the third round of tax preference audits will be completed. The Committee will be briefed on the performance audits and the recommendations of the Commission. The Committee will develop potential legislation in response to these audits.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Rick Peterson

Project Title: Electronic Filing of Tax Returns and Taxes

Project Goal:

Review Department of Revenue implementation of legislation relating to electronic filing of tax returns and taxes.

Project Description:

Legislation enacted during the 2009 session (SSB 5571 - electronic filing/payment of taxes) requires monthly taxpayers to electronically file tax returns and pay taxes by electronic funds transfer or other electronic method. The Department may waive this requirement for any taxpayer for good cause. Taxpayers who file returns on a quarterly or annual basis may also file and pay electronically. Tax assessments, notices, and other information from the Department of Revenue to taxpayers will be electronically delivered unless the taxpayer does not have the equipment to receive the information. The Committee will review the Department of Revenue's implementation of the program and develop legislation, as needed.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Rick Peterson

Project Title: Business and Occupation and Sales and Use Tax Nexus Issues

Project Goal:

Brief the Committee on Business and Occupation and Sales and Use tax nexus issues.

Project Description:

"Nexus" is the connection required to exist between a state and a potential taxpayer such that the state has the constitutional right to impose a tax. The United States Constitution limits the states' right to tax through the Due Process Clause and the Commerce Clause. The Committee will be briefed on issues of tax nexus related to Business and Occupation and Sales and Use taxes. The briefing will include a discussion of local government tax nexus issues.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Jeff Mitchell

**House of Representatives
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October 1	1:30 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Data Recorders in Auto Insurance • Securitization of Asset Streams 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Unbanked and Underbanked • Public Deposit Protection Committee 	Work Session

Project Title: Event Data Recorders in Auto Insurance

Project Goal:

Consider the current regulatory structure regarding insurer use of information from event data recorders and discuss possible legislation.

Project Description:

In 2009, the Legislature contemplated three bills that addressed the use of information gathered by event data recorders and other similar devices by insurers. Event data recorders (EDRs) are devices that may be installed in cars by the manufacturer or at a later date. The EDRs gather a variety of information that may include speed, direction, location of the vehicle, manner of driving (including acceleration, braking, and steering).

One bill (SSB 5708) concerned the confidentiality of insurer rating models that included this information. This bill was heard in the House Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee but was not voted on by the Committee. The other two bills (SSB 5574 and SHB 1500) were very similar but were not companions. Both SSB 5574 and SHB 1500 addressed the installment of these devices in vehicles by manufacturers, disclosures to buyers of those vehicles, and access to the information by third-parties. There were also provisions in both bills related to the use of the information by insurers in underwriting and in claims handling. Both bills went through the House Transportation Committee. SSB 5574 was enacted without the insurance provisions.

In addition to the use of information based on EDRs by insurers, the Committee will also discuss related "pay-per-mile" and mileage-based concepts in auto insurance.

The Committee will review the recent bills, review regulatory activity in other states, and will discuss regulatory and legislative options.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

Project Title: Securitization of Asset Streams

Project Goal:

Learn about the regulatory oversight of asset streams, including recent state and federal activity and the parameters of state authority over these products.

Project Description:

Recent national and state news has illustrated an increasing trend in finance involving the securitization of asset streams. This development has also been brought to the attention of the Committee due to various bills and work sessions in the context of both lending and insurance over the last several years. Loans, including mortgage loans, are packaged, securitized and sold to investors. Often, the borrower is unaware of the sale of the loan. Insurance-related products, including the right to collect the benefits of a life insurance policy, are also being securitized and sold.

The states and the federal government have regulatory roles in the oversight of these securitized products. The Committee will review the current state of regulation regarding the securitization of asset streams.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

Project Title: The Unbanked and Underbanked

Project Goal:

Review programs aimed at the unbanked and the underbanked and consider potential legislation for the 2010 session.

Project Description:

During the past two legislative sessions, the Committee has considered bills to establish a framework that would provide access to capital and services to low-income individuals through a network of community-based organizations, financial institutions, consumers, and local and state governments (HB 1829 in 2009 and 2SHB 3221 in 2008).

Communities in Washington and across the country have made similar efforts. One example is the Bank on Seattle program. Several community-based organizations, financial institutions, and governmental agencies have collaborated to help people open free or low-cost checking accounts and a savings accounts at one of the participating banks or credit unions.

The Committee will examine the issues facing the unbanked and underbanked, review existing program models, and consider potential legislation for the 2010 session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Alison Hellberg

Project Title: Public Deposit Protection Committee

Project Goal:

Monitor the implementation of legislation that made changes to the powers and duties of the Public Deposit Protection Commission (PDPC).

Project Description:

Request legislation from the State Treasurer, SHB 2061, was enacted during the 2009 session and made numerous changes to the powers and duties of the PDPC. The act requires that the State Treasurer report annually on December 1 to the Legislature on actions taken by the PDPC and the Treasurer to protect public deposits. The Committee will monitor the activities of the PDPC, and the State Treasurer will present the report to the Committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Alison Hellberg

**House of Representatives
General Government Appropriations
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 2009	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Budget Reductions for Major General Government Agencies 	Work Session
October 1	1:30 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Central Services to State Agencies 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 Session Preview and Budget Outlook • Overview of the State Budgeting Process • Follow-up on the Budget Impacts for Housing and Food Bank Programs • Review the Potential Closure of Department of Corrections Institutions/Units 	Work Session

Project Title: Implementation of Budget Reductions for Major General Government Agencies

Project Goal:

Review the impacts to general government agencies from reductions in the 2009-11 operating budget, and the implementation of measures taken to realize the reductions.

Project Description:

The 2009-11 operating budget includes significant reductions in many general government agencies. A number of general government agencies, including the Judicial Branch agencies, Department of Corrections, Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Commission, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Military Department, Human Rights Commission, Department of Commerce, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and Department of General Administration will provide updates to the Committee and staff on (1) FTE reductions; (2) the impacts of administrative and program cuts; (3) how they are mitigating the cuts through efficiencies, reorganizations, or restructuring of service delivery models; and (4) their base budgets.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2009

Staff Assigned: Alex MacBain, Owen Rowe, Melissa Palmer, Serah Stetson, and Steve Smith

Project Title: Delivery of Central Services to State Agencies

Project Goal:

Discuss ways to make the delivery of central services more effective and efficient.

Project Description:

The Committee will discuss and review:

- (1) The delivery of central services and an overview of revolving funds;
- (2) Presentations from central service agencies on how rates are set and costs are allocated;
- (3) An update on the work of the Central Services Work Group, created in Section 906 of the state operating budget; and
- (4) Presentation of the Central Services Work Group's proposal to improve delivery of central services to state agencies.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Dave Johnson, Steve Smith, and Serah Stetson

Project Title: 2010 Session Preview and Budget Outlook

Project Goal:

Provide a preview of major budget related items likely facing the 2010 Legislature.

Project Description:

The Committee will be briefed on the budget outlook for the 2010 session, focusing on the status of the balance sheet based on recent revenue and caseload forecasts, and highlight other major budget items likely to arise in the 2010 Legislature.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Dave Johnson, Charlie Gavigan, Alex MacBain, and Serah Stetson

Project Title: Overview of the State Budgeting Process

Project Goal:

Review the overall budget process.

Project Description:

The budget process begins in the spring of even numbered years, with agencies submitting requests (August/September), the Governor proposing her budget (December), and the Legislature adopting a budget the following spring. The Committee will review the basics of the budget development process. This will include budget timelines, processes, supplemental budgets, maintenance and policy level, FTEs, etc.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Dave Johnson and Charlie Gavigan

Project Title: Follow-up on the Budget Impacts for Housing and Food Bank Programs

Project Goal:

Review the status of food bank and housing programs and the impact that budget reductions have on these programs and the clients they serve.

Project Description:

The 2009-11 operating budget contains reductions to programs that serve people with limited options for obtaining basic services, including food bank and housing programs.

The Committee will review the impact of budget reductions on these programs and the clients the programs serve.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Steve Smith

**Project Title: Review the Potential Closure of Department of Corrections
Institutions/Units**

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on the study of the feasibility of closing Department of Corrections' institutions or units.

Project Description:

The 2009-11 operating budget assumes savings from the closure of Department of Corrections' facilities and units. The facilities and units are not specifically identified. The Office of Financial Management is directed to conduct a study of the feasibility of closing institutional facilities and eliminating beds. The Committee will monitor the study.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Alex MacBain

**House of Representatives
Health & Human Services Appropriations
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September	Half Day	Olympia	Full Committee	• Budget Implementation Efforts for Health Services Programs	Work Session
October 1	1:30 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	• Budget Implementation Efforts for Human Services Programs	Work Session
November	Half Day	Olympia	Full Committee	• Government Program Efficiencies and Reforms • National Health Care Reform	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	• Budget Impact on Public Assistance Programs	Work Session

Project Title: Budget Implementation Efforts for Health Services Programs

Project Goal:

Review the measures taken by agencies to realize the reductions to health services programs outlined in the 2009-11 biennial budget.

Project Description:

The 2009-11 operating budget included significant reductions in several key health services programs. Monitoring the effects of the decreased funding will be important as future funding decisions are made.

