



Washington State Senate 2024 Interim Committee Meeting Schedules and Work Plans

Compiled by Senate Committee Services on behalf of Committee Chairs, at the
request of the Facilities & Operations Committee

April 2024

2024 Senate Interim Plans

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To view specific meeting dates and times, please visit:
<http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx>

To sign up for e-mail notifications, including updates to meeting dates and times, please visit:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WALEG/subscriber/new?>

Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
September/ October	Tour	SW Washington, Columbia River, Astoria, Oregon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warmwater fish management, avian and pinniped salmon predation, salmon pound nets, and beaver management
December 12-13 Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

DATE	COMMITTEE/ TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
May	Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of chair and vice-chair • Current drought conditions • Low flow impacts • Next steps after expiration of the current drought emergency declaration
Late July	Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Legislative Council on River Governance	
Completion Date: December 2024	Staff: Jeff Olsen (360) 786-7428 Karen Epps (360)786-7424
References: CSG-West - Legislative Council on River Governance	
<p>The Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG) consists of legislators appointed from each of the four northwest states including Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Montana. At the annual summer meeting, this group receives an update on and discusses water issues that are related to the Columbia River watershed or are otherwise of common interest to the northwest states. Meeting preparations, including arranging speakers to address topics of interest to members, are coordinated by the Council of State Governments. The location of the annual meeting rotates, and the meeting will be held in Washington this year.</p>	

Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought	
Completion Date: December 2024	Staff: Karen Epps (360) 786-7424
References: RCW 90.86; 2SSB 5746 (2022); SHB 1138 (2023)	
<p>The Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought may convene at the call of the chair when a drought advisory or drought emergency order is in effect or when the chair determines, in consultation with the Department of Ecology (Ecology), it is likely such an order will be issued within the next year. When a drought conditions order is in effect, Ecology must provide the Drought Committee with at least monthly reports describing drought response activities of Ecology and other state and federal agencies. The Drought Committee is authorized to make recommendations to the Legislature on budgetary and legislative actions to improve the state's drought response programs and planning. In July 2023, Ecology declared a drought emergency for 12 watersheds in parts of Skagit, Whatcom, Clallam, Kittitas, Yakima, Snohomish, Jefferson, Walla Walla, Columbia, Okanogan, Benton, and Klickitat counties. This drought declaration is still in effect.</p> <p>Committee staff will provide support to the committee, assist as directed by members of the committee, and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade
COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
December 12-13 Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Legislative Committee on Economic Development & International Relations (LCEDIR)	
Completion Date: December 31, 2024	Staff: Clint McCarthy (360) 786-7319
References: E2SHB 2000	
Staff will attend meetings of LCEDIR and monitor the creation of the interparliamentary exchange between the province of British Columbia and Washington State, and the addition of new members to LCEDIR.	

Property and Casualty Insurance Rates	
Completion Date: December 31, 2024	Staff: Kellee Gunn (360) 786-7429
Staff will observe the issues surrounding the hardening of the reinsurance market and its effect on property and casualty rates in Washington State and nationally. Staff will participate in relevant meetings held by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, stakeholders, and think tank organizations.	

Monitor Trends in the Mortgage Industry	
Completion Date: December 31, 2024	Staff: Clint McCarthy (360) 786-7319
Staff will monitor indicators of the health of the mortgage industry in Washington State, such as home sales and foreclosures.	

Tribal Gaming Compacts	
Completion Date: December 31, 2024	Staff: Clint McCarthy (360) 786-7319
References: RCW 9.46.360(5)	
Within thirty days after receiving a proposed compact from the Director of the Gambling Commission, one standing committee from each house of the legislature (currently the Senate Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade Committee and the House Regulated Substances & Gaming Committee) must hold a public hearing on the proposed compact and forward the respective comments to the Gambling Commission. Committee staff will monitor the trends related to the tribal compacts.	

