

SENATE COMMITTEE SERVICES

2008 Interim Work Plan and Meeting Schedule



Note: Meeting dates and times are revised as information becomes available at

<http://www1.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/Default.htm>

Note: Meeting dates and times are updated as information becomes available. The following memo was included in the original distribution of the 2008 Interim Plan.



DATE: May 20, 2008

TO: Washington State Senators and Other Interested Persons

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

SUBJECT: Senate Committee Services 2008 Interim Work Plan and Activities

We are pleased to provide this 2008 Interim Work Plan and Activities, as approved by the Facilities & Operations Committee, for your reference in the months preceding the 2009 Legislative Session.

The interim work plan is a public planning document containing the major issues that each committee currently plans to consider during the next legislative session. It is used to guide staff in conducting research over the interim and in planning related interim committee activities and hearings. In addition to the items included in this work plan, Senate Committee Services' staff conduct additional research projects as requested by individual Senators. In this light, we trust you will find this work plan useful in planning your calendars and monitoring the committee's work during the interim.

The electronic version of this document can be found on our website at: <http://www1.leg.wa.gov/documents/Senate/SCS/InterimPlans.pdf>. The website will be updated throughout the interim as the dates and locations of committee and task force meetings and activities are finalized.

If you have other requests or questions, or need assistance on any issue, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7411

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	Full Committee Work Session	TBA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health requirements for cattle imported into Washington State. 2. Condition of honey bees for pollination of agricultural crops in Washington State. 3. Updates on agricultural viability studies. 4. Evaluating the use of mobile slaughtering units to aid markets for small livestock producers.
09/04/08 1:15 pm	Full Committee Work Session	Vancouver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encouraging local processing of meat products. 2. Update on federal requirements for country of origin labeling of meat products. 3. Update on actions to address protecting domestic livestock from potential diseases from imported livestock.
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08	Full Committee TBA	Olympia	TBA

Senate Consumer Protection & Housing Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7458

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
09/05/08 1:15 pm	Full Committee Work Session	Vancouver	1. Update on HB 2791 Distressed properties. 2. Update on SB 6847 Title Insurance. 3. Update on housing programs. 4. Housing Trust Fund/Native American Housing. 5. Top 10 Consumer Complaints.
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA

Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7420

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	State Assessment Work Group TBA	TBA	Meetings will be held through out the 2008 Interim to review and evaluate the current Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) system.
07/01/08	Joint with House Education Committees and House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education	Spokane, WA	The Senate and House Education Committees and House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education will jointly conduct a site visit of the Spokane Skills Center, meet with students to learn about how career and technical education (CTE) fits into their educational plans, and hear presentations on innovative CTE programs in the Spokane region.
TBA			
09/04/08 9:30 am	Work Session	Vancouver Hilton & Convention Center	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An update on the pilot of the Quality Rating Improvement System for licensed child care and early education programs provided by the Dept. of Early Learning, the Vancouver pilot community, and Thrive by Five. 2. Online learning--information about quality, quantity, and oversight.
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08		Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
Other Meetings:			
06/09-10/08	Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	For more information visit the committee website at: http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/
07/07-08/08	Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	For more information visit the committee website at: http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/
09/15-16/08	Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	For more information visit the committee website at: http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/

Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7420

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
10/20-21/08	Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	For more information visit the committee website at: http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/
11/17-18/08	Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	For more information visit the committee website at: http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/
12/08-09/08	Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	For more information visit the committee website at: http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/
08/06/08	Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance	Olympia	For more information visit the committee website at: http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/
TBA	Public Hearing/Work Session		

Senate Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7409

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
06/09/08 10:00 - 1:00	Full Committee Tour	UW, Seattle Campus, Paul Allen Center	Higher Education and Economic Development; Research and Commercialization at the University of Washington.
06/10/08 TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Vancouver	Higher Education and Economic Development.
07/08/08 TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Bellingham	Higher Education and Economic Development.
09/05/08 8:30 AM	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	Vancouver	1. Retrun on public investment in Vancouver's Economic Development. 2. Vancouver's Innovaton Partnership Zone. 3. Washington Tourism Commission.
09/16/08 10:00 am	Full Committee Work Session	Yakima Valley Community College	Higher Education and Economic Development.
10/14/08 TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Tacoma	Higher Education and Economic Development.
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	To be announced.

Senate Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7408

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
04/09/08	Full Committee Work Session	Everett	1. Personal Injury Protection (PIP). 2. Life Settlements.
04/23/08	Full Committee Work Session	Everett	1. Personal Injury Protection (PIP). 2. Life Settlements.
05/07/08	Full Committee Work Session	Everett	Life Settlements.
September Legislative Assembly 09/04-05/08	Full Committee Work Session	Vancouver	Meeting cancelled.
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7432

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	Advisory Policy Committee on Impacts of Climate Change Through the GMA TBA	TBA	To address recommendations of the Advisory Policy Committee to enable state and local governments to address climate change issues and concerns.
TBA	Full Committee Public Hearing	Eastern Washington	Specialty Agriculture Structures
09/04/08 1:15 pm	Full Committee Work Session	Vancouver Hilton & Convention Center	1. Agricultural Structures 2. Top Two Primary System
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08	Full Committee TBA	Olympia	TBA
Other Meetings:			
06/04/08 Afternoon	Joint Select Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs Public Hearing/Work Session	Buckley Armory	TBA
09/03/08 1:30 pm	Joint Select Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs Public Hearing/Work Session	Vancouver Hilton & Convention Center	1. Update on Counties' Indigent Veterans Funds 2. Military Voting 3. Suicides by Veterans and Active Duty Military 4. Closure of the Walla Walla Veterans' Home 5. Briefing on the Beterans Conservation Corps 6. Update on the American Lake Veterans Golf Course
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08	Joint Select Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs TBA	Olympia	TBA

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7456

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
07/29/08	Joint with House Health Care & Wellness	Wenatchee	Health care reform roundtable discussions.
Half Day	Public Hearing/Work Session		
07/30/08	Joint with House Health Care & Wellness	Spokane	Health care reform roundtable discussions.
Half Day	Public Hearing/Work Session		
Two additional meetings- TBA	Joint with House Health Care & Wellness TBA	TBA	Health care reform roundtable discussions.
09/04/08	Full Committee Work Session	Vancouver	Work Session: 1. Update on Blue Ribbon Commission Bill- E2SSB 5930 (2007). 2. Brief introduction to bill and presenters. 3. Status reports on selected projects: a. Public health: performance measures, funding, and progress. b. Quality purchasing: patient decision aids. c. Quality purchasing: health technology assessments. d. Health record bank pilots and electronic medical records. e. Wellness demonstrations.
Morning			
09/09/08	Select Interm Legislative Task Force on Comprehensive School Health Reform	Olympia	TBA
Half Day	Work Session		
10/14/08	Joint with House Health Care & Wellness	Olympia	Health care reform roundtable discussions.
Morning	Public Hearing/Work Session		

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7456

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
Other Meetings:			
05/02/08	Select Interim Legislative Task Force on Comprehensive School Health Reform	Spokane	TBA
All Day	Work Session		
06/11/08	Select Interim Legislative Task Force on Comprehensive School Health Reform	Seattle	TBA
Half Day	Work Session		

**Senate Higher Education Committee
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7415

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	Full Committee Public Hearing	TBA	Increasing enrollments in nursing and related health professions.
TBA	Full Committee Public Hearing	TBA	Timely completion of degrees.
09/04/08 9:30 am	Full Committee Work Session	Vancouver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student loans. 2. Tuition waivers. 3. Customized training programs. 4. Report on Joint Higher Education and Economic Development meetings.
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08	Full Committee Public Hearing	Olympia	TBA

Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7414

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
09/05/08 1:15 PM	Full Committee Work Session	Vancouver Hilton and Convention Center	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update on the WSIPP report on outcome based programs in child welfare. 2. Update on the implementation of E2SHB 3145. 3. Update on the meetings between the Children's Administration and the state employee's union regarding social worker workload to deal with the Braam outcomes.
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA

**Senate Judiciary Committee
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7455

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
09/05/08 8:30 am	Full Committee Work Session	Vancouver	1. Presentation by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy. 2. Judicial information status report. 3. Discussion of the offense of driving while license suspended or revoked in the third degree.
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA

Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7426

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
04/29/08	Joint with House Commerce & Labor Committee	Renton	The committee will hear amendments to the Snoqualmie tribal gaming compact.
1:30 - 2:30	Public Hearing		
09/04/08	Full Committee	Vancouver	1. Labor and Industries updates. 2. Employment Security Department updates. 3. Regulation of Soil and Wetland Scientists.
1:15 pm	Public Hearing/Work Session		
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08	Full Committee	Olympia	To be announced.
	TBA		
Other Meetings:			
05/28/08	Joint Legislative Task Force on the Underground Economy in the Construction Industry	Olympia	To be announced.
9:00 am	Work Session		
06/10/08	Joint Legislative Task Force on the HVAC/R Industry	Olympia	To be announced.
1:30 pm	Work Session		
06/10/08	Joint Select Committee on Beer and Wine Regulation	Olympia	To be announced.
10:00 am	Work Session		
07/31/08	Joint with House Commerce & Labor and Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development	Olympia	Amendment to the Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact between the Spokane Indian Tribe and the State of Washington.
1:00 PM	Public Hearing/Work Session		

Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7426

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
09/09/08	Joint Select Committee on Beer and Wine Regulation	Olympia	1. Post and hold. A. Overview and history. B. Public Comment.
1:00 pm	Work Session		2. Minimum mark-up. A. Overview and history. B. Public Comment. 3. Retailer to retailer product transfers. A. Overview and history. B. Public Comment. 4. Ban on credit with respect to advertising. A. Overview and history. B. Public Comment. 5. Money's worth with respect to advertising. A. Overview and history. B. Public Comment. 6. Discussion of future agendas.
09/10/08	Joint Legislative Task Force on the Underground Economy in the Construction Industry	TBA	1. Staff review of May 23, 2008 meeting. 2. Best practices in regulating the underground economy. 3. Update from the Benchmark Advisory Committee. 4. Local government pilot project update. 5. Update on regulation of contractors. 6. Update from the Employment Security Department and the Department of Labor and Industries. 7. Stakeholder recommendations. 8. Public Comment.
8:00 am	Work Session		
09/30/08	Joint Select Committee on Beer and Wine Regulation	TBA	To be announced.
1:00 pm	Work Session		
10/01/08	Joint Legislative Task Force on the Underground Economy in the Construction Industry	TBA	To be announced.
9:00 am	Work Session		

Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7426

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
10/02/08	Joint Legislative Task Force on the HVAC/R Industry	Olympia	1. Review of ESSB 5831 (as passed House) (including fiscal impact). 2. Further review of certification requirements in other states.
10:00	Work Session		3. Need for certification. 4. Establishing at least 3 levels of mechanics, with the ability to be certified in several specialties, including HVAC, refrigeration, and gas piping. 5. Requirements for certifying mechanics (to include education, experience, examination, grandfathering and other means of satisfying requirements). 6. Experience requirements for mechanic levels.
10/22/08	Joint Legislative Task Force on the HVAC/R Industry	Olympia	1. Exemptions to registration or certification requirements (to be focused on exemptions in ESSB 5831 as passed House that are in dispute). 2. Methods of registering contractors who qualify for 2 or more registrations or licenses. 3. Methods of obtaining training certificates.
1:00	Work Session		
11/13/08	Joint Legislative Task Force on the Underground Economy in the Construction Industry	TBA	To be announced.
9:00 am	Work Session		
11/13/08	Joint Legislative Task Force on the HVAC/R Industry	TBA	To be announced.
1:30 pm	Work Session		
11/14/08	Joint Select Committee on Beer and Wine Regulation	TBA	To be announced.
9:00 am	Work Session		
12/17/08	Joint Legislative Task Force on the Underground Economy in the Construction Industry	TBA	To be announced.
	Work Session		
12/17/08	Joint Legislative Task Force on the HVAC/R Industry	TBA	To be announced.
1:30 pm	Work Session		

**Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008**

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7426

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
12/18/08	Joint Select Committee on Beer and Wine Regulation	TBA	To be announced.
9:00 am	Work Session		

Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7419

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	Possible Joint with Water, Energy & Telecommunications Tour/ Briefing	Puget Sound & San Juan Island	Possible tour of Puget Sound marine managed areas, aquatic reserves and Orca habitat.
07/21/08 All Day	Full Committee Tour/Briefing	Throughout North Central and North Eastern WA	Tour of Northeastern Washington/Okanogen area water storage issues, fish hatcheries, and mining operations.
09/04/08 Morning	Full Committee Work Session	Vancouver	Work Session: 1. Update on ocean policy issues. 2. Update on coastal marine resources committees.
10/13/08 All Day	Full Committee Tour/ Briefing	Eastern Washington	Wildlife, Forest, & Recreation Tour of Eastern Washington.
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08	Full Committee TBA	Olympia	TBA

Senate Transportation Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7300

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly 09/04-05/08	Full Committee	Vancouver	
	TBA		
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08	Full Committee	Olympia	
	TBA		
Other Meetings:			
05/13/08	Joint Transportation Committee	Seattle	
9:00 am			
06/10/08	Joint Transportation Committee	Centralia	Coordinated with Community Trade & Economic Development (CTED).
1:00 pm			
07/08/08	Joint Transportation Committee	Seattle	Coordinated with the Ferry policy group.
1:00 pm			
08/12/08	Joint Transportation Committee	Seattle	Coordinated with the Agency Council for Coordinated Transportation (ACCT) policy group.
1:00 pm			
09/17/08	Joint Transportation Committee	TBA	Coordinated with the Agency Council for Coordinated Transportation (ACCT) policy group.
TBA			
10/14/08	Joint Transportation Committee	Seattle	Coordinated with the Agency Council for Coordinated Transportation (ACCT) policy group.
1:00 pm			
November 2008	Joint Transportation Committee	Yakima	
12/03/08	Joint Transportation Committee	Olympia	Coordinated with the Freight policy group.
1:00 pm			

Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7406

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	Possible Joint with Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Tour/Briefing	Puget Sound & San Juan Island	Possible tour of Puget Sound marine managed areas, aquatic reserves and Orca habitat.
09/15-09/16/2008	Full Committee Tour/Briefing	Tri-Cities & Hanford	Tour of Energy Northwest facilities Columbia Generating Stations, White Bluffs Solar Project and Nine Canyon Wind project; Hanford Reservation.
09/05/08 8:30 am	Full Committee Work Session	Vancouver	Update on Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Initiative 297 -- Hanford cleanup.
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08	Full Committee TBA	Olympia	TBA
Other Meetings:			
04/14-15/08	Legislative Council on River Governance	Portland, Oregon	TBA
TBA	Lake Roosevelt/ Columbia River Work Group	TBA	TBA
TBA	Reclaimed Water Task Force TBA	TBA	TBA
TBA	Climate Change Related TBA	TBA	TBA

Senate Ways & Means Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7715

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	Spokane	
06/26/08 1-3pm	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	Mt. Vernon	Tour of Washington cities focused on tax relief and reform.
07/14/08 6-8pm	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	Pierce County	Tour of Washington cities focused on tax relief and reform.
07/28/08 9 AM	Full Committee Work Session	UW Bothell	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of origins of the system and current assessment system, including federal and state requirements, changes made in the 2007 and 2008 sessions, and cost. Legislative staff. 2. Break. 3. Update on the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction implementation of 2007 and 2008 changes and WASL contract selection. Jennifer Priddy & Joe Wilhoft. 4. Lunch and discussion of a possible ninth member. 5. Summary of Washington State Institute for Public Policy research on barriers to success on the WASL and possible alternatives. 6. Workgroup discussion of a draft work plan, including needed technical expertise and overall approach. 7. Next steps and setting of future meeting agendas.
September Legislative Assembly 09/04-05/08	Full Committee TBA	Vancouver	Property tax issues.
10/08/08 Afternoon	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	Spokane	Property tax issues.
December Legislative Assembly 12/04-05/08	Full Committee TBA	Olympia	TBA

Senate Ways & Means Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7715

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
Other Meetings:			
TBA	TBA	TBA	Annual meetings will be held to discuss the implementation of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's JLARC study recommendations.
06/9-10/08	Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	For more information visit the committee website at: http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/ .
TBA	State Assessment Workgroup TBA	TBA	Meetings will be held through out the 2008 Interim to review and evaluate the current Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) system.
2-3 Meetings	Pension Funding Council	Olympia	The Pension Funding Council will hold at least two meetings to review the preliminary and final reports of the firm contracted to audit the work of the State Actuary and to adopt contribution rates for the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium.
TBA	Medical Assistance Workgroup	Olympia	Workgroup to meet twice weekly from July through October.
07/7-8/08	Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	For more information visit the committee website at: http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/ .
09/15-16/08	Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	For more information visit the committee website at: http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/ .
10/20-21/08	Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	For more information visit the committee website at: http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/ .

Senate Ways & Means Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2008

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7715

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
11/17-18/08	Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	For more information visit the committee website at: http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/ .
12/8-9/08	Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	For more information visit the committee website at: http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/ .
06/18/08 TBA	Joint Task Force on School Construction Funding TBA	TBA	The task force will continue to meet during the 2008 Interim to review K-12 capital spending and funding issues. For more information visit the committee website at: http://leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/K12SCF/ .
07/16/08 9:00 am	Joint Task Force on Local Financing of Various Items in King County TBA	HHR C	TBA
08/06/08 TBA	Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	For more information visit the committee website at: http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/ .
09/17/08 9:00 am	School Construction, Joint Legislative Task Force TBA	Olympia	The task force will continue to meet during the 2008 Interim to review K-12 capital spending and funding issues. For more information visit the committee website at: http://leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/K12SCF/ .
10/15/08 9:00 AM	School Construction, Joint Legislative Task Force TBA	Olympia	The task force will continue to meet during the 2008 Interim to review K-12 capital spending and funding issues. For more information visit the committee website at: http://leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/K12SCF/ .
10/21/08 Morning	Pension Policy, Select Committee TBA	Olympia	To be announced.

Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: **Animal Health Requirements for Cattle Imported into Washington**

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Bob Lee/Sam Thompson

Description: There is concern whether current animal health regulations for cattle imported into to the state are adequate to protect the state's beef industry. Procedures for importing cattle into Washington State from adjoining states and Canada are affected by federal and state regulations and by international trade agreements. The requirements may differ depending on whether the cattle are destined directly for slaughter or will be dispersed to others for the production of offspring. A variety of diseases are of concern including contagious diseases such as tuberculosis or brucellosis, and non-contagious diseases such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

This project will analyze current regulations and research other states' efforts to protect their domestic cattle industry from potential introduction of disease from imported cattle.

Project: **Maintaining Agricultural Viability**

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Bob Lee

Reference: SSB 5108 (2007), SSB 5248 (2007), SSB 6805 (2008)

Description: Studies of various aspects of agriculture in Washington State are in process. In 2008, the State Conservation Commission was charged with conducting a study on the use of conservation markets to obtain environmental benefits while also preserving lands for long-term agricultural and forestry purposes. The work of the Farmland Preservation Task Force to examine methods to reduce the loss of agricultural lands is continuing. The Ruckelshaus Center is examining issues relating to requirements of the Growth Management Act to protect agricultural lands and critical areas. The "Future of Farming" project lead by the Department of Agriculture is examining how agriculture in Washington is changing and is developing a strategic plan for agriculture.

Findings and recommendations from these activities will be reported to the committee as they become available.

Senate Consumer Protection & Housing Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Homeowners' Association Act

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Vanessa Firnhaber-Baker

Reference: SCR 8423 (2006)

Description: In 2006, the Legislature passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 8423, which created a committee to study the Homeowners' Association Act (HOAA) (RCW 64.38) and recommend legislation. The committee met throughout 2006 and 2007 and submitted its proposed legislation during the 2008 session. That legislation, Senate Bill 6745, proposed many substantive changes to the HOAA to address voting, resolving conflicting statutes, resale notifications, and dispute resolution between homeowners and their association. Senate Bill 6745 failed to pass the legislature; however, the issues that the committee attempted to address remain. Staff will continue to provide policy and legal analysis and research as directed, resulting in a report based on any additional discussions, including proposed legislation, as directed.

Project: Increasing Consumer Protections

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Alison Mendiola

Description: Consumer advocates are concerned about transactions that may disproportionately impact low-income and other vulnerable populations. These transactions may include, but are not limited to, refund anticipation loans and rent-to-own transactions. Staff will survey current law, including the laws in other states. Staff will draft proposed legislation, as requested.

Project: Mortgage-Related Issues

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Alison Mendiola, Vanessa Firnhaber-Baker

Reference: HB 2791, SSB 6711, EHB 3142, SB 6381 (2008)

Description: In response to changes in the mortgage industry that may negatively impact consumers, a number of bills were passed last session, including Senate Bill 6381 (establishing a fiduciary duty for mortgage brokers), House Bill 2791 (addressing foreclosure rescues), Substitute Senate Bill 6711 (creating the Smart Homeownership Choices Program), and Engrossed House Bill 3142 (creating the Rapid Response Loan Program). Staff will monitor the implementation of these new laws as well as continue to monitor changes in the mortgage industry, including proposed legislation on the federal level, in other states, and in Washington's local jurisdiction. Staff will also draft legislation as requested.

Senate Consumer Protection & Housing Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: **Used Car Financing**

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Vanessa Firnhaber-Baker

Reference: SB 6768 (2008)

Description: Senate Bill 6768 proposed certain consumer protections for buyers of used vehicles from dealers including additional disclosures regarding financing and a three-day right to cancel. The bill did not pass the legislature; however, the issue of lending practices for used vehicle financing warrants additional research. Staff will research current consumer protections applicable to used vehicle financing and methods used by other states to regulate used vehicle lending practices. In addition, staff will work with other agencies, including the Department of Licensing, the Department of Financial Institutions, and the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division to determine used vehicle financiers' current lending practices and perceived shortcomings. This research will result in a report, and proposed legislation, as requested.

Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: **Joint Meeting and Site Visit by the Senate and House Education Committees and House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**

Completion Date: July 1, 2008

Staff: Susan Mielke/Kim Cushing

Reference: 2SSB 5955 (2007), E2SSB 6673 (2008)

Description: Each summer, the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) and the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) host a major statewide conference for principals, superintendents, and other school and district administrators. At the conference, the House and Senate Education Committees and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education will host an open forum on topics related to high school education. Additionally, the committee members will receive an update on the Washington Leadership Academy which was created in 2007 (2 Substitute Senate Bill 5955) to design and implement a system of professional development for administrators.

Taking advantage of the opening day of summer school, the House and Senate Education Committees and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education will jointly conduct a site visit of the Spokane Skills Center, meet with students to learn about how career and technical education (CTE) fits into their educational plans, and hear presentations on innovative CTE programs in the Spokane region. The Spokane School District and the Spokane Skills Center have been at the forefront of innovations in CTE, including high school pre-apprenticeships (Running Start for the Trades), and the development of preliminary plans for skill center branch campus programs with small rural school districts.

Project: **Online Teaching and Learning**

Completion Date: December 1, 2008

Staff: Susan Mielke

Reference: SSB 5828 (2005), 2SHB 2598, 2SHB 3129 (2007)

Description: Technology offers new teaching choices for educators and new learning opportunities for students. Washington continues to see a high rate of growth in online learning for K-12 schools. The office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction reports that between the 2002-03 and 2006-07 school years, the number of students enrolled in one or more online courses for credit has nearly doubled from 6,999 to 12,097.

The committee staff will profile each of the private and state-funded entities providing online education; explore which Washington schools, districts, and students are accessing online education; summarize the relevant state and federal law governing online education; and sample how schools, districts, and students decide which courses and/or providers are chosen. Additionally, staff will review how other states are addressing online education, including planning & managing, funding, teacher certifications and qualifications, quality control, student enrollment and credit, the statewide level of access to technology, and possible options for Washington state or school district policies addressing any of these issues. Information will be provided as a final report to the committee members. Committee staff will draft legislation as directed.

Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Early Learning Providers

Completion Date: December 1, 2008

Staff: Kim Cushing/Paula Moore

Reference: SSB 5828 (2007), SSB 1128 (sec. 614) (2007), 2SHB 3168 (2008)

Description: In 2007, the Legislature provided \$5 million for the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to develop a voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) that gives parents better information about the quality of child care and early education programs and expands the availability of high quality early learning opportunities. Currently, six sites are participating in a pilot design phase. This information will be used for the pilot implementation phase of one system, which begins July 1, 2008.

In 2008, the Legislature passed legislation that requires DEL to develop a proposal for implementing a statewide Washington Head Start Program. The program should align the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) with the federal Head Start program.

The committee staff will visit several early learning sites around the state to view QRIS pilot implementation, as well as ECEAP and Head Start sites. Committee staff will monitor QRIS progress and provide background information to other staff and committee members prior to the site visits and summary information after the visit.

Project: Regional Delivery of Educational Programs, Training, and Services Through the Educational Service Districts

Completion Date: December 1, 2008

Staff: Roman Dixon/Susan Mielke

Reference: HB 2629, SHB 2679, E2SSB 6673 (2008), Initiative 900 (2005)

Description: The committee staff will review and summarize current programs, training, and services offered regionally through the Educational Service Districts (ESDs) and create a list of services common to all ESDs and a list of services that are unique to each of the ESDs. Additionally, the committee staff will summarize information on the status of the efforts in response to the 2006 performance audit recommendations to further develop the ESDs in an effective statewide system of regional support.

Project: Joint Task Force on Basic Education Definition and Funding

Completion Date: January 1, 2009

Staff: Bryon Moore/Susan Mielke/Kim Cushing/Roman Dixon

Reference: E2SSB 5627 (2007), SSB 6879 (2008)

Description: In the 2007 Legislative Session, a joint task force comprised of legislators and others was created to review the definition of basic education and the current funding formulas and propose a new definition and options for a new funding structure. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (Institute) will provide research support to the task force with assistance from legislative committee staff, the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program and The Office of Financial Management. The final report is due September 15, 2008, to the task force and must include two to four options for revising the K-12 funding structure. The task force must then report by December 1, 2008, to the Legislature. Committee staff will provide assistance and draft legislation as necessary.

Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: State Assessment Workgroup

Completion Date: January 1, 2009

Staff: Susan Mielke/Kim Cushing/Roman Dixon/Bryon Moore

Reference: ESHB 2687 (2008 Supplemental Budget sec. 127)

Description: A legislative work group, with nine members appointed by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, was established in the operating budget to review and evaluate the current statewide student assessment system. Among other things, it is anticipated that the workgroup will look at issues around cost, how Washington's assessment system compares to other states, and ways to potentially improve the assessment system. The work group will complete their work by January 1, 2009. \$150,000 is provided for the costs associated with hiring independent technical experts to advise the work group. Committee staff will provide assistance and draft legislation as necessary.

Project: Other Legislative Workgroups, Task Forces, Councils, and Advisory Committees

Completion Date: January 1, 2009

Staff: Kim Cushing/Roman Dixon/Susan Mielke/Bryon Moore/Paula Moore

Reference: 2SHB 1573, 2SHB 1980, 2SHB 5093, E2SSB 5828, ESSB 6023, Capital Budget proviso (sec. 6016) (2007), SSB 6426, SB 6486, 2SHB 2722, 2SSB 6377, Capital Budget proviso (sec. 6015) (2008)

Description: In 2008, the Legislature created a legislative task force to review and make recommendations regarding an interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children, a legislative advisory committee to craft a strategic plan to address the achievement gap for African-American students, and a joint task force on local financing options for various activities, including education, within King county. Additionally, the Legislature extended the legislative career and technical education curricula advisory committee for another year to accomplish the goals of the initial report. These efforts are in addition to the legislative task forces, workgroups, councils, and advisory committees created in 2007 with on-going tasks addressing education issues and on which legislators are members: The dropout prevention, intervention, and retrieval state-level workgroup; the financial literacy public-private partnership; the select interim task force on school health reform, the early learning advisory council; and the joint legislative task force on K-12 school construction. Committee staff will provide staff research and support to the legislators serving on the groups and draft legislation as necessary.

Senate Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Higher Education and Economic Development

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Jack Brummel and Aaron Gutierrez

Description: As economic activity becomes increasingly globalized and knowledge based, policy makers are looking to our institutions of higher education to support economic development goals. This is because educational institutions are viewed as a source of the most valuable assets in a knowledge-based economy: educated, skilled people and new ideas. The committee will address how our higher-education system can support economic development in the state and in particular, how the system can align its contributions with what is actually happening in local economies and strengthen local capabilities for innovation. The committee will conduct a tour and hold hearings to provide information to Senators. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

Project: Transparency in Economic Development Subsidies

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Jack Brummel and Aaron Gutierrez

Description: One of the best strategies for improving performance is transparency. A 2007 report ranking the states in transparency gave Washington a grade of "A" in disclosure of state lobbying activities because our Public Disclosure Commission provides excellent online access to information via an easy-to-use database - individual financial reports are available for viewing as well. Washington receives an "A-" in disclosure of state procurement contracts because the Department of General Administration provides a database and a list of contracts searchable by title, contract number, or vendor name - copies of full contracts are available with detailed vendor information and pricing. Washington receives an "F" in disclosure of state economic development subsidies because the Department of Revenue does not systematically disclose company-specific subsidy information online.

Committee staff will review current state policies regarding the tracking and reporting of economic development subsidies, analyze transparency efforts in other states and draft legislation as requested.

Senate Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Life Settlement Model Act

Completion Date: May 31, 2008

Staff: Diane Smith/Aaron Gutierrez

Reference: SB 6631 (2008)

Description: Though insurable interest laws are currently part of the insurance code, currently, the business of life settlements is unregulated in Washington. A nation-wide initiative is being undertaken by the life settlements industry to encourage state-wide, uniform regulation. A hearing was held on SB 6631, an act relating to adopting the life settlements model act. That did not result in consensus by the end of the legislative session. The Committee Chair invited the interested parties to a series of three meetings in Everett to negotiate bill language. The members of the Committee were also invited to participate. The meeting dates are as follows: April 9; April 23; and May 7.

Senate staff will facilitate the meetings and prepare draft bill language, as directed by Committee members, for possible introduction in the 2009 session.

Project: Personal Injury Protection (PIP) Automobile Insurance

Completion Date: May 31, 2008

Staff: Diane Smith/Aaron Gutierrez

Reference: S-4320 (2008)

Description: The Committee held a work session on personal injury protection (PIP) automobile insurance during the 2008 session. There was no consensus reached for statutory language to eliminate subrogation in PIP claims. Since no consensus was reached after the session ended, the Committee Chair invited the interested parties to a series of three meetings in Everett to negotiate bill language. The members of the Committee were also invited to participate. The meeting dates are as follows: April 9 and April 23.

Senate staff will facilitate the meetings and prepare draft bill language, as directed by Committee members, for possible introduction in the 2009 session.

Project: Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Diane Smith/Aaron Gutierrez

Description: Prior to the 2008 session, a bill was drafted to update the Washington Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act, as revised by the Uniform Law Commission. This bill draft was not introduced. Work this interim is anticipated to bring the proposed legislation into conformity with Washington laws, prior to its possible introduction next session. Senate staff will craft a bill draft, as directed by Committee members, for possible introduction in the 2009 session.

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change Through the GMA

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Sharon Swanson/Cindy Calderon

Reference: SB 6580 (2008)

Description: An advisory team shall be appointed to work with Community, Trade & Economic Development to create a report to address: (1) what actions cities and counties are taking to address climate change; (2) a recommendation of what changes, if any, to chapter 36.70A would enable state and local governments to address climate change issues through land use and transportation issues; and (3) an assessment of state and local resources financial and otherwise, needed to fully implement the recommendations of the report.

Project: Allowing Voter Registration up to and on Election Day

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Sharon Swanson/Cindy Calderon

Reference: SB 6778 (2008)

Description: Senate Bill 6778 attempted to allow for voter registration up to and on Election Day. Legislative staff will work with the staff from the Washington State Auditor's Office to address any potential concerns with the implementation of same-day registration. Committee staff will develop future legislation as directed by committee members.

Project: Annexation Concerns

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Cindy Calderon

Reference: SB 6238 (2008), HB 2938 (2008)

Description: Legislative staff will draft a study to clarify annexation procedures between cities and fire districts, and review whether or not there is a need to modify requirements for the direct petition method of annexation. Staff will develop any potential legislation as directed by committee members.

Project: Elections/ Top Two Primary

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Sharon Swanson

Reference: SB 6924 (2008)

Description: Committee staff will continue to monitor efforts to resolve potential conflicts that arise from existing statutes and the Top 2 Primary election system enacted under I-872.

Staff will develop potential legislation, as directed, for the 2009 Legislative Session.

Project: GMA Appeals Process/Small City Loans

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Sharon Swanson

Reference: SB 6493 (2008)

Description: The director of Community, Trade & Economic Development is required to develop a program for loans to cover city costs associated with appeals of critical areas ordinance. Legislative staff will assist with research and develop any potential legislation, as directed by committee members.

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Municipal Water Safety

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Aaron Gutierrez

Description: Staff will draft a study regarding the safety of municipal water. Specifically, the study will review how safe drinking water is, what toxins can be found in the water, what oversight there is for municipal water, etc.

Project: Property Tax Records Itemized Receipts

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Aaron Gutierrez

Description: Staff will research potential legislation requiring county auditors to include on property tax bills an itemized list of where the property tax payment money goes to including the type of fund and programs.

Project: Providing Voting Proportional to Population on Boards of Certain Inter-County Library Districts

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Cindy Calderon

Reference: SB 5785, HB1795 (2007)

Description: Senate Bill 5785 provided for proportional voting by County on library boards. Another way is to divide rural inter county libraries into districts with equal populations that cross county lines in the same way that legislative districts are established. Staff will draft a study on how to obtain fair voting on rural inter county library boards.

Project: Specialty Agriculture Structures

Completion Date: August 2008

Staff: Aaron Gutierrez

Reference: SB 6609 (2008)

Description: The committee will hold a public hearing in Eastern Washington on Specialty Agriculture Structures. Staff will study and prepare a memo on:
(1) Permit costs for specialty agriculture structures in each county in WA and adjoining counties in surrounding states, and (2) Alternative fee structures and building code requirements for agriculture structures.

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Economic Analysis of Health Care Reform Proposals

Completion Date: December 30, 2008

Staff: Mich'l Needham, Elaine Deschamps

Reference: ESSB 6333 (2008)

Description: Legislation passed in 2008 (Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6333) directs the Legislature to contract with an independent consultant to complete an economic analysis of five health care reform proposals. Each of the five proposals will be analyzed for how they will impact the number of people insured and uninsured, change the scope of health care coverage, affect affordability, redistribute costs and savings, impact employment, influence consumer choice, trigger administrative efficiencies, and address hospital charity care. A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be written to select the independent consultant. Committee staff will manage the consultant contract and help monitor the project, which must be completed by December 2008.