The Committee will hear testimony from agencies regarding budget items affecting several health services programs; strategies used for implementing reductions; and the impacts of budget reductions on clients and service providers and how those impacts are being measured by the program. In discussing implementation strategies, the Committee will hear about alternative service delivery models and efficiencies realized by the program. Discussions will also address how the budget has affected the safety net structure and how the program is monitoring the strength of the safety net.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2009

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake, Erik Cornellier, Carma Matti, Melissa Palmer, Wendy Polzin, and Trista Zugel

Project Title: Budget Implementation Efforts for Human Services Programs

Project Goal:

Review the measures taken by agencies to realize the reductions to human services programs outlined in the 2009-11 biennial budget.

Project Description:

The 2009-11 operating budget included significant reductions in several key human services programs. Monitoring the effects of the decreased funding will be important as future funding decisions are made.

The Committee will hear testimony from agencies regarding budget items affecting several human services programs; strategies used for implementing reductions, and the impacts of budget reductions on clients and service providers and how those impacts are being measured by the program. In discussing implementation strategies, the Committee will hear about alternative service delivery models and efficiencies realized by the program. Discussions will also address how the budget has affected the safety net structure and how the program is monitoring the strength of the safety net.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake, Erik Cornellier, Carma Matti, Melissa Palmer, Wendy Polzin, and Trista Zugel

Project Title: Government Program Efficiencies and Reforms

Project Goal:

Evaluate alternative structures for providing government services in a more cost-effective manner.

Project Description:

During the 2009 legislative session, the Committee actively sought ideas from agencies and members of the public regarding more efficient ways of delivering services to save money. There are several activities that will be taking place over the interim to assess ways to achieve greater administrative efficiencies.

The Committee will hold a work session to consider the results of the Office of Financial Management's study to close or consolidate juvenile rehabilitation facility beds and residential habilitation center beds. The Committee will also review programs in various agencies that address similar concerns and determine whether or not there are opportunities to streamline the services through consolidation, such as nurse visitation programs. In addition, the Committee will review the various auditing standards at the Department of Social and Health Services and opportunities for simplifying auditing processes to benefit the agency and its contractors.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2009

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake, Erik Cornellier, Carma Matti, Melissa Palmer, Wendy Polzin, and Trista Zugel

Project Title: National Health Care Reform

Project Goal:

Review any changes at the federal level to the current system of providing health care coverage and what those changes mean for health care provided by the state.

Project Description:

Discussions are occurring at the federal level relating to the development of a different system for providing health care coverage to people. The results of the efforts could change the state's role in providing health care coverage.

The Committee will monitor the development of changes to the health care system at the federal level and the impact that it will have on the way that the state provides coverage for health care services. The Committee will focus on changes to the populations that will be covered, changes to existing program, state obligations under a new system, and the cost of providing coverage to the individuals that it is responsible for covering.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2009

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake and Erik Cornellier

Project Title: Budget Impact on Public Assistance Programs

Project Goal:

Review the status of public assistance system providers and any impact that budget reductions have had on these providers and the clients that are served.

Project Description:

The 2009-11 biennial budget contained several reductions to programs that serve people with limited options for obtaining necessary basic life services, including food, housing, and health care services. There is a system of community providers that serve people on these public assistance programs. The Committee is responsible for certain public assistance programs that relate to food assistance, public hospitals, community health centers, public health agencies, and other entities that assist the most vulnerable populations.

The Committee will identify objective criteria to indicate the status of the public assistance system and the clients that it serves. The Committee will receive an update on the status of providers in the public assistance system according to these criteria and the role of recent budget reductions on public assistance programs and their clients.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake, Erik Cornellier, Carma Matti, Melissa Palmer, Wendy Polzin, and Trista Zugel

**House of Representatives
Health Care & Wellness
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	• Health Care Coverage Expansion	Work Session
October 2	1:30 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	• Diagnostic Imaging Standards • Health Care Coverage Expansion	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	• Apple Health for Kids Implementation Activities • Reorganization of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency, and Health Care Services • Vaccine Distribution for Children	Work Session

Project Title: Health Care Coverage Expansion

Project Goal:

Identify state statutory changes needed to implement federal health care coverage initiatives.

Project Description:

2SSB 5945 (Washington Health Partnership Plan) directs the Departments of Social and Health Services and Health to submit federal waiver requests related to the Medicaid program and family planning services. Congressional leaders and the Obama Administration have indicated they hope to enact health care coverage expansions before the end of December, 2009. The Committee will monitor the development of the two waiver requests and congressional action on a health care coverage expansion designed to provide affordable, accessible, quality health care coverage for all Americans.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Diagnostic Imaging Standards

Project Goal:

Monitor development of common diagnostic imaging standards for use by public and private purchasers of health care services.

Project Description:

ESHB 2079 (Health Professional Licensing Information) directs the Health Care Authority to develop a common standard for the use of diagnostic imaging for all state agencies that purchase health care services and private purchasers of health care services. The standards must be developed by July 1, 2009, and must be used by all state agencies that purchase health care services beginning September 1, 2009. The Committee will be updated on the development and use of these standards.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Apple Health for Kids Implementation Activities

Project Goal:

Review the Apple Health for Kids health insurance benefit package created by the Department of Social and Health Services for children in families with household incomes over 300 percent of the federal poverty level.

Project Description:

ESHB 2128 (Health Care Coverage for Children) directs the Department of Social and Health Services to develop a health insurance plan for children living in families with household incomes over 300 percent of the federal poverty level. The Department will also develop a reporting system to track the health outcomes of children that will be the basis for provider reimbursement. The Committee will collect information on the progress in achieving these requirements.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Reorganization of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency, and Health Care Services

Project Goal:

Monitor the reorganization of elements of the Department of Social and Health Services related to mental health, chemical dependency, and Medicaid health care services.

Project Description:

The Department of Social and Health Services recently announced that it will be reorganizing elements of the Health and Recovery Services Administration related to mental health, chemical dependency, and managed health care services. Some elements of this reorganization may require the modification of existing statutes. The Committee will review the reorganization efforts and identify any issues requiring statutory modification.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Vaccine Distribution for Children

Project Goal:

Develop a revised vaccine distribution system for children beginning on July 1, 2010.

Project Description:

The Legislature directed in the operating budget that by July 2010, after one year of time for the provider community to transition to a non-universal vaccine program, state funds will no longer be provided to cover non-low income children's vaccinations. Washington State will transfer to "VFC + Underinsured" status which will allow federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) and 317 Direct Assistance (DA) funds to cover low-income children in Medicaid and other state-funded health care programs. The Department of Health will use existing 317 DA funds as well as those that come available per the American Recovery and Re-investment Act to insure continued coverage of those low-income children who do not qualify for the VFC program. The Committee will participate in a process to identify how the vaccine distribution system will operate beginning July 1, 2010.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Medical Assistant's Scope of Practice

Project Goal:

Determine whether the expanded scope of practice should be made permanent.

Project Description:

With the passage of SHB 1414 (Health Care Assistants), the Legislature authorized some minor expansions to the scope of practice of registered health care assistants, so long as there are clearly defined limitations to their scope expressly linked to education, training, and supervision. The expanded scope of practice is scheduled to expire in 2013.

The Committee will monitor the expanded activities that health care assistants can perform and determine whether the expanded scope of practice should be modified, expanded, or terminated at a point in the future.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima

Project Title: Mental Health and Medical Record Privacy Standards

Project Goal:

Develop common privacy standards for mental health and medical records.

Project Description:

• State statutes related to the confidentiality and disclosure of mental health treatment records and medical records will be reviewed to determine whether changes are needed to harmonize statutes related to medical records and mental health records.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima and Linda Merelle

Project Title: Monitor Impact of Budget Reductions on Long Term Care Programs

Project Goal:

Identify the impact of reductions in funding to adult day health programs on clients and the utilization of other therapies and home health services, and whether boarding homes are reducing Medicaid clients in their facilities.

Project Description:

The 2009-11 operating budget reduced funding to adult day health programs and boarding homes. This activity will determine whether there is a measurable impact of these budget decisions on clients and other long-term care services.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

**House of Representatives
Higher Education
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 27, 2009	9:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	• Improving Participation and Completion Rates in Higher Education	Work Session
October 2	8:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	• Performance Agreements and Accountability	Work Session
October 2009	Half Day	Olympia	Full Committee	• Tuition, Student Indebtedness, and System Expansion	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	• Major Reports and Updates	Work Session

Project Title: Improving Participation and Completion Rates in Higher Education

Project Goal:

Gain a greater understanding of participation by various demographic groups in higher education and workforce preparatory programs and best practices with respect to boosting participation and completion rates by underrepresented groups.

Project Description:

Experts from across the state will be invited to share their knowledge and experience regarding:

- 1) Participation and completion rates by various demographic groups in higher education, including dual credit programs, two and four year institutions, and workforce preparatory programs;
- 2) Existing barriers to greater participation and completion;
- 3) Existing programs for increasing participation and completion; and
- 4) Best practices and recommendations for increasing participation and completion rates by underrepresented groups.

The Professional Educator Standards Board will also be invited to share information with respect to its progress, to date, in fulfilling tasks assigned to it under 2SSB 5973 (achievement gap) to identify model standards for educator cultural competency and to develop additional partnership programs for alternative route teacher preparation aimed at increasing cultural competency.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: July 2009

Staff Assigned: Cece Clynch

Project Title: Performance Agreements and Accountability

Project Goal:

Receive updates on the development of performance agreements and better understand the number and type of accountability reporting requirements at baccalaureate institutions.