Early Learning & K-12 Education COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
December 12-13 Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

DATE	COMMITTEE/ TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
April 29	Joint Select Committee on Governance and Funding for Institutional Education	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a workplan for remaining obligations under SHB 1701
To be determined	Joint Select Committee on Governance and Funding for Institutional Education	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
To be determined	Joint Select Committee on Governance and Funding for Institutional Education	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Early Learning and K-12 Education Legislatively Created Groups with Legislative Members	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Ailey Kato (360) 786-7434 Alex Fairfortune (360) 786-7416 Ben Omdal (360) 786-7442
References: ESB 6620, Sec. 3 (2016) ; 2SHB 2737, Sec. 1 (2020) ; E2SSB 5828, Sec. 3 (2007) ; 2SSB 5973, Sec. 2 (2009) ; SHB 2455, Sec. 2 (2004) ; HB 2402 (2020) ; SSB 5248 (2009) ; SHB 1701 (2023) ; 2E2SHB 1661, Sec. 1010 (2017) ; SSB 6428, Sec. 15 and 17 (1992) ; 2SHB 1013, Sec.4 (2023) ; HB 1679, Sec. 1 (2023)	
<p>The Legislature has created several councils, committees, task forces, work groups, and advisory groups with legislators as members. Committee staff will provide research and support to the individual legislators serving on these groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual School Safety Summit • Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group • Early Learning Advisory Council • Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee • Financial Education Public-Private Partnership • Graduation: A Team Effort Partnership Advisory Committee • Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children • Joint Select Committee on Governance and Funding for Institutional Education • Oversight Board for Children, Youth, and Families • State Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families • Work-Integrated Learning Advisory Committee and Subcommittee • Work Group to Address the Needs of Students in Foster Care, Experiencing Homelessness, or In or Exiting Juvenile Rehabilitation Facilities 	

Joint Select Committee on Governance and Funding for Institutional Education	
Completion Date: December 2024	Staff: Alex Fairfortune (360) 786-7416 Kayla Hammer (360) 786-7305
References: SHB 1701 (2023)	
<p>In 2023, the Legislature passed SHB 1701, establishing the Joint Select Committee on Governance and Funding for Institutional Education. The committee must examine and evaluate revisions to statutes, funding formulae, funding sources, and operating and capital budget appropriation structure as necessary to assign the Superintendent of Public Instruction with the responsibility for the delivery and oversight of basic education services to youth in institutional education programs in facilities that are not under the jurisdiction of the Department of Social and Health Services or the Department of Corrections.</p> <p>During the 2023 interim, the committee met two times. The committee must report its findings and recommendations, which may be in the form of draft legislation, by December 1, 2024.</p> <p>Committee staff will provide support to the committee and assist with the report or draft legislation as directed.</p>	

Parental Rights in K-12 Education Update	
Completion Date: December 2024	Staff: Ailey Kato (360) 786-7434 Alex Fairfortune (360) 786-7416 Ben Omdal (360) 786-7442
References: Title 28A RCW ; Chapter 43.06B ; Title 392 WAC	
<p>During the 2022 interim, staff initially identified and categorized state law, rules, and model policies that refer to and require certain actions involving parents, guardians, and families. These references were formatted into a table and organized into certain categories.</p> <p>Staff will continue to review recently passed legislation for actions involving parents, guardians, and families, and add any references to the table.</p>	

Overview of Legislative Reports on Staff Compensation	
Completion Date: December 2024	Staff: Alex Fairfortune (360) 786-7416
References: E2SSB 5441 (2005) ; ESSB 5092, Sec. 951 (2021)	
<p>Over the years, the Legislature has required reports on staff compensation, experience mix, regionalization, and inflationary factors. For example, E2SSB 5441 (2005) established a comprehensive education study steering committee to develop recommendations on certain topics including the finance system, which was called Washington Learns.</p> <p>In 2021, the Legislature included a proviso in the 2021-23 operating budget that directed the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene a K-12 basic education compensation advisory committee to develop recommendations that supports recruiting and retaining a multicultural and multilingual educator workforce.</p> <p>Staff will summarize the recommendations in previous legislative reports related to staff compensation dating back to 2005.</p>	