Project: Exploring Promising Practices that Improve Quality and Contain Costs

Completion Date: December 30, 2008

Staff: Rhoda Donkin, Edith Rice, Mich'l Needham

Reference: E2SHB 2549 (2008), 2SSB 5093 (2007), E2SSB 5930 (2007)

Description: In the last two sessions, legislation has addressed ways to improve the quality of health care and contain costs, both through systemic reform proposals and through targeted pilot programs. The committee will convene health reform roundtable discussions with diverse stakeholders who will address these issues in ways that may be applicable to a systemic reform effort. The Committee will invite stakeholders representing five key sectors in health care to participate in discussions at various locations around the state joint with Senate and House Health Committee member participation.

Project: Monitor Changes in Health Profession Discipline

Completion Date: January 1, 2009

Staff: Edith Rice

Reference: 4SHB 1103 (2008)

Description: Legislation introduced during the 2006, 2007, and 2008 sessions addressed concerns about quality assurance and discipline of health professionals. Fourth Substitute House Bill 1103 (4SHB 1103) incorporates changes in licensing, discipline, background checks, and regulation. The Medical Quality Assurance Commission and the Nurse Care Quality Assurance Commission are directed to conduct pilot projects giving them new administrative authority. The Dental Quality Assurance Commission and Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission may also conduct similar pilot projects by July 1, 2008. Committee staff will monitor implementation of 4SHB 1103 and these pilot projects to provide legislators with an overview of agency and commission progress prior to the 2009 Legislative Session.

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Review of Language Access Services for Health Care

Completion Date: January 2009

Staff: Rhoda Donkin

Reference: SB 6684 (2008)

Description: Senate Bill 6684 identified concern that many state residents with limited English proficiency struggle when they seek medical care. Without someone to translate the details of a diagnosis or treatment information, non-English speaking patients may not be getting appropriate medical care. Although the state medical assistance programs provided through the Department of Social and Health Services reimburse providers for interpreter services, most programs and insurance carriers do not assist with interpreter services. The committee will review the options for broadening access to interpreter services for medical care. Staff will research approaches that may offer wider access to focused target populations.

Other Projects:

Project: Interim Legislative Task Force on Comprehensive School Health Reform

Completion Date: October 2008

Staff: Rhoda Donkin

Reference: 2SSB 5093 (2007)

Description: Legislation in 2007 established the Select Interim Legislative Task Force on Comprehensive School Health Reform. The task force was formed to address health issues affecting school age children within the context of the school environment. The task force has met several times and discussed issues related to nursing services, financing, and the "coordinated school health" model for managing these issues. Over the interim the task force will take on nutrition, physical activity, school-based health centers, psycho/social issues, and the environmental hazards on school campuses. Staff will facilitate these meetings, and help draft recommendations from this committee due to the Legislature in October 2008.

Senate Higher Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Monitor the Higher Education Coordinating Board

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: The Higher Education Coordinating Board continues to develop rules, advertising, and administrative procedures for academic scholarship programs enacted by the legislature. The HECB also is working on the projects identified by the strategic master plan. Staff will monitor the HECB efforts.

Project: Monitor the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: Staff will monitor the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges' efforts to implement legislation passed during the 2007 and 2008 Legislative Sessions.

Project: Nursing Programs

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: The demand for nurses has been well documented. While the state has made progress toward educating more nurses, but it remains a high employer demand field of study. Staff will study how other states are responding to the need for responding to the shortage of nurses. Legislation will be drafted as requested by committee members.

Project: Part-Time Faculty Job Security

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: Over half of the faculty at state community and technical colleges are employed on a part-time basis. Job security and equal pay have been continuing issues. These faculty are typically employed on one year contracts without job security. In the past few years, the legislature has considered legislation that would have provided preferences to them when full-time positions occur, rolling contracts, and various methods of converting part-time faculty to full-time faculty. The legislature has also considered legislation designed to help equalize pay for part-time faculty. Staff will study the use of part-time faculty, part-time faculty pay, and part-time faculty job security and pay provisions in Washington and other states. Legislation will be drafted as requested by committee members.

Project: State Performance Agreement Committee

Completion Date: December

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Reference: EHB 2641 (2008)

Description: A State Performance Agreement Committee was formed under Engrossed House Bill 2641. This committee was created to represent the state's interest in developing performance agreements at Washington's four-year public institutions and will negotiate the provisions of specific performance agreements with each institutions negotiating team. Staff will provide support for the participating Senators.

Senate Higher Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Timely Completion of Degrees

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: It is more economical from both the perspective of the students and the state when students graduate in a timely fashion. Part-time students, students who enter college without clear career goals, and students who change career plans during their collegiate careers are particularly challenged. Staff will study provisions that other states are considering to encourage timely completion as well as analyze research regarding the academic careers of students. Legislation will be drafted as requested by committee members.

Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Community Custody Workgroup

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Shani Bauer

Reference: HB 2719 (2008)

Description: HB 2719 made clarifying changes to the Sentencing Reform Act with the intent of supporting continued discussions by the Sentencing Guidelines Commission (SGC) with the courts and the criminal justice community to identify and propose policy changes to further simplify and improve the sentencing reform act relating to the supervision of offenders. The SGC must submit policy change proposals to the legislature on or before December 1, 2008.

Staff will monitor the progress of these discussions.

Project: Competency Evaluation and Restoration Procedures

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Kevin Black

Reference: SB 6311 (2008)

Description: A competency evaluation is required whenever it appears that a criminal defendant may be incompetent to stand trial. A task force met during 2007 to work on some changes to the system. The stakeholders could not completely agree on all the changes so agreed to continuing to work on the issue during the 2008 interim.

Staff will work with the stakeholders to assist them in reaching consensus.

Project: Marital Dissolution Task Force

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Jennifer Strus/Kevin Black

Reference: 2SSB 5470 (2007)

Description: In 2007, the Administrative Office of the Courts convened a task force to establish statewide protocols for certain areas of marriage dissolution matters. The Task Force's preliminary recommendations are due in September 2008, and its final recommendations, after a period of stakeholder input, are due in December 2008.

Senate staff will monitor the work of the Task Force and draft legislation as requested by members.

Project: Prioritization of Children's Administration Social Worker Tasks

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Jennifer Strus

Reference: ESHB 2687 (Supplemental Operating Budget)

Description: The supplemental operating budget requires the Children's Administration (CA) to work with the exclusive bargaining representative for the CA social workers to prioritize social worker tasks and devise methods by which to alleviate from the social workers' workload lower priority tasks. CA and the representative are to jointly report their efforts to the legislature by July 1, 2008 and by November 15, 2008.

Staff will monitor the progress of these discussions.

Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Sex Offender Policy Board

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Shani Bauer/Jennifer Strus

Reference: SSB 6596

Description: SSB 6596 created the Sex Offender Policy Board under the Sentencing Guidelines Commission. The Board has a number of responsibilities including to stay apprised of research and best practices related to risk assessment, treatment, and supervision of sex offenders, community education regarding sex offenses and offenders, prevention of sex offenses, and sex offender management in general.

Staff will monitor the implementation of the bill and ongoing work of the Board.

Project: Transitional Housing Operating and Rent (THOR) Program

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Shani Bauer

Reference: ESSB 5959 (2008)

Description: The THOR program is created in the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to assist homeless individuals and their families secure and retain safe, decent and affordable housing.

Senate staff will monitor the implementation of the program.

Senate Judiciary Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Does the State Constitution Require a Commissioning Authority to Grant Police Powers to Tribal Officers?

Completion Date: September 2008 Staff: Lidia Mori

Reference: EHB 2476 (2008)

Description: Concern has been expressed about whether a commissioning authority is necessary under the state constitution for tribal police officers to be authorized to act as general authority Washington State Peace Officers. If a group is formed to examine this question, staff will attend meetings and stay apprised of the group's progress.

Project: Eminent Domain

Completion Date: November 2008 Staff: Lidia Mori

Reference: HB 2016 (2007)

Description: House Bill 2016 contains provisions which would amend the process of condemnation and reasons for which property may be condemned. This issue will continue to be addressed during the interim by a task force assembled by the Attorney General. Staff will monitor the efforts of the task force and perform any research or drafting as requested by Senate members of the task force.

Project: Environmentally-Related Settlements Between Agencies and Respondents

Completion Date: October 2008 Staff: Dawn Noel

Description: Identify and analyze statutes and administrative practices pertaining to citizen involvement and intervention in environmentally-related settlements between an agency and a respondent. Staff will draft legislation as requested.

Project: Public Records of Identity Theft Victims

Completion Date: October 2008 Staff: Lidia Mori

Description: RCW 9.35 provides that a court may enter orders to correct public records pertaining to a specific identity theft (IDT) victim upon conviction of someone for IDT. But the majority of IDT crimes do not result in IDT convictions. Staff will consult with knowledgeable parties, including the law enforcement group against identity theft (LEGIT), to determine whether legislative action is needed to improve criminal and arrest history records of IDT victims.

Project: Study of Rules of Statutory Construction

Completion Date: September 2008 Staff: Dawn Noel

Description: Members have requested staff to study the rules of statutory construction with the purpose of codifying them to enhance the accurate interpretation of legislation by the courts.

Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Unemployment Insurance Issues

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Mac Nicholson

Reference: SB 6885 (2006), SB 5999 (2007)

Description: During the 2006 session, the Legislature passed Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6885, which provided a "pay at 2 and charge at 4" agreement for unemployment insurance. The U.S. Department of Labor has found that this agreement is out of conformity with federal law. The committee will monitor development of the issue and provide assistance as necessary.

Other Projects:

Project: Joint Legislative Task Force on the Underground Economy in the Washington State Construction Industry

Completion Date: January 2009

Staff: Kathy Buchli

Reference: SB 6732 (2008)

Description: The task force, which was created in 2007, will continue to meet and formulate state policy to establish cohesion and transparency among state agencies in order to increase the oversight and regulation of underground economy practices in the construction industry. The task force is to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by January 2009.

Project: Joint Legislative Task Force on the HVAC/R Industry

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Ingrid Mungia

Reference: SB 5831 (2008)

Description: The task force must review the following issues within the context of Senate Bill 5831 and the Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee report on Heating Venting Air Conditioning/Refrigeration (HVAC/R) licensing and testing requirements: the requirements for certifying HVAC/R mechanics; methods of registering contractors who qualify for two or more registrations or licenses; establishing at least three levels of mechanics, with the ability to be certified in different specialties; on the job experience requirements for mechanics; apprenticeship certification; exemptions to registration, certification, or licensing; and any other factors deemed necessary. A final report and recommendations are due to the Legislature by December 2008.

Project: Joint Select Committee on Beer and Wine Regulation

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Mac Nicholson

Reference: SCR 8407 (2008)

Description: The committee must review laws relating to the manufacture, distribution, and sale of beer and wine to determine whether those laws should be continued in their present form or reformulated. A final report and recommendations are due to the Legislature by December 2008.

Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Forest Practices Rules & Rulemaking

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Sherry McNamara

Description: Since 1974, forest practices are governed by the Department of Natural Resources and regulated by the Forest Practices Act under chapter 76.09 RCW. In 2006, the Forests and Fish Law was endorsed by the Federal government, through a statewide Habitat Conservation Plan. This law is designed to fully comply with both the Federal Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act to protect Washington's native fish and aquatic species. Committee staff will explore the history of forest practices in Washington, examine the structure and processes of the State's forest practices and rulemaking, and attend and monitor Forest Practice Board meetings and public hearings on proposed rules.

Project: Marine Protected Areas

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Curt Gavigan

Reference: SSB 6231 (2008), SSB 6307 (2008)

Description: The term "Marine Protected Area" (MPA) refers to any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by federal, state, tribal, territorial, or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein. Washington contains many areas identified in the Federal MPA database, including federal, state, and locally managed areas. Several state agencies have authorities relevant to establishing marine protected areas, including the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the State Parks and Recreation Commission. In the 2007 session, the Legislature created a work group to examine and make recommendations to improve coordination and management of the State's MPAs. Committee staff will monitor the progress of the work group and research MPA management efforts in other states and nations.

Project: Salmon Fishing Season Setting Processes & Issues

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Curt Gavigan

Reference: SB 6337 (2008)

Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is authorized to establish policies regarding fish, including the time, place, manner, and methods used to harvest or enjoy fish and wildlife. Current statute provides general direction to DFW regarding fish and wildlife management. DFW must conserve the fisheries resources of the State in a manner that does not impair the resource. Consistent with this conservation objective, DFW must seek to maintain the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry, promote orderly fisheries, and work to enhance and improve both recreation and commercial fishing. The process to set salmon fishing seasons is very complex, requiring collection and analysis of biological information and data, participation with other government entities in regional harvest management panels, and in-season adjustments to account for changing circumstances. Staff will research and summarize applicable international treaties and federal and state laws that govern salmon fishing season setting, as well as the processes by which such seasons are set.

Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: **Wolf Recovery Planning & Livestock Damage Programs**

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Karen Epps

Reference: 2ESHB 1147 (2008), SB 6315 (2008), SB 6592 (2008), SJM 8023 (2008)

Description: In the 2008 session, the Committee had work sessions and held public hearings on bills concerning the introduction of gray wolves into Washington; wolf-hybrids, especially as they relate to the management of gray wolves in Washington; and the depredation of livestock due to wildlife, including, but not limited to, gray wolves, cougars, and bears. The Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) Wolf Working Group continues to meet and develop a wolf management plan due to be released by June 30, 2008. Additionally, the Committee was interested in options available to the state regarding reimbursement for damage to livestock due to wildlife depredation. Committee staff will monitor DFW's development and adoption of the Wolf Management Plan and will research and summarize wolf management and livestock damage reimbursement programs in other states.

Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: 2009 Citizen's Guide to the Transportation Budget

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Natalie Zukowski

Description: The Senate Transportation Committee and the Legislative and Accountability Program (LEAP) staff publish a Citizen's Guide to the Transportation Budget. Members, legislative staff, and the general public use the guide to answer basic questions about the Washington State transportation budget. The Guide is published on an annual basis because of changes in supplemental budget sessions. The Guide will be updated before the 2009 Legislative Session.

Project: Aviation Planning Council

Completion Date: January 1, 2009

Staff: Kelly Simpson

Reference: ESHB 2878, Section 215 (2008)

Description: The 2008 supplemental transportation budget continued funding for the state Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to support the work of the Aviation Planning Council. The Council was authorized in 2005 pursuant to legislation requiring a phased in long-term study of the state's aviation needs, both general aviation and commercial aviation. The final stage of the study includes the convening of a Governor appointed Aviation Planning Council, tasked with the following duties: (1) review WSDOT's statewide facilities & market analysis studies, (2) make recommendations regarding how to meet statewide aviation needs, and (3) make recommendations regarding where to place future commercial & general aviation airport facilities. Committee staff will monitor the work of the Council and assist with drafting legislation as directed.

Project: Bond Finance Assumptions and Cash Management Study

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: David Ward

Description: Committee staff will work with staff from the Joint Transportation Committee, House Transportation Committee, Office of Financial Management, Office of the State Treasurer (OST) and Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) to provide administrative oversight and policy guidance for a consultant study to examine and make recommendations on a shared set of bond finance assumptions for use in the development of the 16-year transportation financial plan. The study will also examine cash management practices at both OST and DOT as they relate to the successful delivery of the 16-year transportation finance plan.

Project: Border Crossing Cards

Completion Date: On-going

Staff: Janice Baumgardt/Dory Nicpon

Reference: ESHB 2878, Section 211(3) (2008)

Description: As authorized by Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1289 (2007), the Department of Licensing (DOL) developed an enhanced driver's license and identicard (eDL/ID) to facilitate crossing the border between Washington and British Columbia. Demand for the eDL/ID exceeded initial projections, and additional funds were appropriated for eDL/ID implementation. Committee staff will monitor and review eDL/ID implementation.

Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Covering of Vehicular Loads

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Natalie Zukowski

Description: Committee staff will participate and monitor meetings of various stakeholders to study the issue of requiring all loads of sand, gravel or dirt to be covered. Senate Bill 6274, introduced during the 2008 legislative session, would have eliminated the six inch freeboard exemption from the covered load requirement. Input will be sought from the Washington State Department of Transportation and various industries that will be affected. Staff will provide support to the workgroup and draft legislation as directed.

Project: Freight Congestion Relief Study

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: David Ward

Reference: Chapter 514, Laws of 2007 and ESHB 2878, Section 205 (2) (2008)

Description: With Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) members and stakeholders, committee staff will participate in a study of funding mechanisms to fund freight infrastructure improvements. The study will evaluate the imposition of a fee on the processing of shipping containers, port-related user fees, and other funding mechanisms to improve freight corridors by identifying a revenue stream to fund state highway and rail investments from the freight relief account. Staff will provide support to the JTC, participate in contractor oversight, and draft legislation as directed.

Project: Project Delivery Oversight

Completion Date: On-going

Staff: Hayley Gamble/Janice Baumgardt/Dory Nicpon/Natalie Zukowski

Reference: ESHB 2878, Sections 301, 305 through 310 (2008)

Description: The 2003 Nickel funding package and the 2005 Transportation Partnership funding package both established project specific lists for the expenditure of the new funds. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is instructed to provide quarterly project reviews to the Legislature providing the status on each project in the project lists. Committee staff will monitor project implementation. WSDOT and the Washington State Patrol project compliance and oversight will also be conducted by staff on all other capital projects.

Project: Road Safety Education Pilot Program

Completion Date: December 1, 2009

Staff: Natalie Zukowski

Reference: ESHB 2878, Section 201 (2008)

Description: The Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC), along with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) are directed to conduct pilot programs in three school districts for road safety education and training for children for the 2008-09 academic year. The OSPI will evaluate the pilot programs and report to the Legislature by December 1, 2009. Committee staff will monitor and review the report of the pilot programs.

Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Special Needs Transportation

Completion Date: December 15, 2008

Staff: Kelly Simpson

Reference: ESHB 2878, Section 205(3) (appropriating funds for the implementation of SHB 1694) (2008)

Description: The 2008 supplemental transportation budget continued funding for the Joint Transportation Committee's study and review of the legal and programmatic changes and best practices necessary for effective coordination of transportation services at the regional level for persons with special transportation needs. The study is a comprehensive review of barriers and opportunities for special needs transportation with comparison to other states' approaches to coordinated transportation. Committee staff will monitor and review the study's workplan implementation and assist with drafting legislation as directed.

Project: Streamline Vehicle Title and Registration Statutes

Completion Date: June 30, 2009

Staff: Janice Baumgardt/David Ward/Kelly Simpson

Reference: ESHB 2878, Section 211 (8) (2008)

Description: Oversee the Washington State Department of Licensing effort to streamline title and registration statutes to specifically address conflicts and revenue distribution that are revenue neutral and do not change legislative policy. Committee staff will provide support as appropriate, and with the Code Reviser's Office, assist with drafting legislation as directed.

Project: Transportation Capital Budget and Fund Balance System Enhancements

Completion Date: On-going

Staff: STC Staff

Description: Committee staff will work with LEAP and House Transportation Committee staff on enhancements to the transportation capital budgeting and fund balance applications. The budget system enhancement effort will provide additional reporting features and the feasibility of integrating bond finance modeling capabilities for financial planning purposes.

Project: Washington State Ferry Study

Completion Date: November 1, 2008

Staff: Janice Baumgardt

Reference: ESHB 2878, Section 205 (1) (2008)

Description: The Joint Transportation Committee will conclude a three year study of the Washington State Ferry system leading to a revised long-range capital plan, renewed pricing and operational strategies and revised management and support budgets for the system. Committee staff will provide technical assistance to the legislative members of the committee, develop future budget scenarios for the 2009 session and draft implementing legislation as directed.

Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: **Washington State Patrol Pension Governance Study**

Completion Date: November 1, 2008

Staff: Dory Nicpon

Reference: ESHB 2878, Section 102(3) (2008)

Description: The Office of Financial Management is directed to study the most cost-effective means of ensuring that the pension concerns of the members of the Washington State Patrol Retirement System are adequately and appropriately considered, and to report study recommendations to the Legislature by November 1, 2008. Committee staff will monitor and review the pension governance study and draft legislation as directed.

Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Clean Air Act

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Sam Thompson

Reference: SB 6902 (2008)

Description: The Clean Air Act (CAA), RCW chapter 70.94, was enacted in 1967 and has been amended several times. A key component of state environmental law, it implements Federal air quality mandates and authorizes state and local regulation of air quality. Recent legislation sought to increase readability of the CAA through policy neutral changes. A 2008 measure, Senate Bill 6902, proposed to reorganize CAA provisions, reduce redundancies, and eliminate obsolete language. That bill is the starting point for an interim project in which staff will work with stakeholders to craft and refine suggested nonsubstantive changes to enhance clarity of the CAA.

Project: Climate Change

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Jan Odano

Reference: E2SHB 2815 (2008)

Description: Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2815 sets forth requirements for agencies to develop a framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As part of these requirements, the Department of Ecology must develop a greenhouse gas reduction plan for legislative review and develop a design for a regional multi-sector market-based system to limit and reduce greenhouse gases. The Department of Transportation must develop benchmarks to meet goals of reducing vehicle miles traveled and report to the legislature on the anticipated impacts. Committee staff will monitor the progress of agency activities in determining recommendations to the Legislature and develop legislation as directed.

Project: Hanford Reservation Clean-up Update

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Jan Odano

Description: Regulation of Hanford began in 1989 with the signing of the Tri-Party Agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy, Washington State Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Tri-Party Agreement is a legally binding agreement which describes the roles, responsibilities and authority of the three agencies, or "Parties," in the cleanup, compliance and permitting processes. The clean-up is dependent on federal funding and federal compliance and adherence to meeting obligations agreed upon with the state. Staff will explore the history of clean-up efforts at Hanford, examine and report on the status of the clean-up efforts and federal legal obligations to the state.

Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Kittitas County Groundwater

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Karen Epps

Description: In September 2007, a petition was filed with the Department of Ecology (Ecology) requesting that a rule be adopted to establish a temporary moratorium on new ground water wells in Kittitas County. Ecology did not proceed with the adoption of a moratorium rule, but rather began working with the Kittitas County to negotiate a water management agreement. In March 2008, Ecology and Kittitas County released a draft Memorandum of Agreement (Agreement) regarding the management of exempt ground water wells in Kittitas County. Additionally in 2008, the Legislature approved funding for a ground water study to better understand and manage water supplies in Kittitas County. Committee staff will monitor implementation of the Agreement and the development of the ground water study and summarize any findings.

Project: Water Right Relinquishment

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Karen Epps

Description: Relinquishment occurs when a person, who does not beneficially use his or her water right, or a portion thereof, relinquishes that portion of the water right for the voluntary failure to continuously use the water for five or more consecutive years unless sufficient cause is shown. Committee staff will examine the history of relinquishment, review case law, state statutes, and other states' statutes, and provide a summary of the statutes and issues.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: 2009 Citizen's Guide to the Budget

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Maria Hovde, Devon Nichols

Reference: LEAP Staff

Description: The Senate Ways and Means Committee and Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP) will publish a Citizen's Guide to the Budget. Members, legislative staff, and the general public use the guide to answer basic questions about the Washington State Biennial budget. The Guide is published on an annual basis because of significant changes in supplemental budget sessions. The Guide will be updated before the 2009 Legislative Session.

Project: 2009 Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Bryon Moore, Susan Mielke, Kim Cushing, Roman Dixon

Reference: LEAP staff

Description: Early Learning and K-12 Education and Ways and Means Committee staff will update the Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance. This document serves as a resource for members, legislative staff, and the general public. The document focuses on frequently asked questions regarding K-12 finance.

Project: 2009 Legislative Guides to Washington State Taxes

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Dean Carlson, Dianne Criswell

Description: Ways and Means committee staff will update the Washington State tax guides to reflect recent changes. These documents serve as a resource for members, legislative staff, and the general public. The following documents will be updated: (1) A Legislative Guide to Washington State Property Taxes; (2) An Overview of Washington's Tax Structure; (3) Property Taxes: Exemptions and Special Programs; (4) The Taxation of Agriculture in Washington State; (5) The Taxation of Nonprofit Organizations in Washington State; and (6) Washington State Property Tax Manual.

Project: 2009-11 Operating and Capital Budget Development and Analysis of Agency and Governor Budget Requests

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Ways & Means Committee Staff

Description: Staff will prepare for development of the 2009-11 operating and capital Senate budget proposals by (1) working with the Office of Financial Management and House Appropriations staff in creating an agreed-upon carry forward level of previous budgets; (2) reviewing 2009-11 agency budget requests submitted in early fall, including conducting additional data analysis and information requests; (3) evaluating the Governor's budget proposal submitted in December 2008; and (4) creating various budget policy options related to member interests.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Caseload Forecast Council Technical (Staff) Workgroups

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff: Bryon Moore, Richard Ramsey,
Elaine Deschamps, Chelsea
Buchanan, Paula Moore, Mike Wills
(and OPR, CFC, DSHS, OFM)

Description: Staff will monitor changes and trends and provide input regarding caseload forecasts for entitlement programs for the public schools, medical assistance, long-term care, developmental disabilities, foster care, adoption support, general assistance, corrections, and juvenile rehabilitation. The caseload forecasts are used to develop the majority of the budgets for these programs. The workgroups meet periodically and include staff from Ways and Means, the House Appropriations Committee, the Caseload Forecast Council, the Office of Financial Management (OFM), and the Department of Social and Health Services. The final caseload forecasts are approved by the Caseload Forecast Council members, consisting of four legislators, the Director of OFM, and the Secretary of DSHS.

**Project: Department of Social and Health Services Per Capita Expenditure
Technical (Staff) Workgroups**

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff: Elaine Deschamps, Chelsea
Buchanan, Paula Moore

Description: Staff will monitor changes and trends and provide input regarding per capita costs and financial recovery within the following human services programs: medical assistance, long-term care, developmental disabilities, foster care, adoption support, general assistance. In addition to the workgroups, staff will also monitor Working Connections Child Care, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Child Support programs. Along with the caseload forecast, the per capita forecasts are used to develop the majority of the budget for these programs. The staff workgroups meet frequently and include staff from Ways and Means, the House Appropriations Committee, the Office of Financial Management, and DSHS.