Project Description:

The Committee will work with the baccalaureate institutions to assemble a compendium of all current accountability reporting requirements. This data will be used to identify what information is currently collected, by whom, how frequently, and to whom it is reported (state or federal requirement). The analysis will be used to better understand the degree to which accountability reporting is aligned with the performance agreements, if some requirements are duplicative, and if there are gaps in the type of information the Legislature is receiving.

The Committee work session will involve the Higher Education Coordinating Board, the baccalaureate institutions, the Council of Presidents, and the Education Research and Data Center. The institutions will be asked to report on their progress in developing performance agreements, pursuant to requirements in the operating budget, and recommend actions needed to fully implement the agreements at all baccalaureate institutions.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Andi Smith

Project Title: Tuition, Student Indebtedness, and System Expansion

Project Goal:

Develop a broader understanding of tuition policies used in other states, impacts of those policies on student access to higher education, and implications for expansion of higher education institutions in Washington.

Project Description:

Legislation enacted during the 2009 session requires the Higher Education Coordinating Board to conduct two evaluations. The first, required by ESHB 2344, is an evaluation of tuition policy, including a review of administrative feasibility, interaction with other state and federal programs, and impacts on students. The second, required by 2SHB 1946, is an evaluation of the use of existing Information Technology resources at all public institutions of higher education. The Board must make recommendations on how to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of education relative to the use of technology. The board is also voluntarily undertaking a project to develop a framework that will guide the growth of higher education institutions.

The purpose of the Committee's work session is to better understand the connections between tuition policy, system expansion, and the use of technology in improving access, affordability, and quality of higher education. The HECB and the other higher education stakeholders will be asked to participate in a dialogue regarding the results of the HECB's work to date, including an opportunity for the committee members to provide clear feedback regarding higher education committee member expectations prior to the reports being finalized.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009

Staff Assigned: Andi Smith

Project Title: Major Reports and Updates

Project Goal:

Receive updates from various agencies and institutions on projects assigned to them during the previous legislative session.

Project Description:

The Higher Education Coordinating Board will be asked to provide an update on its system design plan, discussed at the October work session. While the October work session was held to inform the HECB and stakeholders of Higher Education Committee member expectations, this meeting will include the final report on the recommendations approved by the HECB at its board meeting in November. The plan will provide a coordinated response to current regional and institutional demands for additional campuses, new degree programs, and expanded missions. The HECB's report will make specific recommendations to determine the role and scope of institutions and educational sectors; develop policies and procedures to plan and authorize growth and change; and recommend how growth and change should occur while making maximum use of existing resources.

The HECB will also make a preliminary progress report on the work group to improve the effective use of technology in higher education, pursuant to 2SHB 1946. The HECB was required to convene a work group to investigate efforts in other states regarding online learning technologies, personalized online student services, integrated administrative tools, shared library resources, methods for sharing digital content, methods for pooling and sharing enrollments in online classes, and methods for ensuring quality of online programs and classes. The report will include an update on the evaluation of these efforts in other states as well as preliminary results from a comprehensive audit of all information technology resources currently in use at institutions of higher education.

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) will provide a progress report on the implementation of "open course materials". Open course materials are openly-licensed textbooks and other educational material offered online by its author(s). The open license sets open textbooks apart from traditional textbooks by allowing users to read online, download, or print the book at no cost. The SBCTC was appropriated \$2.225 million in the operating budget to implement this technology throughout the community and technical college system in an effort to save students money and make college more financially accessible. The SBCTC's work will be closely linked with the HECB's work on the technology transformation taskforce.

Finally, the HECB was also required to conduct an evaluation of tuition policy, pursuant to ESHB 2344. The HECB will provide a report to the Committee on the findings of the evaluation, especially as they relate to impacts on students. The HECB will make recommendations to the committee on specific action steps necessary during the 2010 legislative session to implement changes to current tuition policy.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Andi Smith and Cece Clynych

**House of Representatives
Human Services
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 14, 2009	10:00 am	Olympia	Full Committee	• Effectiveness of Adult Drug and Alcohol Services	Work Session
September 2009	TBA	Chehalis or Centralia	Full Committee	• Best Practices for Juvenile Offenders and Potential Application for Adult Offenders	Work Session
October 2	10:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	• Mentally Ill Offenders—Retrospective Review and Plans for Progress in Times of Severe Budgetary Restraints	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	• Evidence-based System of Community Custody for Adult Felons • Savings and Efficiencies in the General Assistance/Unemployable Program (GAU)	Work Session

Project Title: Effectiveness of Adult Drug and Alcohol Services

Project Goal:

Provide substantive information to Committee members regarding how alcohol and drug services are delivered. This information will assist members in addressing policy issues that come before the committee.

Project Description:

The Committee will conduct a work session to examine best practices models regarding the delivery of drug and alcohol services, including methods for addressing chronic public intoxication and data related to outcomes of drug and alcohol treatment. Such outcomes would include employment, recidivism, and use of medical care services and other data compiled and assessed by the Department of Social and Health Services which indicate the effectiveness of services.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: July 2009

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Best Practices for Juvenile Offenders and Potential Application for Adult Offenders

Project Goal:

Provide substantive information to Committee members regarding models for rehabilitation and re-entry work for juvenile offenders and examine how those models and practices may be applied to adult offenders.

Project Description:

The Committee will conduct an all-day meeting at either the Maple Lane or Green Hill Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration facilities where members will hear from experts and professionals, and juvenile offenders who have taken part in the programs employing best practices.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2009

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Mentally Ill Offenders—Retrospective Review and Plans for Progress in Times of Severe Budgetary Restraints

Project Goal:

Provide substantive information to Committee members regarding what reforms to involuntary commitment proceedings, supervision, and access to information regarding mentally ill offenders have been accomplished and how to make further progress.

Project Description:

The Committee will conduct a work session which will take a retrospective look at the involuntary commitment proceedings, supervision, and access to information regarding mentally ill offenders and what has been accomplished with recent legislation, including House Bills 1201, 1300, and 1349 enacted during the 2009 session, and a prospective look at what further progress can be made in times where funding is scarce.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Evidence-based System of Community Custody for Adult Felons

Project Goal:

Provide substantive information to Committee members regarding models for supervision of community custody for adult offenders.

Project Description:

The Committee will conduct a work session which will (1) review the efforts of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission to develop an evidence-based system for community custody for adult offenders; and (2) monitor the implementation and impact of the modified supervision of offenders under the newly developed risk-assessment model and the modified categories of offenders that will be supervised as provided in SB 5288.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Savings and Efficiencies in the General Assistance/Unemployable Program (GAU)

Project Goal:

Provide substantive information to Committee members regarding efficient, cost-effective administration of the GAU program.

Project Description:

The Committee will examine how to make "smart savings" in the General Assistance/Unemployable Program (GAU) program, including how the Department of Veteran's Services is working with the GAU population. Also, the Committee will examine the Economic Services Administration's implementation of its intensive review of GAU clients who have been in the program for a year or more.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

**House of Representatives
Judiciary
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October 2	10:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Contact Registry • Drowsy Driving 	Public Hearing/ Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third-Party Visitation 	Public Hearing/ Work Session
Emergency Contact Registry Work Group					
DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
June 18, 2009	TBA	Olympia	Work Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Contact Registry 	Work Session

Project Title: Drowsy Driving

Project Goal:

Examine the issue of drowsy driving, including the extent to which it is a public safety hazard, current methods available to combat drowsy driving, and whether a legislative response is needed.

Project Description:

According to a report by the National Sleep Foundation (NSF), more than half of America's drivers admit to driving while drowsy and nearly two out of five (approximately 2 million people) admit to having actually fallen asleep at the wheel within the past year. According to some articles, fatigue, like alcohol, can slow reaction time, decrease awareness, and impair judgment. Statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show that 100,000 drowsy driving crashes are reported to police each year, killing more than 1,500 people and injuring over 70,000. In Washington, there are about 30-40 deaths on average per year due to drowsy driving.

The Committee will have a work session to allow the Washington State Patrol, the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, and other stakeholder groups to present and discuss the issue of drowsy driving, and in particular explore: (1) how and to what extent drowsy driving is a public safety hazard; (2) how drowsy driving differs from distracted and impaired driving and whether the differences require a different approach to combating the issue; and (3) whether current traffic laws and criminal penalties sufficiently address drowsy driving or whether there is a need for a legislative response.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Trudes Tango

Project Title: Third-Party Visitation

Project Goal:

Develop legislation that establishes a framework for allowing court-ordered child visitation by third parties.

Project Description:

During the 2009 session, the Committee held a work session on the issue of third-party visitation. The work session examined Washington's current unconstitutional third-party visitation statutes, case law governing this issue and de facto parentage, and perspectives from a variety of stakeholders on how to develop legislation to allow third parties to seek and receive court-ordered visitation with children. The Committee will develop a legislative proposal on third-party visitation based on this work session and further discussions with stakeholders.

The Committee will have a public hearing/work session on the proposed legislation at the December Committee Assembly meeting.