Competency-Based Education and Graduation Requirements	
Completion Date: December 2024	Staff: Ben Omdal (360) 786-7442
References: RCW 28A.300.810 ; SSB 6521 (2020) ; ESSB 5187 (2023), Sec. 502(2) ; ESSB 6264 (2024)	
<p>In 2020, SSB 6521 directed the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to administer an innovative learning pilot program to authorize full-time enrollment funding for students participating in mastery-based learning programs.</p> <p>In recent years, the state's operating budget has appropriated funding to the State Board of Education for the mastery-based learning collaborative.</p> <p>In 2024, SB 6264 was introduced but not enacted into law. This bill defined the term competency-based education (CBE) and stated that it had the same meaning as mastery-based learning.</p> <p>Staff will identify other states that are implementing CBE and summarize how these states are implementing CBE as it relates to high school graduation requirements and CBE integration into student transcripts.</p>	

High School and Beyond Plans	
Completion Date: December 2024	Staff: Ailey Kato (360) 786-7434 Ben Omdal (360) 786-7442
References: RCW 28A.230.090 ; RCW 28A.230.212 ; RCW 28A.230.215 ; RCW 28A.655.250 ; E2SSB 5243 (2023) ; HB 2110 (2024) (recodifies and reorganizes information in some of these RCWs)	
<p>Each student in Washington public schools must have a High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP) to guide the student's high school experience and inform course taking that is aligned with the student's goals for education or training and career after high school. A HSBP must be initiated for students in seventh or eighth grade.</p> <p>In 2023, E2SSB 5243 revised HSBP requirements and directed the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to facilitate the transition to, and adoption of, a common online platform for HSBPs.</p> <p>By January 1, 2024, OSPI was directed to develop a preliminary list of existing vendors who can provide or build a platform that meets certain criteria and that supports certain HSBP elements. By June 1, 2024, OSPI must select the vendor that will be responsible for developing the universal platform, subject to appropriations.</p> <p>Staff will summarize the HSBP elements required by law and any additional elements identified in the request for proposal of the selected vendor. Staff will also research whether other states have plans like the HSBP and summarize the elements of these plans.</p> <p>Staff will develop a questionnaire to identify any additional elements that would be helpful to include in the common online platform for HSBPs.</p>	

Cost of Quality Child Care Rate Model

Completion Date: December 2024

Staff: Ailey Kato (360) 786-7434

References: [RCW 43.216.749](#); [2SHB 1344 \(2019\)](#); [ESSB 5092 \(2021\), Sec. 129\(127\)](#); [ESSB 5187 \(2023\), Sec. 229\(31\)](#)

In 2019, the Legislature directed the Child Care Collaborative Task Force to develop a child care cost estimate model to determine the full costs providers would incur when providing high quality child care. Reports on this topic were due in 2020 and 2021.

In 2021, the Fair Start for Kids Act directed the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to build upon the work of the Child Care Collaborative Task Force to develop and implement a child care estimate model and use the completed child care cost model to recommend subsidy rates at levels that are sufficient to compensate licensed or certified child care providers for the full costs of providing high quality child care.

The 2023-25 operating budget directed DCYF to submit an implementation plan to expand access to Washington's mixed delivery child care system by June 30, 2025. DCYF plans to provide a progress update on this plan in the fall of 2024. The plan must assume that any financial contribution by families is capped at no more than 7 percent of household income and that the child care workforce are provided living wages and benefits.

Staff will summarize reports on the cost of quality care rate model and draft legislation if directed.