Project: Economic Analysis of Health Care Reform Proposals

Completion Date: December 30, 2008

Staff: Mich'l Needham, Elaine Deschamps

Reference: ESSB 6333 (2008)

Description: Legislation passed in 2008 (Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6333) directs the Legislature to contract with an independent consultant to complete an economic analysis of five health care reform proposals. Each of the five proposals will be analyzed for how they will impact the number of people insured and uninsured, change the scope of health care coverage, affect affordability, redistribute costs and savings, impact employment, influence consumer choice, trigger administrative efficiencies, and address hospital charity care. A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be written to select the independent consultant. Committee staff will manage the consultant contract and help monitor the project, which must be completed by December 2008.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Higher Education Capital Project Prioritization and Financing

Completion Date: November 2008

Staff: Tim Yowell

Reference: ESHB 3329 (2008)

Description: The Office of Financial Management (OFM), in consultation with the legislative fiscal committees, is to (1) design a new system for objectively evaluating and ranking capital budget proposals by the public research and regional universities; (2) submit ranked lists of proposed projects to the Governor and to the fiscal committees by November 1; and (3) conduct a study to identify and assess alternatives for reducing facility construction and maintenance costs and for supplementing state bond support for higher education construction with increased revenues from non-state sources. Committee staff will assist OFM in completion of these projects, and will update and seek policy guidance from the Committee at key points.

Project: Housing Assistance and Housing Finance

Completion Date: December 1, 2008

Staff: Richard Ramsey and Brian Sims

Reference: ESHB 1092, Section 1031 (11) (2007)

Description: The 2007-09 capital budget directs the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to prepare an inventory of housing assistance programs, including all state funded programs, Housing Finance Commission programs, and programs of local governments and housing authorities. The inventory will be completed in June 2009. Office of Program Research and Senate Committee Services staff are monitoring the conduct of the inventory and the Ways and Means staff will prepare an update of the progress of the inventory.

Project: Implementation of Department of Fish and Wildlife's JLARC study recommendations

Completion Date:

Staff: Elise Greef

Reference: JLARC study: Department of Fish & Wildlife Cost Analysis, final report 03/26/08

Description: In the 2007-09 budget, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) was directed by the Legislature to conduct a cost analysis of the activities and programs within the various funds that support the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). As a result of that analysis, JLARC made three recommendations with which WDFW and the Office of Financial Management (OFM) concur:

The WDFW will, in consultation with OFM and legislative fiscal staff:

- 1) develop options for more accurately forecasting license fee revenue (target date - fully implement forecasting model beginning July 2009);
- 2) develop alternative methods for tracking, accounting, and reporting restricted and unrestricted fund balances for the Wildlife Account (target date – fully implement restricted versus unrestricted tracking system for the 2009-11 biennium); and
- 3) develop routine reports that describe the total General Fund – State and Wildlife Account – state dollars set aside to meet federal matching requirements (target date – July 2008)

In addition, the working group, in implementing the above recommendations, will continue to work to answer the central question, "Do general taxpayers subsidize the cost of hunting and fishing activities?"

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Initiative 960

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff: Steve Jones

Description: A significant component of Initiative 960, enacted in November 2007, places new responsibility on the Legislature for the approval of new or increased administrative fees imposed by state agencies. The Legislature is also affected by the Initiative's new requirement that the Office of Financial Management prepare 10-year fiscal estimates for proposed legislation that increases state tax and fee revenue. As the Legislature approaches the first full fiscal biennium under these new requirements, the committee staff will monitor and participate with the Office of Financial Management in the process of integrating these requirements into the official Agency Budget Instructions for Fiscal Year 2009-11 budget submittals, as well as revisions to the Fiscal Note process to incorporate the 10-year cost estimates.

Project: Joint Task Force on Basic Education Definition and Funding

Completion Date: December 1, 2008

Staff: Susan Mielke, Kim Cushing, Roman Dixon, Bryon Moore

Description: In the 2007 Legislative Session, a joint task force comprised of legislators and others was created to review the definition of basic education and the current funding formulas and propose a new definition and options for a new funding structure. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy will provide research support to the task force with assistance from legislative committee staff, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program and the Office of Financial Management. The final report is due to the task force by September 15, 2008 and must include two to four options for revising the K-12 funding structure. The task force must then report by December 1, 2008, to the Legislature. Committee staff will provide assistance and draft legislation as necessary.

Project: Joint Task Force on Local Financing of Various Items in King County.

Completion Date: December 1, 2008

Staff: David Schumacher, Dean Carlson, Dianne Criswell

Reference: ESHB 2765 Sec. 6015 (2008)

Description: The capital budget contained a provision creating a joint task force comprised of members of the Senate and House of Representatives to explore the best use of the revenues that are currently being used to pay for Qwest Field and Safeco Field. Items to consider financing include affordable housing, arts, culture, education, a civic center, Puget Sound restoration and preservation, youth recreation, and community development projects within King county. The joint task force is to be staffed by Senate Committee Services and the Office of Program Research.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Joint Task Force on School Construction Funding

Completion Date: January 1, 2009

Staff: Bryon Moore and Brian Sims

Reference: Sec. 6014 of ESHB 2765 (2008)

Description: The Joint Task Force on School Construction Funding (JTFSCF), includes eight legislators (two from each caucuses of the Senate and House) and two members representing school districts. Because they were assigned responsibility for undertaking a comprehensive review of K-12 capital spending and funding issues, the JTFSCF decided to divide their work over two interims. In the 2008 Session, the Legislature acted on many of the recommendations that resulted from phase I of their effort, which they considered the "low-hanging fruit." In the second phase, it is anticipated that the JTFSCF will likely make recommendations regarding significant changes related to school construction funding and spending. The final report is required to be submitted to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature by January 1, 2009. Senate Committee Services staff and House Office of Program Research staff will continue to provide staff support to the task force and draft legislation as necessary.

Project: Legislative Budget Notes

Completion Date: September 2008

Staff: SCS, OPR and LEAP Staff

Description: Legislative fiscal staff in the Senate and House will work with the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee (LEAP) staff to prepare the "Legislative Budget Notes," a publication which represents the official record of legislative action on the omnibus operating, transportation, and capital budgets. The Legislative Budget Notes are used by Legislators, legislative staff, state agencies and the general public to determine the legislative intent behind the hundreds of policy changes embedded in the three major budget documents.

Project: Monitoring Four Studies of Infrastructure Assistance Programs

Completion Date: January 1, 2009

Staff: Brian Sims

Reference: Sec. 6014 of ESHB 2765 (2008)

Description: The joint legislative study group on state assistance programs for local infrastructure recommended four additional studies which were funded in the 2008 supplemental capital budget. Committee staff will monitor the studies and will consult with the agencies and consultants conducting the studies. The studies include: the development of a new infrastructure investment system, reviews of case studies of failed or failing drinking water and wastewater systems, and identification of regional wastewater system opportunities.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Project: Pension Funding Council Rate Adoption and Biennial Audit

Completion Date: September 30, 2008

Staff: Pension Funding Work Group
(SCS/OPR/OFM/SIB/ERFC/DRS
staff)

Reference: RCW 41.45.060, 41.45.090, 41.45.110, and 41.45.120

Description: The Pension Funding Council (PFC) consists of the chair and ranking minority member of the House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations; the chair and ranking minority member of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means; the director of the Office of Financial Management; and the director of the Department of Retirement Systems. The PFC is required by statute to adopt the pension contribution rates for the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium by September 30th, 2008. The Pension Funding Work Group will provide staff support for the PFC in the rate adoption process, and will also manage the contracting process to ensure that the biennial audit of the State Actuary's valuation report is completed prior to the rate adoption.

Project: Public Hearing on the Property Tax

Completion Date: December 1, 2008

Staff: David Schumacher, Dean Carlson,
Dianne Criswell

Description: The Senate Ways and Means Committee will hold public hearings on property tax issues in different locations in the state to identify citizens' questions and concerns about the property tax and to consider proposals to provide tax relief and reform. Committee staff will prepare presentations for public hearings and staff the hearings.

Project: State Assessment Workgroup

Completion Date: January 1, 2009

Staff: Bryon Moore, Susan Mielke, Kim
Cushing, Roman Dixon

Reference: Section 127 of ESHB 2687 (2008)

Description: A legislative work group, with 9 members appointed by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, is established to review and evaluate the current assessment system. Among other things, it is anticipated that the work group will look at issues around cost, how Washington's assessment system compares to other states, and ways to potentially improve the assessment system. The work group will complete their work by January 1, 2009. \$150,000 is provided for the costs associated with hiring independent technical experts to advise the work group. Committee staff will provide assistance and draft legislation as necessary.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2008

Other Projects:

Project: Follow-up to the 2008 Joint Legislative Task Force on Long-Term Care Residential Facility Payment Systems Final Report

Completion Date: December 2008

Staff: Chelsea Buchanan

Description: Staff will follow up on creating options for legislators in keeping with the recommendations of the Task Force, which produced its final report in December 2007 and has expired. This may include drafting technical legislation to rewrite the existing nursing home Medicaid reimbursement statute to eliminate unnecessary and unclear language that makes the system more complex, and/or creating substantive policy options that would change the nursing home reimbursement system. Staff will work informally with legislators, House Appropriations staff, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), the Office of Financial Management, and industry stakeholders, in preparation for the 2009 legislative session. Staff will also monitor DSHS implementation of Task Force recommendations enacted in the 2008 Supplemental Budget for adult family homes and boarding homes.