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

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Trudes Tango

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEES & TASK FORCES

Project Title: Emergency Contact Registry

Project Goal:

Develop legislation that establishes a mechanism to facilitate notification of an injured person's designated contact in emergency situations.

Project Description:

This session the Committee heard but did not pass HB 1278. HB 1278 creates a registry where a person can designate a contact person to be notified by first responders in the event the person is in need of emergency care.

The Committee will establish a work group to examine the creation of a registry or other mechanism to facilitate notification of an injured person's designated contacts in emergency situations. The work group will include up to five Judiciary Committee members and invited stakeholders such as law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical service providers, hospitals, and government agencies.

The work group will meet once in June to develop proposed legislation. The Committee will have a public hearing/work session on the proposed legislation at the October Committee Assembly meeting.

Number & Type of Meetings: One Work Group meeting and one Committee public hearing/work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Edie Adams

**House of Representatives
Local Government & Housing
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October 2	10:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring the Completion of the Ruckelshaus Center's Examination of Conflicts Between Agricultural Activities and Critical Area Ordinances • Approaches to Maximizing Public Infrastructure 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulation Approvals under the Growth Management Act • Agency Monitoring and Status Reports 	Work Session

Project Title: Monitoring the Completion of the Ruckelshaus Center's Examination of Conflicts Between Agricultural Activities and Critical Area Ordinances

Project Goal:

Monitor and report on the final efforts of the Ruckelshaus Center to examine the conflicts between agricultural activities and critical area ordinances.

Project Description:

Enacted in 2007, SSB 5408 charged the William D. Ruckelshaus Center with conducting a multi-year examination of the conflicts between agricultural activities and regulations to protect certain environmentally sensitive areas that local governments must adopt under the Growth Management Act. The Center began its examination in 2007 and submitted status reports to the Local Government & Housing Committee in December of 2007 and 2008. The final report of the Center must be submitted to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature by September 1, 2009.

In completing this project, the Committee will: receive staff briefings about the Center's examination; correspond with Center staff about project completion efforts; and receive a formal final report briefing from the Center at the October Committee Assembly.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno and Thamas Osborn

Project Title: Approaches to Maximizing Public Infrastructure

Project Goal:

Examine approaches to maximizing the use and support of public infrastructure.

Project Description:

Legislation adopted by the Local Government & Housing Committee in 2009, SHB 1360, proposed the creation of a residential infrastructure program to provide loans and grants for public infrastructure that supports increased capacity for qualifying residential development located near certain transit facilities.

In completing this project, the Committee will examine the relationship between land use, housing, and transit. The project will include an examination of land use patterns and associated service provision costs, transit implications upon housing, and travel and urban design alternatives. A work session for the project will be held during the October Committee Assembly.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno and Thamas Osborn

Project Title: Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulation Approvals under the Growth Management Act

Project Goal:

Examine current and alternative approaches to approving locally-adopted comprehensive plans and development regulations required by the Growth Management Act.

Project Description:

The Growth Management Act (GMA) directs counties and cities to adopt comprehensive plans and development regulations that implement the GMA. Although these plans and regulations are not required to be approved by a state agency, legislation considered by the Committee in 2009, HB 2301, authorized the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (DCTED) to approve comprehensive plans and development regulations adopted under the GMA.

In completing this project, the Committee will examine current and alternative approaches to approving locally adopted comprehensive plans and development regulations required by the GMA. The project will include an examination of existing approval practices, the advisory role of the DCTED, and comparable land use planning approval practices utilized in other states. The project will include a work session at the December Committee Assembly.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno and Thamas Osborn

Project Title: Agency Monitoring and Status Reports

Project Goal:

Monitor agency actions relating to Committee legislation enacted in 2009, and legislative directives of prior years.

Project Description:

Legislation adopted in 2009 by the Committee and subsequently enacted into law established new local government-related directives for state agencies. For example, 2SHB 1172 and EHSB 1959, legislation requested by the Governor, directs the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to establish a regional transfer of development rights program, and to provide grant funds for marine port planning, respectively. Furthermore, SB 5120 requires the State Auditor to conduct a performance audit of the reasonableness of building and inspection fees in selected counties, and SSB 5561 directs the State Building Code Council to adopt rules requiring that residences be equipped with carbon monoxide alarms.

In completing this project, the Committee will receive staff and agency briefings and reports of ongoing and completed efforts resulting from legislative directives adopted in 2009 and prior years. Agency briefings will be held in a work session during the December Committee Assembly.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno and Thamas Osborn

**House of Representatives
Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October 2	8:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delayed Sentencing for Sentences Under One Year • Search and Rescue Activities 	Public Hearing/ Work Session
October 21	Afternoon	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifying the Criminal Sentencing Reform Act Grid and Broadening Judicial Discretion • Guilty and Mentally Ill Offenses • Sex Offender Risk Level Classification and the State v. Ramos Case 	Work Session
November 17	Afternoon	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exoneree Compensation • Quantity-Based Drug Sentencing • State Interoperability Operations 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence Sentencing • Sexually Explicit Depictions of Minors on the Internet • State v. Sutherby - Unit of Prosecution 	Public Hearing/ Work Session

Project Title: Delayed Sentencing for Sentences Under One Year

Project Goal:

Create a "delayed sentencing option" following the entry of a plea of guilty and presentence release conditions for offenders with a standard sentence range of one year or less.

Project Description:

By statute, the court must impose a sentence within 40 days following a conviction, unless either party makes a showing of good cause or the court on its own motion extends the time period for conducting the sentencing hearing. When a person is convicted of a crime, the court must generally sentence the offender within a standard range determined by the person's criminal history and the seriousness level of the crime. During the 2008 legislative session the Committee considered HB 2077 that would have created an alternative delayed sentencing option for certain offenders convicted of non-violent and non-sex offenses, with a standard sentence range of one year or less who would otherwise serve their sentence in a county jail.

The Committee will work with prosecutors, defense attorneys, and Superior Court judges to review and study whether a delayed sentencing option along with mandatory court-ordered conditions is an option that can be implemented within the state's judicial system.

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

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Lara Zarowsky

Project Title: Search and Rescue Activities

Project Goal:

Establish a volunteer search and rescue account to help fund the expenses of local search and rescue organizations that routinely assist law enforcement agencies.

Project Description:

Search and rescue refers to the acts of searching for, rescuing, or recovering by means of ground, marine, or air activity any person who becomes lost, injured, or is killed while outdoors as a result of a natural, technological, or human caused disaster, including instances involving searches for downed aircraft when ground personnel are used. Search and rescue activities are generally initiated by local law enforcement agencies. In instances where a particular emergency event calls for assistance beyond local capabilities, the local emergency management organization calls upon the Department of Transportation (DOT) to assist. If further assistance is required, the DOT calls on the National Guard and federal emergency response agencies.

During the 2008 legislative session the Committee considered HB 1214 that would have established a Volunteer Search and Rescue Account, funded by a surcharge on all recreational licenses issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The funds in this account were to have been used to provide reimbursement through the Emergency Management Division of the state Military Department to volunteer search and rescue organizations for expenses incurred in rendering assistance to law enforcement within the state. The Committee will work in conjunction with the appropriate stakeholders to determine whether establishing such an account is a viable solution to help fund search and rescue activities in the state.

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

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker

Project Title: Modifying the Criminal Sentencing Reform Act Grid and Broadening Judicial Discretion

Project Goal:

Amend the sentencing grid to allow judges greater discretion under the Sentencing Reform Act.

Project Description:

Prior to 1984, courts were required to impose "indeterminate" sentences upon persons convicted of felonies. Under this system, a court would impose a minimum term and a maximum term. The Board of Prison Terms and Paroles (now called the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board) would evaluate the offender and determine whether he or she could be paroled prior to the expiration of the maximum term. Indeterminate sentencing still applies to offenders convicted of offenses committed prior to July 1, 1984. In 1981 the Legislature enacted the Sentencing Reform Act (SRA), which imposed "determinate" sentences on offenders who committed their offenses on or after July 1, 1984. Under determinate sentencing, a court must sentence an offender to a term within a standard range. Prior to 2004, a court could sentence, on its own initiative, an offender above or below the standard range if it found, by a preponderance of the evidence, that aggravating or mitigating circumstances existed. This type of sentence is known as an "exceptional sentence." In 2004 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that sentencing an offender above the standard range in this manner is unconstitutional under *Blakely v. Washington*, 542 U.S. 296 (2004).

During the 2008 legislative session SB 6160 was considered by the Legislature that would have established a new sentencing grid, expanded the circumstances under which a mitigated exceptional sentence may be imposed, and changed the manner in which certain aggravated exceptional sentences were imposed. The Committee will review the bill and work with the necessary affected parties to try to work out many of the issues related to the bill prior to the 2010 legislative session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker

Project Title: Guilty and Mentally Ill Offenses

Project Goal:

Establish a disposition for criminal defendants who are guilty and mentally ill.

Project Description:

The affirmative defense of not guilty by reason of insanity is established if a defendant proves, by a preponderance of the evidence, that at the time of the criminal offense, the defendant had a mental disease or defect which affected the defendant to the extent that either the defendant was unable to perceive the nature or the quality of the act with which the defendant is charged, or that the defendant was unable to tell right from wrong with reference to the particular act charged. A defendant who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity may be committed for treatment to a state hospital if the defendant presents a substantial danger to other persons, or a substantial likelihood of committing criminal acts jeopardizing public safety or security. To date thirteen states have established an offense of Guilty and Mentally Ill, including Alaska, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Utah.