Environment, Energy & Technology COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
June	Tour	Western Washington (King/Pierce/Thurston counties)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tour one or more of the following facilities: material recovery, anaerobic digester, composting, plastic recycling, or paper recycling
September	Tour	Arlington and Everett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tour a microgrid project and a fusion power company
December 12-13 Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive agency updates on key legislation affecting environment, energy, and technology issues

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

DATE	COMMITTEE/ TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
To be determined	Joint Committee on Energy Supply, Energy Conservation, and Energy Resilience	Eastern Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Producer Responsibility for Consumer Packaging	
Completion Date: December 1, 2024	Staff: Matt Shepard-Koningsor (360) 786-7627
References: SB 6005/HB 2049 (2024)	
<p>In recent years, the Legislature has considered policies related to establishing product stewardship requirements for producers of consumer packaging and paper products. Since 2020, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) has submitted multiple reports relating to the recycling of consumer packaging. In December 2023, Ecology submitted a report to the Legislature from a contracted consultant, which developed recycling, reuse, and source reduction performance target rates for consumer packaging and paper materials; conducted a community input process with Washington residents about their views on the state's recycling system; and modeled implementation of certain policy scenarios.</p> <p>The Recycling Market Development Center is a program at Ecology, which was formed to provide or facilitate marketing, policy analysis, research, and development to strengthen recycling markets and processing in Washington. The center is a collaboration between Ecology, the Department of Commerce, and a 14-member advisory board, which meets at least quarterly.</p> <p>Committee staff will review the 2023 Ecology report, the center's 2024 meetings, and other relevant documents, meetings, or both, and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Climate Commitment Act

Completion Date: December 1, 2024

Staff: Kim Cushing (360) 786-7421

References: E2SSB 5126 (2021); E2SSB 6058 (2024)

In 2021, the Legislature passed the Climate Commitment Act that directed the Department of Ecology to implement a cap and invest program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the statewide statutory emissions limits. The program started on January 1, 2023. Covered entities must either reduce their emissions or obtain allowances to cover any remaining emissions. The first compliance deadline is November 1, 2024, at which time businesses need to have allowances to cover 30 percent of their 2023 emissions.

In 2023, four quarterly auctions and two allowance price containment reserve auctions were held, generating over \$1.8 billion for the state. In 2024, four quarterly auctions have been scheduled.

In 2024, the Legislature passed E2SSB 6058 to facilitate linking Washington's Program with California and Quebec's carbon market. However, if Initiative 2117, concerning carbon tax credit trading, is approved by a vote of the people in the 2024 general election, the program will be repealed and E2SSB 6058 is null and void.

Committee staff will continue to monitor program auctions and linkage progress, provide relevant updates, and draft legislation as requested.

Health & Long Term Care COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
July	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to doula services • To be determined
October	Tour	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural hospitals focused on labor and delivery services and certificate of need
December 12-13 Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
September	Joint Select Committee on Health Care and Behavioral Health Oversight	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
December	Joint Select Committee on Health Care and Behavioral Health Oversight	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
To be determined	Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Planning for Aging and Disability Issues	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
To be determined	Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Planning for Aging and Disability Issues	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Tour	
Completion Date: October	Staff: Greg Attanasio (360) 786-7410
<p>The Health & Long Term Care Committee will tour several rural health facilities in the state to learn more about labor and delivery services available in rural areas and the impact of certificate of need requirements on the availability of health care services in rural areas. As requested by senators, legislation may be developed based on lessons learned from the tour.</p>	

Joint Select Committee on Health Care and Behavioral Health Oversight	
Completion Date: December 2026	Staff: Greg Attanasio (360) 786-7410
References: SSB 5121 (2023)	
<p>Several agencies and entities have a role in implementing health care policy in Washington, including the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, the Department of Health, the Department of Social and Health Services, the Health Care Authority, and the Health Benefit Exchange.</p> <p>The Joint Select Committee on Health Care and Behavioral Health Oversight will provide oversight between these agencies and organizations.</p> <p>Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee staff and House Health Care and Wellness Committee staff will jointly staff the Joint Select Committee.</p>	

Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Planning for Aging and Disability Issues	
Completion Date: June 30, 2025	Staff: Julie Tran (360) 786-7283
References: ESSB 5187, Sec 204 (2023)	
<p>The Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Planning for Aging and Disability Issues was established in 2013 and will continue through June 2025. The committee is charged with making recommendations and identifying key strategic actions to prepare for the aging of Washington's population. The committee may focus on issues relating to the health care needs of aging people and people with disabilities; financing mechanisms for long-term services and supports; advance care planning and advance care directives; needs of the aging demographic impacted by reduced federal support; protecting the rights of vulnerable adults; promoting client safety through residential care services and protecting aging people and people with disabilities from physical abuse and financial exploitation; and housing, land use and transportation planning for communities to adapt to the aging demographic.</p> <p>Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee staff and House Health Care and Wellness Committee staff will jointly staff the committee.</p>	

Crisis Response Improvement Strategy Committee	
Completion Date: June 30, 2025	Staff: Kevin Black (360) 786-7747
References: E2SHB 1477 (2021), Sec. 103; E2SHB 1134 Sec. 6 (2023)	
<p>The Crisis Response Improvement Strategy Committee was established in 2021 and will continue through June 2025. The committee is charged with providing advice in developing an integrated behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention system with many elements and interlocking responsibilities. The committee has a steering committee with appointed legislative members and six statutory subcommittees on diverse topics such as tribal needs, credentialing and training, technology, cross-system collaboration, confidential information compliance and coordination, and geolocation.</p> <p>The committee is required to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on January 1, 2025, which is expected to drive further legislative policy change.</p>	

Telemedicine Collaborative	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Greg Attanasio (360) 786-7410
References: SB 6163 (2018); ESSB 5481 (2024)	
<p>The Collaborative for the Advancement of Telemedicine was created to enhance the understanding of health services through telemedicine. The collaborative is convened by the University of Washington Telehealth Services and participants include four legislators, representatives of the academic community, hospitals, clinics, health care providers, insurance carriers, and other interested parties. The collaborative must review a proposal to allow out-of-state health care providers to register to be allowed to provide telehealth to Washington residents and issue a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2024.</p> <p>Committee staff will monitor the collaborative on behalf of the members of the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee. The collaborative terminates June 30, 2025.</p>	

The Universal Health Care Commission	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Greg Attanasio (360) 786-7410
References: SB 5399 (2021)	
<p>The Universal Health Care Commission was established to create immediate changes in Washington's health care access and delivery system and to prepare the state for the creation of a universal health care system for all Washington residents through a unified financing system once the necessary federal authority has become available. The Health Care Authority staffs the commission.</p> <p>The commission must submit annual reports to the Governor and the Legislature beginning November 1, 2023, detailing its progress and identifying opportunities to advance the goal of universal coverage.</p> <p>Committee staff will monitor the commission on behalf of the Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee.</p>	

Housing Vouchers for Assisted Living Facilities' Medicaid Residents Work Group	
Completion Date: September 30, 2025	Staff: Julie Tran (360) 786-7283
References: ESSB 5950, Sec. 204(57) (2024)	
<p>The Department of Social and Health Services must convene a work group to examine how assisted living facilities can use the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing choice vouchers for Medicaid residents in a manner that aligns with federal requirements and does not negatively impact receipt of federal Medicaid funding.</p> <p>The work group must submit a preliminary report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1, 2024, detailing any findings and policy recommendations for how to use HUD project-based rental vouchers for Medicaid residents living in licensed assisted living facilities. The work group findings must identify any barriers within the state and federal systems that would prevent the use of HUD project-based rental vouchers for Medicaid residents including licensing requirements and duplication of services. The Legislature intends for the work group to continue its work through September 30, 2025, to facilitate the completion of the final report to the Governor and the Legislature at that time.</p> <p>Committee staff will monitor the work group on behalf of the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee.</p>	

Health Cost Transparency Board	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Greg Attanasio (360) 786-7410
References: 2SHB 2457 (2020); 2ESHB 1508 (2024)	
<p>The Health Cost Transparency Board is responsible for the analysis of total health care expenditures in Washington, identifying trends in health care cost growth, and establishing a health care cost growth benchmark. The board must provide analysis of the factors impacting these trends in health care cost growth and must identify those health care providers and payers that are exceeding the health care cost growth benchmark. The board must also conduct an annual survey of underinsurance in the state and a survey of insurance trends among employers. The board must submit an annual report to the Legislature and hold an annual public hearing to discuss the growth in total health care expenditures.</p> <p>Committee staff will monitor the board on behalf of the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee.</p>	

