

STATE OF WASHINGTON

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AGENDA

December 1, 2009
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
John A. Cherberg Building
Senate Hearing Room 4
Olympia, Washington

► Brief descriptions of agenda items are on the reverse side.

- 10:00 – 10:05 *1. Approval of September 23, 2009, JLARC Meeting Minutes
- 10:05 – 10:35 2. [K-12 Pilot Facility Inventory, Condition & Use System – Preliminary Report](#)
- 10:35 – 11:05 3. [Analysis of Washington State Department of Transportation's Scoping and Cost Estimating for Highway Construction Projects – Preliminary Report](#)
- 11:05 – 11:35 4. [Review of Child Support Guidelines – Preliminary Report](#)
- 11:35 – 11:55 *5. [Performance Audit of the Home Care Quality Authority – Proposed Final Report](#)
- 11:55 – 12:15 *6. [Health Professions Disciplinary Activities Workload Model Review – Proposed Final Report](#)
- 12:15 – 12:30 7. Proposed Scope and Objectives
- A. [Developmental Disability Employment and Day Program Services](#)
- B. [School District Cost and Size Study](#)

* Action Item

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

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Approval of minutes from the September 23, 2009, JLARC meeting.
2. **K-12 Pilot Facility Inventory, Condition & Use System – Preliminary Report:** The 2008 Supplemental Capital Budget directed JLARC to define and develop a pilot facility condition and inventory system for K-12 public school facilities. JLARC published a progress report in 2009 which included a list of ten participating school districts, a timeline, the data planned for collection, and the criteria used to evaluate the condition of the facilities. This report describes the information collected during the pilot, and compares data reported by school districts to data reported by consultants. It also includes a discussion of the feasibility of collecting certain types of facilities data, and proposes methods for collecting and maintaining the data and connecting it to other relevant sources. The report concludes with cost options for expanding the pilot statewide.
3. **Analysis of Washington State Department of Transportation’s Scoping and Cost Estimating for Highway Construction Projects – Preliminary Report:** The 2009-11 Transportation Budget directed this study. JLARC concluded that the Washington State Department of Transportation’s (WSDOT) policies and procedures for scoping and estimating the cost of highway construction projects currently align with industry guidelines. In the course of synthesizing research literature, reviewing WSDOT policies and procedures, and observing practices on the ground, JLARC identified three issues to bring to the attention of policymakers as they consider the accuracy of highway project cost estimates. Time: when a transportation agency is given more time to fully understand a project’s needs and risks, there is greater chance for more accuracy in a project’s cost estimate. Resources: investing more money into the scoping process may result in more accurate initial project cost estimates. Communication: clear communication about project cost estimate uncertainty and the reasons why an estimate has changed is critical to maintaining stakeholder trust and building confidence in an estimate. The report also recommends that WSDOT project records include an easy-to-follow trail between cost estimates and budget requests.
4. **Review of Child Support Guideline – Preliminary Report:** In 2007, the Legislature directed JLARC to conduct a review of Washington’s Child Support Guidelines. Courts and the Department of Social and Health Services use these guidelines to establish child support obligations for non-custodial parents. Federal law requires states to review their guidelines every four years. As part of this process, the Legislature directed that beginning in 2011, the workgroups convened to review Washington’s guidelines must consider this JLARC report. JLARC reviewed the efforts of a 2007 workgroup, summarized research on the cost of raising children; and analyzed data collected by DSHS to review child support orders that deviate from the state’s guidelines. JLARC determined that the 2007 workgroup recommended statutory changes on a number of issues which the Legislature implemented in 2009. The workgroup did not resolve three main issues. JLARC’s review of research showed that these same three issues are of concern to many states, and a summary of the research on these issues is included in the report. Finally, JLARC found that the data currently collected by DSHS is inadequate to perform the reviews required by federal law. The report includes recommendations to both DSHS and the Legislature regarding direction to use an existing reliable data source for reviewing deviations from support guidelines.
5. **Performance Audit of the Home Care Quality Authority – Proposed Final Report:** In 2001, voters created the Home Care Quality Authority (HCQA) to regulate and improve the quality of long-term in-home care services by recruiting, training, and stabilizing the workforce of individual providers. The Legislature directed JLARC to audit HCQA with a focus on how it is performing its statutory duties. JLARC found that HCQA is meeting its statutory duties and met 14 of its 15 performance targets. However, the report recommends that HCQA develop performance measures that reflect its impact on the stability of the IP workforce on, or hired from, the referral registries.
6. **Health Professions Disciplinary Activities Workload Model Review – Proposed Final Report:** In 2006, the Legislature passed Substitute House Bill 2974 that required the Department of Health to develop and use a workload formula for health professions disciplinary activities. SHB 2974 also directed JLARC to look at the Department’s workload formula. The report concludes that the Department’s workload model is based on reliable and statistically valid data collected from a workload study that used random work sampling, a commonly accepted method for analyzing staff time and resources. While the Department is currently in compliance with the legislative mandate to develop a workload formula for disciplinary activities, the report recommends a formal process for periodic updates to help ensure compliance in the future. The report also recommends additional clarity of legislative intent regarding use of workload models at a current pilot program.
7. **Proposed Scope and Objectives:**
 - A. **Developmental Disability Employment and Day Program Services:** The 2009-11 Operating Budget (ESHB 1244) directed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to examine the DSHS Division of Developmental Disabilities employment and day program services administered by the counties. JLARC is also directed to research best practices for outcome-based contracts. JLARC will describe Fiscal Year 2009 expenditures for county administered employment and day services, compare state and county contracts and vendor rates, and research best practices for outcome-based contracts.
 - B. **School District Cost and Size Study:** The 2009-11 Operating Budget directed JLARC to conduct a study of the relationship between the cost of school districts and their enrollment size. The study will evaluate how the number of students served by a local school district affects the cost of providing instruction and ancillary costs, including administration, transportation, and facility costs. JLARC will also examine other factors, such as local levies, student demographics, and geographic dispersion that may affect school district costs. In addition, the study will review the impact of historical school district consolidation and state oversight on school district costs and will summarize available research on the nonfinancial benefits and impacts associated with school district size.