The Committee will consider the possible establishment of a new "Guilty and Mentally Ill" disposition. A defendant who has offered a defense of insanity at trial may be found "Guilty and Mentally ill" if the judge or jury finds that the state has proven the defendant guilty of the crime charged, the defendant has failed to prove the asserted insanity defense, and finds that the defendant has proven by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she was mentally ill at the time of the commission of the offense. A person who is found Guilty and Mentally Ill will be sentenced as if the person were found guilty. The person will be placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections, but will be committed to a secure mental health facility operated by the Department of Social and Health Services for mental health treatment.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Lara Zarowsky

Project Title: Sex Offender Risk Level Classification and the State v. Ramos Case

Project Goal:

Determine who should assign risk level classifications for certain offenders.

Project Description:

In the 2008 Division II case of State v. Ramos, the court held that the Legislature violated the separation of powers doctrine when it enacted RCW 4.24.550(6) because it requires local law enforcement to determine the risk level for certain offenders. Risk level is an element of the crime of Failure to Register under RCW 9A.44.130(7) that requires in-person registration every 90 days for risk level II and level III offenders. The court explains that establishing the elements of a crime is a legislative function and it is unconstitutional for the Legislature to abdicate or transfer its legislative function to others. In order to find someone guilty of failure to register as a risk level II or III offender, the court must find that the person is in fact a risk level II or III offender. In other words, an offender's risk level is an element of the crime of failing to register under this section, and in some instances, this determination is made exclusively by local law enforcement.

In the State v. Ramos case, the offender was released from Department of Corrections (DOC) custody in 1995, before the DOC was required by statute to evaluate the risk of re-offense upon release from custody. As such, the risk level determination was made exclusively by local law enforcement. Although there have been cases in which legislative delegation to the executive branch has been proper, the court found that "[t]he legislature inadequately defined the element of the crime at question (risk of reoffense) and did not provide standards to assist law enforcement agencies in establishing measurement procedures of the risk of reoffense." As a result, the delegation of authority to law enforcement to make the risk level determination was inadequate.

The Committee will work in conjunction with prosecutors, defense attorneys, the Sentencing Guidelines Commissions' Sex Offender Policy Board, the Department of Corrections, and law enforcement to determine a possible resolution to classifying risk levels to certain offenders that were previously done exclusively by local law enforcement. The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, the Department of Corrections, and Sex Offender Policy Board will be invited to provide the Committee with an update on sex offenders in general including, but not limited to sex offender registration laws and compliance in Washington, GPS monitoring, and the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA or otherwise known as the Adam Walsh Act).

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Lara Zarowsky

Project Title: Exoneree Compensation

Project Goal:

Review the exoneree compensation programs currently in place across the United States.

Project Description:

Statutes have been enacted in 27 states and the District of Columbia and by the federal government to provide monetary compensation and services to those who have been wrongly convicted of a crime. The amount of compensation and the nature of the compensatory schemes vary by jurisdiction, but compensation is generally based on the number of years the individual was incarcerated for a crime that he or she did not commit. Washington does not have in place a program to compensate those who have been wrongly convicted. According to the Department of Corrections, all individuals released from total confinement are given access to the same benefits and services, without regard to the reason for release.

An individual's "actual innocence" may be established through a number of methods, for example through the use of forensic DNA testing, the presentation of new evidence, or a recantation of testimony by a key witness.

Forensic DNA testing was first used in an American courtroom to exonerate a wrongly convicted person in 1989. Since that time, such testing has been used to exonerate 238 people, and in 103 of these cases the test results have been used to identify the actual perpetrator or suspect of the crime. DNA-related exonerations have occurred in 33 states and the District of Columbia. The exonerated individuals averaged 26 years of age at the time of conviction, and served an average of 12 years of incarceration before release. The vast majority of criminal prosecutions do not involve biological evidence upon which DNA testing can be performed, and precise statistics for non-DNA related exonerations are not readily available. According to some studies, the primary causes of false or wrongful convictions include misidentification by eyewitnesses, unreliable or improper forensic science, false confessions or incriminating statements, and false testimony by informants.

The Committee will review the compensation programs currently in place across the United States. The multi-state analysis will include a summary of the kind and amount of compensation provided to exonerees, the legal process required for an exonerated person to obtain compensation, the criteria that must be met for an individual to qualify as an exoneree for purposes of the compensation programs, and the manner in which the compensation programs are funded in each jurisdiction.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Lara Zarowsky

Project Title: Quantity-Based Drug Sentencing

Project Goal:

Review sentencing options that courts may consider that are based on the quantity of drugs found on an offender versus pure possession of drugs.

Project Description:

A controlled substance is generally defined as a drug, substance, or immediate precursor that is included in the Uniform Controlled Substance Act and listed in various schedules with regard to its potential for abuse. Under the Uniform Controlled Substance Act, it is illegal for any person to possess, sell, manufacture, or deliver controlled substances. An offender convicted of a violation of the Uniform Controlled Substance Act (a VUSCA offense) will receive a standard sentence range based on the offender's prior criminal history and the seriousness of the current offense. In addition, in some instances judges have the option of sentencing offenders to the Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative program (DOSA). An offender may be eligible for the state's DOSA program if the current offense only involved a small quantity of drugs as determined by the court.

The Committee will review criminal justice sentencing options available for drug offenders who possess or sell controlled substances and those offenders who may be chemically dependent. In conducting the review the Committee will invite representatives from local law enforcement agencies, judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Social and Health Services, and representatives from local drug and alcohol substance abuse and treatment programs to solicit views and technical assistance regarding possibly implementing quantity-based drug sentencing in Washington.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker

Project Title: State Interoperability Operations

Project Goal:

Improve interoperability of public safety communications systems and identifiable benchmarks for achieving those goals.

Project Description:

Interoperability is the ability for state, local, and federal agencies to communicate with one another through their radio systems. In 2003 the Washington State Information Services Board (Board) established the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) to promote statewide interoperability. The Washington State Patrol was appointed as the lead agency for SIEC interoperability operations in Washington. The goal of the SIEC is to coordinate the purchasing of all state wireless radio communications system equipment, to take inventory of and evaluate all state and local government-owned public safety communications systems, and to prepare a statewide public safety communications plan. The plan was to set forth recommendations for executive and legislative action to ensure that public safety communications systems can communicate with one another and conform to federal law and regulations governing emergency communication systems and spectrum allocation. The membership of the Committee, appointed by the Board, includes, but is not limited to, the following: the Washington State Patrol, the Military Department, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Information Services, city and county governments, state and local fire chiefs, police chiefs and sheriffs, and state and local emergency management directors. The Committee will study the state's interoperability system, how multiple agencies respond to emergencies, and ways to improve interoperability communication across all levels of government in Washington.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker

Project Title: Domestic Violence Sentencing

Project Goal:

Study and make recommendations for increasing punishment for repeat offenders committing domestic violence crimes.

Project Description:

The crime of "domestic violence" generally occurs when one family or household member commits a crime against another. Domestic violence includes but is not limited to any of the following crimes: Assault in the first degree, Drive-by shooting, Reckless Endangerment, Coercion, Burglary, Criminal Trespass, Malicious Mischief, Kidnapping, Unlawful Imprisonment, Violation of the Provisions of a Restraining Order, No-Contact Order, or Protection Order, Rape, Residential Burglary, Stalking, and Interference with the Reporting of Domestic Violence.

During the 2008 legislative session HB 1220 was introduced which would have increased punishment for domestic violence offenders. The Committee will work in conjunction with the appropriate stakeholders to determine a resolution to dealing with chronic domestic violence offenders.

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

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker

Project Title: Sexually Explicit Depictions of Minors on the Internet

Project Goal:

Study and make recommendations regarding state statutes that relate to viewing and possessing child pornography over the Internet.

Project Description:

A person who knowingly possesses visual or printed matter depicting a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct is guilty of a class B felony. According to prosecutors, possession of child pornography on computer hard drives is more difficult to prove than the viewing of such material.

Bills were introduced during the 2009 legislative session that would have created the crime of Possession of Depictions of a Minor in the second degree, a class C felony. A person would be guilty of this crime if he or she intentionally engaged in a pattern of viewing over the Internet visual depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

The Committee will review the proposed legislation and work with the necessary affected parties to determine whether similar legislation should be introduced in the 2010 legislative session.

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

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Lara Zarowsky and Yvonne Walker

Project Title: State v. Sutherby - Unit of Prosecution

Project Goal:

Review the Unit of Prosecution statute as interpreted by the courts to determine whether a legislative "fix" to the Washington State Supreme Court's holding is warranted.

Project Description:

The United States and Washington State constitutions protect a criminal defendant from being punished more than once for the same crime. A person generally may not be charged with multiple counts of an offense under one statute for the same conduct. In other words, the double jeopardy clauses prohibit multiple convictions if the defendant commits only one "unit" of the crime.

A person who knowingly possesses visual or printed matter depicting a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct is guilty of a class B felony. Washington courts have recently considered the question of what constitutes a "unit" of the crime of Possession of Depictions of a Minor in the case of State v. Sutherby. In that case, the defendant was arrested pursuant to allegations that he had sexually abused his granddaughter, and after consenting to a search of two personal computers. Investigators discovered multiple images of minors engaged in sexual conduct and charged the defendant with 10 counts of possession of depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Upon conviction, the trial court determined that the proper unit of prosecution for this crime should be calculated based on the number of minors depicted in the images. For example, if 10 images were discovered and five different minors were depicted in the images, then five units of the crime may be charged. The Court of Appeals disagreed with this method of calculation and found the statute is ambiguous. The appellate court determined that the unit of prosecution must be determined based on the individual instances of possession of prohibited material, without regard to the number of minors depicted in the images.

In April, the Washington Supreme Court reviewed the case and interpreted the Possession of Depictions of a Minor statute, holding that the proper unit of prosecution under this crime is "one count per possession of child pornography, without regard to the number of images comprising such possession or the number of minors depicted in the images possessed."

The Committee will review the statute interpreted by the courts to determine whether a legislative "fix" to the Court's holding is warranted.

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

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff Assigned: Lara Zarowsky

**House of Representatives
State Government & Tribal Affairs
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October 2	1:30 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying Government Efficiencies • Ethics Rulings 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt employment personnel practices • Boards and Commissions 	Work Session

Project Title: Identifying Government Efficiencies

Project Goal:

Identify processes and related policy changes to help state agencies be more efficient.

Project Description:

The Committee will discuss the technology available in the 21st century that will help agencies be more efficient, such as video conferencing and electronic signatures, and explore the policy changes necessary that will allow agencies to effectively use these technologies.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Marsha Reilly, Tracey O'Brien, and Pam Madson

Project Title: Ethics Rulings

Project Goal:

Brief the Committee on what decision processes and background is used in making ethics rulings.

Project Description:

The Executive and Legislative Ethics Boards rule on various issues that impact legislative members, state employees, and the public. The Committee will engage in a round table discussion with representatives from the ethics boards about the process and background that is used when making rulings.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Marsha Reilly, Tracey O'Brien, and Pam Madson

Project Title: Exempt employment personnel practices

Project Goal:

Brief the Committee on the numbers of classified, Washington Management Service, and exempt employees and identification of personnel efficiencies.

Project Description:

ESHB 2049, enacted in 2009, requires the Department of Personnel to report annually to the Legislature, and the Governor, on the number of classified, Washington Management Service, and exempt employees in each state agency and the change compared to the previous report; the number of bonuses and performance-based incentives awarded to agency staff; and the cost of each bonus or incentive awarded. This review of the state's senior management and exempt services is intended to identify policy changes that will bring about efficiencies.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Marsha Reilly, Tracey O'Brien, and Pam Madson

Project Title: Boards and Commissions

Project Goal:

Establish evaluation criteria to consider for eliminating or consolidating boards and commissions.

Project Description:

During the 2009 legislative session, the Governor introduced two bills to eliminate and consolidate boards and commissions, one effective June 30, 2009, and the other effective June 30, 2010. The original bills called for the elimination of 34 boards and commissions, while the bill that passed, ESB 5995, eliminates 18 boards and commissions effective June 30, 2009.

One of the stated intents of ESB 5995 is that, during the interim, the Legislature would "identify criteria to evaluate those advisory boards, committees, and commissions that may be eliminated or consolidated..." The Committee will review options for legislation establishing evaluation criteria to consider for elimination or consolidating boards and commissions.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Marsha Reilly, Tracey O'Brien, and Pam Madson

**House of Representatives
Technology, Energy and Communications
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October 1	8:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee joint with Agriculture & Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry's Role in the Environment, Jobs, and Biomass Energy. 	Work Session
October 2	10:00 AM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wave and Tidal Power • Information Technology Work Group • Broadband 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart Grid • Clean Energy Leadership Council • Standard Offer Contract for Renewable Energy 	Work Session

Project Title: Forestry's Role in the Environment, Jobs, and Biomass Energy.

Project Goal:

Explore forestry and its role in the environment, jobs, and biomass energy.

Project Description:

Many issues that have been recently before various committees, and will again be before these committees in coming sessions, have a close nexus with the forest products industry in the state. Issues involving forestry are as diverse as endangered species management, climate change, economic stimulus, and biomass energy. Each of these issues are closely linked when viewed under the lens of forest practices.

The Agriculture & Natural Resources and the Technology, Energy & Communications Committees will jointly conduct a work session that invites representatives from the environmental community, federal and state government, labor, and the private sector to discuss these issues and the role the state can take, in light of changes at the federal level, to take a leadership role in addressing these critical issues.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session joint with Agriculture & Natural Resources

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Scott Richards and Jason Callahan

Project Title: Wave and Tidal Power

Project Goal:

Review of Wave and Tidal Power Activities.

Project Description:

In Washington, one wave power project and seven tidal power projects have received a preliminary permit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in order to study the potential impacts these projects may have on the surrounding area, including potential impacts on the environment, commercial and recreational fishing, navigation, water quality, and marine mammals. In addition to the FERC permitted projects, the United States Navy is developing a tidal power pilot project in Admiralty Inlet.

The Committee will continue to review the status of wave and tidal power projects in the state and region and examine efforts by state and federal governments to develop policies to facilitate the deployment of these power projects.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Scott Richards

Project Title: Information Technology Work Group

Project Goal:

Receive an update from the Information Technology Work Group and consider possible legislation for 2010.

Project Description:

In 2007, a budget proviso created the Information Technology Work Group (Work Group). The stated purpose of the Work Group was to focus on improving state strategies, administration, and coordination of information technology (IT). The Work Group made a number of recommendations related to IT, including extension of the Work Group. The Work Group continued to meet during the interim of 2008. During this period, consistent with the Work Group's recommendations, the House of Representatives selected a consultant to assist the Work Group by: (1) conducting an evaluation of the state's approach to information technology governance and service delivery; and (2) making recommendations for legislative changes that could increase budgetary efficiency in IT. In 2009, a budget proviso recreated the Work Group and charged it with reviewing the consultant's findings and recommendations and considering how to implement some or all of the recommendations.

The Committee will review the consultant's report and continue having discussions with the Work Group and relevant stakeholders on what legislative action, if any, may be necessary to implement the findings and recommendations contained in the report.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin

Project Title: Broadband

Project Goal:

Monitor state and federal broadband activities.

Project Description:

During the 2009 Legislative Session, legislation was enacted that authorized the Governor to take any actions necessary to carry out the purposes of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as it relates to broadband. The legislation also granted the Department of Information Services (DIS) authorization to oversee federally funded broadband programs for the state and engage in other activities related to broadband.

The Committee will monitor broadband-related activities in the state and receive an update from the DIS during October Committee Assembly.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin

Project Title: Smart Grid

Project Goal:

Monitor utility, state and federal smart grid activities and consider possible legislation for 2010.

Project Description:

Smart grid technologies are information technologies that can be applied to electrical grids, and to equipment that connects to the grids, to enhance grid planning and operations. Examples of smart grid technologies include electricity meters that automatically transmit time-of-use prices to consumers and their appliances; electronic sensors and controls that can sense and adjust load; and infrastructure improvements that allow consumers to use electric vehicles. During the 2009 legislation session, the Committee held a work session to provide its members with an overview of smart grid issues.

The Committee will monitor utility, state, and federal activities relating to smart grid development and determine whether legislation is needed to assist with smart grid deployment in Washington.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Scott Richards

Project Title: Clean Energy Leadership Council

Project Goal:

Receive an update from the Clean Energy Leadership Council and determine whether legislative action is needed.

Project Description:

In the 2009 Legislative Session, legislation was enacted creating a Clean Energy Leadership Council (Council). The stated purpose of the Council is to prepare a strategy for growing the clean energy sector in the state.

The Committee will: (1) participate in discussions with members of the Council and other relevant stakeholders; and (2) review the Council's report and determine what legislation, if any, may be needed to encourage development in the clean energy sector.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin and Scott Richards

Project Title: Standard Offer Contract for Renewable Energy

Project Goal:

Design a standard offer contract program for Washington and consider possible legislation for 2010.

Project Description:

During the 2009 legislative session, the Committee held a series of meetings related to the development of a feed-in tariff, sometimes referred to as a standard offer contract. A standard offer contract provides renewable energy generators a standard pricing regime for the electricity provided to electric utilities and a streamlined process for connecting the renewable energy system to the local distribution grid.

The Committee will review past legislative efforts, feed-in tariff proposals from other states, and materials prepared by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and consider how to design a standard offer contract program for Washington.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Scott Richards

**House of Representatives
Transportation
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October 1	3:30 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Stimulus Update: Highways, Rail, and Ferries • 2009 Construction Season Update • Sound Transit Presentation on Link Light Rail Projects • Ferry Vessel Construction Update 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Transportation Committee Toll Operations Study • Federal Surface Transportation Funding Reauthorization • Fuel Efficiency Standards • Transportation Revenue Update 	Work Session

Project Title: Federal Stimulus Update: Highways, Rail, and Ferries

Project Goal:

Update members on status of federal stimulus fund allocation, spending and grant applications.

Project Description:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided approximately \$492 million to Washington for highway projects. Of that amount, about \$341 million may be spent by the state Department of Transportation (DOT) on projects that improve and preserve state roads. The remaining \$151 million is distributed to local governments via metropolitan planning organizations and counties. In addition, rail and ferries projects in Washington can compete for federal dollars through several grant programs, including urban, high-speed rail projects; discretionary grants; and ferry system grants. ARRA requires that at least half of the funds must be obligated within 120 days of enactment (which was February 21, 2009), and the remaining amount must be obligated within one year of enactment. For this reason as well as the fact that it was not possible to determine the precise cost of the projects, the state legislature authorized a list of stimulus projects with two "tiers." The first-tier projects are all expected to be constructed if possible; however, if for some reason the DOT cannot construct one or more of these projects within the given time-frame, or if additional stimulus funding is made available, the DOT is directed to build projects on the "second tier" project list.

During October Committee Assembly, the Committee will receive an update on the projects that have been funded by the federal stimulus and an update on projects in Washington that have applied for federal grants. The Committee will also be briefed on the costs of the projects that are completed or underway, whether the state is on track to meet the 120 and 365 day obligation deadlines, and whether any projects from the "tier two" lists of projects are expected to go to construction.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009

Staff Assigned: Christie Parker

Project Title: 2009 Construction Season Update

Project Goal:

Update members on major activities of the 2009 highway construction season.

Project Description:

During October Committee Assembly, the Committee will receive an update on major activities of the 2009 construction season. Highlights will include the Hood Canal Bridge replacement, SR 16 work in Tacoma, Alaskan Way viaduct "moving forward" construction, US 12 work near Walla Walla, North Spokane Corridor work, and other projects. The update will also include information about the construction bidding climate, costs of materials, and how costs are aligning with budgetary expectations.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009

Staff Assigned: Christie Parker

Project Title: Sound Transit Presentation on Link Light Rail Projects

Project Goal:

Provide an update on the various link light rail projects.

Project Description:

The Committee will receive an update on the status of Sound Transit's link light rail lines and related projects approved by voters in the tri-county region (Snohomish, King, and Pierce) in 1996 and 2008.

In 2003, link light rail began operating in Tacoma, connecting the downtown to the city's transportation hub at the Tacoma Dome Station. A new link light rail line is scheduled to open in 2009 in two stages: a 13.9-mile segment from Westlake Station to the Tukwila International Boulevard Station will begin operating in July and a 1.7-mile extension to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is scheduled to open by the end of the year. In November 2008, voters within the tri-county region approved expansion of the region's mass transit system, including an additional 36 miles of new light rail service.

This update is intended to inform the Committee about projected versus actual ridership, costs, and construction schedules of operating link light rail; the status of projects under construction and planned projects, including the University Link; and lessons learned from digging the Beacon Hill tunnel with a deep bore tunnel machine.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009

Staff Assigned: Kathryn Leathers

Project Title: Ferry Vessel Construction Update

Project Goal:

Update members on the status of Washington State Ferries vessel construction.

Project Description:

The 2009-11 transportation budget and its associated 16-year financial plan provided funding for the purchase of four vessels in the 2009-11 and 2011-13 biennia. The first three vessels will be Island Home class (64-auto) ferry vessels, and the fourth vessel will either be an Island Home class or a 144-auto ferry, depending on the timing and availability of funds. The budget begins funding for a fifth vessel, 144-auto capacity, in subsequent biennia.

During October Committee Assembly, the Committee will receive an update on the status of Washington State Ferries' vessel procurement program. By this time, Washington State Ferries is anticipated to be well into construction on the first Island Home vessel with an anticipated delivery date of June 2010, and to have issued an RFP for the second and third Island Home vessels.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009

Staff Assigned: Teresa Berntsen

Project Title: Joint Transportation Committee Toll Operations Study

Project Goal:

Update members on the results of the Joint Transportation Committee's Toll Operations Study.

Project Description:

Washington State recently returned to the use of tolling to pay for project construction when it financed the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. In addition, the state is experimenting with "congestion tolling" with the use of High Occupancy Toll lanes (or "HOT" lanes) on State Route 167. While tolling presents opportunities for financing construction projects and managing congestion, tolling also presents challenges in terms of operational complexities and costs. A recent Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) study of tolling in other states found that in one case, more than half of the toll revenue collected was used for the costs of toll collection. In another case, 47 percent of the tolls collected were used for toll operations. The higher toll operations costs are, the less money is available for capital construction. Since the state is moving forward with plans to implement tolling on the State Route 520 floating bridge, the Joint Transportation Committee was tasked with convening an expert review panel to review the WSDOT's experience with and assumptions about tolling operations costs.

During December Committee Assembly, the Committee will receive a briefing on the Joint Transportation Committee's Independent Expert Review of toll operations costs. The review is expected to include analysis of transaction processing, operations and customer service, technology, toll enforcement, WSDOT administration, and the State Route 520 financial plan.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Christie Parker

Project Title: Federal Surface Transportation Funding Reauthorization

Project Goal:

Update members on the status of the reauthorization of the federal surface transportation authorization act (the ongoing source of federal transportation funds as differentiated from one-time federal stimulus funds).

Project Description:

The federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) will expire on September 30, 2009. The state currently receives allocations of federal funds authorized by the SAFETEA-LU through programs administered by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. The largest programs support bridge replacement and rehabilitation, capital and operating grants for transit agencies, flexible funds for state and local roads through the surface transportation program, formula funds for improvements to the national highway system, maintenance of the interstate system, and funds for congestion mitigation and air quality improvement. Current forecasts for federal funds to the state are expected to be \$962 million for the 2009-2011 biennium.

Based on current receipts, the Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials projects that the Highway Trust Fund can only support an \$8.7 billion nation-wide federal-aid highway program for federal Fiscal Year 2010 if the U.S. Congress does not act to increase transportation taxes or funnel more general tax revenues into the trust fund. This fiscal year, the federal-aid highway program was \$41 billion. The primary source of tax revenue for the Highway Trust Fund is gas taxes. Factors contributing to the revenue problem are the lack of an inflation adjustment to the tax and volatile gasoline prices which have resulted in declines in vehicle miles travelled and increased fleet fuel efficiency.

The discussion of reauthorization at the congressional level is addressing new funding sources (vehicle miles travelled fees, sales taxes on gasoline) as well as increases to the existing sources (additional gas taxes, indexing the gas tax). Additionally, the Congress is considering streamlining the funding streams to states, with the objective of reducing requirements that limit the ability of project sponsors to choose the best modal solution for transportation problems.

For the December Committee Assembly, invitations will be extended to Congressional staff, NCSL staff, and the Governor's Congressional Liaison for Transportation. The briefing to the Committee will address expectations for the types of funding streams, amounts of funding for Washington State, and the status of legislation. If the federal highway funding has been finalized, impacts on federal fund forecasts will be presented.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Beth Redfield and Jerry Long

Project Title: Fuel Efficiency Standards

Project Goal:

Evaluate the impact to the state of proposed or adopted changes to vehicular fuel efficiency standards.

Project Description:

In 2005, legislation was enacted adopting vehicular emissions standards for greenhouse gases based on California's implementation of standards for vehicular greenhouse gas emissions that were adopted there in 2002. The California standards are not effective until the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants a waiver allowing the state to regulate the emissions in a manner differently than the EPA. On January 26, 2009, President Obama directed the EPA to evaluate the waiver request. In addition, on May 19, 2009, the Obama administration proposed a new national policy on fuel economy standards and greenhouse gas emissions to accelerate the current federal policy to coincide with the California standards by 2016.

Changes to vehicular fuel efficiency standards would have broad implications for Washington consumers, businesses, and governments. For all drivers, the change in standards would mean improved vehicular emissions, as well as likely improved fuel economy. For government, the changes would facilitate achieving air quality goals, while at the same time likely reducing fuel tax revenues. An analysis of the impact to fuel tax revenues is essential for determining the amount of resources available from conventional sources in the near future. At the December Committee Assembly, staff will brief the Committee on the status of standards adoption and on the analysis of impacts to fuel tax revenues.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Mark Matteson

Project Title: Transportation Revenue Update

Project Goal:

Update members on the November 2009 transportation revenue forecast.

Project Description:

Washington law provides statutory direction for the preparation and adoption of economic and revenue forecasts. The forecasts are used by state policy makers to assess the availability of funding for current biennium appropriations and planning for transportation funding and projects over a 16-year horizon from 34 different transportation accounts. Each quarter the Transportation Revenue Forecast Council prepares a 16-year revenue forecast. The council is made up of representatives from: The Office of Financial Management; Office of the State Forecast Council; Office of the State Treasurer; House Transportation Committee; Senate Transportation Committee; Department of Licensing; Washington State Patrol; and the Department of Transportation.

The transportation appropriations for the 2009-11 biennium are \$7.518 billion and the revenues to support the budget is largely made up of motor vehicle fuel taxes; license permits and fees; ferry fares; tools; driver licenses and other related revenues; rental car tax; 0.3 percent sales tax on vehicles; and other miscellaneous revenues. For the remainder of the 16-year period, operating expenditures are projected using inflationary factors and transportation capital project lists.

For the December Committee Assembly, a transportation revenue update will be prepared and presented to the Committee. The questions to be answered are:

- How does the November 2009 forecast compare to the March 2009 forecast that was used to build the 2009-11 transportation budget?
- What are the current forecast trends and how will those trends affect current and future revenues?
- What are the time periods in which funding adjustments will need to be considered due to changes in projected revenues?

The Committee will begin building the 2010 transportation supplemental budget based on the November 2009 revenue forecast and will complete the budget based on the February 2010 revenue forecast.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Jerry Long

**House of Representatives
Ways & Means
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 30, 2009	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the June Caseload and Revenue Forecasts • Employee Health Benefits/Co-pays • Health Care Proposals 	Work Session
October 1	3:30 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Budgeting Principles/Practices • Update on Pension Items • State Information Technology (IT) Management 	Work Session
November 2009	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making State Government More Efficient and More Effective 	Work Session
Adjacent to December Committee Assembly	Half Day	Olympia	Full Committee joint with Education Appropriations, Early Learning & Children's Services, and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of ESHB 2261 (Basic Education) • Early Learning as Part of Basic Education 	Work Session
December Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 Session Budget Outlook • State Institutions Study 	Work Session
Information Technology Work Group					
DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
June 5, 2009	12:00 Noon	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review IT Consultant's Draft Report 	Work Session
December 2009	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Possible IT Work Group Recommendations 	Work Session

Project Title: Update on the June Caseload and Revenue Forecasts

Project Goal:

Monitor changes to the revenue and caseload forecasts during the interim.

Project Description:

The Committee will monitor changes to the revenue and caseload forecasts during the interim.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2009

Staff Assigned: Dave Johnson, Alex MacBain, Erik Corneillier, Carma Matti, Melissa Palmer, Wendy Polzin, Ben Rarick, Serah Stetson, and Trista Zugel

Project Title: Employee Health Benefits/Co-pays

Project Goal:

Review the impact of the 2009-11 operating budget on employee health benefits/co-pays.

Project Description:

The 2009-11 operating budget provided a 3 percent increase in funding for employee health benefits. This is smaller than the traditional increase to cover health care inflation. As a result, the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) may make adjustments to employee premium contributions, point of service payments, or plan design in order to provide benefits within available funding.

The Committee will review the impact of the funding level on health benefits.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2009

Staff Assigned: David Pringle

Project Title: Health Care Proposals

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on discussions related to health care coverage/reform.

Project Description:

Over the past several years, the Washington State Legislature has undertaken several initiatives and studies related to health care. Recent studies include the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Costs (created in 2006) and the economic and actuarial reviews under ESSB 6333 (2008). There are proposals being considered nationally as well.

The Committee will review the recent health care studies in Washington State, the proposals being considered nationally, and the Insurance Commissioner's health care coverage proposal.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2009

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake and Erik Cornellier

Project Title: State Budgeting Principles/Practices

Project Goal:

Continue discussions related to budgeting practices and principles.

Project Description:

In the 2009 session, the Committee considered several bills dealing with the budget process. This project will review how other states approach some of the principles/practices related to the budget process, including fiscal notes, balanced budget requirements, and consideration and adoption of budgets.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Kristen Fraser and Dave Johnson

Project Title: Update on Pension Items

Project Goal:

Review changes in the valuation of pension assets and other pension related issues.

Project Description:

The pension assets that are managed by the State Investment Board likely were significantly impacted in a negative way by events in the financial sector. While the reduction in the value of assets will not impact rates in the 2009-11 biennium, it will likely impact rates in 2011-13 and beyond. In addition, funding for employer contributions to state retirement systems was reduced in the 2009-11 operating budget to reflect changes made to actuarial assumptions and methods used.

The Committee will review any updated information on pension asset valuation and other pension related items.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: David Pringle

Project Title: State Information Technology (IT) Management

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on IT related items in the 2009-11 operating budget.

Project Description:

The Committee will be updated on:

- (1) Implementation of Department of Information Systems strategies to achieve statewide agency savings through holistic virtualization, wide-area network optimization strategies, etc;
- (2) Implementation of section 902 (information systems projects); and
- (3) Section 903 (IT Work Group).

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Steve Smith and Owen Rowe

Project Title: Making State Government More Efficient and More Effective

Project Goal:

Discuss ways to make state government more efficient and more effective.

Project Description:

The Committee will discuss or review:

- (1) Consolidating, eliminating, or adding boards and commissions;
- (2) Consolidating similar services provided by multiple agencies;
- (3) Changes made by agencies to service delivery models to maximize services while managing budget reductions;
- (4) Progress made regarding performance management in government and identifying and monitoring performance measures, including Priorities of Government (POG), Government Management Accountability and Performance (GMAP); and the statewide audit;
- (5) Implementation of administrative reductions, the Governor's freeze, and 1 percent reductions (focusing on FTE reductions, furloughs, and House savings approaches); and
- (6) The organizational structure of the Department of Social and Health Services.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2009

Staff Assigned: Charlie Gavigan and Dave Johnson

Project Title: Implementation of ESHB 2261 (Basic Education)

Project Goal:

Monitor implementation of ESHB 2261 (Basic Education)

Project Description:

ESHB 2261 establishes a framework for a new definition of Basic Education and funding formulas, to be phased-in in future years. In the near-term, the legislation establishes a number of working groups, assigns specific tasks to state agencies such as the State Board of Education and the Professional Educator Standards Board, and creates a Quality Education Council to monitor and oversee this work and make recommendations to the 2010 Legislature regarding next steps in implementing the legislation.

The Ways & Means, Education, Early Learning & Children's Services, and Education Appropriations Committees will meet jointly in a special work session before December Committee Assembly for a thorough briefing and discussion in preparation for the 2010 Session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session joint with Education, Early Learning & Children's Services, and Education Appropriations

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Ben Rarick, Wendy Polzin, Kristen Fraser, Barbara McLain, Sydney Forrester, and Cece Clynych

Project Title: Early Learning as Part of Basic Education

Project Goal:

Discuss the legal and policy issues associated with including early learning as part of Basic Education.

Project Description:

ESHB 2261 (2009) establishes a framework for a new definition of Basic Education and funding formulas to be phased-in in future years. As passed by the Legislature, ESHB 2261 added early learning for at-risk children to the definition of Basis Education; the Governor vetoed this provision. The Education Appropriations, Ways & Means, Education, and Early Learning and Children's Services Committees will review the Governor's rationale for the veto and discuss legal and policy issues associated with including early learning as part of Basic Education. Included will be a discussion of how to define children eligible for early learning services should they be included in the definition of basic Education in the future.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session joint with Education, Early Learning & Children's Services, and Education Appropriations

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Wendy Polzin, Ben Rarick, Kristen Fraser, Barbara McLain, and Sydney Forrester.

Project Title: 2010 Session Budget Outlook

Project Goal:

Provide a preview of major budget related items likely facing the 2010 Legislature.

Project Description:

The Committee will be briefed on the budget outlook for the 2010 session, focusing on the status of the balance sheet based on recent revenue and caseload forecasts, and highlight other major budget related items likely to arise in 2010 Legislature.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Dave Johnson and Charlie Gavigan

Project Title: State Institutions Study

Project Goal:

Update the committee on the study of the feasibility of closing state institutional facilities and eliminating beds.

Project Description:

The 2009-11 operating budget assumes savings from the closure of state institutional facilities. The facilities are not specifically identified. The Office of Financial Management is to conduct a study of the feasibility of closing state institutional facilities and eliminating beds.

The Committee will monitor the study, which will focus on institutional facilities under the Department of Corrections, Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA), and other possible Department of Social and Health Services facilities.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Alex MacBain, Wendy Polzin, Trista Zugel, Melissa Palmer, and Erik Cornellier

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEES & TASK FORCES

Project Title: Review IT Consultant's Draft Report

Project Goal:

Review the consultant's draft report on Washington's provision and governance of Information Technology (IT).

Project Description:

In 2007, a budget proviso created the Information Technology Work Group (Work Group). The stated purpose of the Work Group was to focus on improving state strategies, administration, and coordination of Information Technology (IT). The Work Group made a number of recommendations related to IT, including extension of the Work Group during the 2008 interim. During this period, consistent with the Work Group's recommendations, the House of Representatives selected a consultant to assist the Work Group by: (1) conducting an evaluation of the state's approach to information technology governance and service delivery; and (2) making recommendations for legislative changes that could increase budgetary efficiency in IT. In 2009, a budget proviso recreated the Work Group and charged it with reviewing the consultant's findings and recommendations and considering whether to recommend legislation to implement some or all of the consultant's recommendations.

The Work Group will review and provide input on the consultant's draft report.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: June 2009

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin, Owen Rowe, and Steve Smith

Project Title: Discuss Possible IT Work Group Recommendations

Project Goal:

Consider the need for legislation to increase efficiency in the administration and delivery of information technology (IT) in state government.

Project Description:

The Work Group will continue discussions with relevant stakeholders on what legislative action, if any, may be necessary to achieve greater efficiency in the administration and delivery of IT in state government, which may include implementation of some or all of the recommendations contained in the consultant's report.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff Assigned: Kara Durbin, Owen Rowe, and Steve Smith

Standing Committee Assignments

House Agriculture & Natural Resources

Blake, Brian, *Chair*
Grant-Herriot, Laura, *V. Chair*
Chandler, Bruce*
Smith, Norma**
Jacks, Jim
Kretz, Joel
Lias, Marko
McCoy, John
Nelson, Sharon
Ormsby, Timm
Pearson, Kirk
Van De Wege, Kevin
Warnick, Judy

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