Higher Education & Workforce Development COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
December 12-13 Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Financial Aid Filing Initiatives	
Completion Date: September 2024	Staff: Ben Omdal (360) 786-7442
References: SB 6254, RCW 28B.50.940	
<p>Staff will research current state-funded initiatives in support of financial aid filing. At a minimum, this will include documenting programs related to increasing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) filing created by 2SHB 1835 (2022) and 2SSB 5789 (2022). To the extent possible, staff will collect data on FAFSA completion rates in regions with financial aid completion initiatives. Staff will continue to monitor FAFSA completion rates statewide as they compare to other states.</p>	

Governing Board Roles and Responsibilities	
Completion Date: November 2024	Staff: Alicia Kinne-Clawson (360) 786-7407
<p>Multiple RCWs establish requirements of the college and universities board of trustees and regents. These include responsibility for employment of the president and approval of their contract, the approval of tuition and fee rates, acquisition of property, and granting tenure, among other responsibilities. Staff will inventory these responsibilities across the colleges and universities. To the extent possible, staff will draw comparisons to how boards of trustee and regent responsibilities differ between institutions and similar states.</p>	

Housing COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
May 24	Work Session/ Tour	Bellingham/ Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing and sustaining affordable and supportive housing options
December 12-13 Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing cost and impact on supply and stability

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Rent Stabilization and Reporting	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Samantha Doyle (360) 786-7335
References: ESSB 5187, Sec. 129 (70) and (82) (2023)	
<p>The Residential Landlord-Tenant Act (RLTA) and the manufactured mobile home landlord tenant act govern the relationship and agreement between landlords and tenants, including but not limited to, when a tenant may end a rental agreement and when landlords must provide notice of a rent increase. Under the RLTA, local municipalities may require that landlords provide a certificate of inspection as a business license condition to operate as a landlord. However, a local municipality does not need to have a business license or registration program to require that landlords provide a certificate of inspection. A local municipality may only require a certificate of inspection on a rental property once every three years. Numerous local municipalities throughout the state have exercised this authority in establishing rental housing safety, inspection, or registration programs, and some local municipalities have implemented a business license requirement for landlords.</p> <p>The Legislature directed the Department of Commerce to report to the Legislature by December 1, 2024, on the scope of work, cost estimates, and implementation timeline to create a registry of rental units. Commerce and the Housing Finance Commission must also submit a final report on efforts taken to stabilize rents for tenants of affordable housing units financed through the Housing Assistance Program by December 1, 2024. Staff will continue to monitor the progress of the reports and provide any information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.</p>	

Covenant Homeownership Program	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Melissa Van Gorkom (360) 786-7491 Samantha Doyle (360) 786-7335
References: E2SHB 1474 (2023) ; ESSB 5187 Sec. 129 (43) (2023)	
<p>The Legislature established a Covenant Homeownership Program to provide down payment and closing cost assistance to economically disadvantaged classes of persons. The Housing Finance Commission must complete an initial study by March 1, 2024 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • document past and ongoing discrimination against black, indigenous, and people of color and other historically marginalized communities and the impacts of this discrimination on homeownership; • analyze whether and to what extent existing programs and race-neutral approaches have been insufficient to remedy this discrimination and its impacts; • recommend and evaluate potential programmatic and policy changes to remedy this discrimination and its impacts, including the creation of one or more Special Purpose Credit Programs (SPCPs); and • identify methodology to evaluate the efficacy of any recommended programmatic and policy changes over time. <p>The Department of Financial Institutions will establish an oversight committee to review the commission's activities and performance related to the program, including the commission's creation and administration of SPCPs. One or more of the SPCPs must begin providing down payment and closing cost assistance to program participants by July 1, 2024. The commission must provide an annual report to the Legislature on the progress of SPCPs by December 31, 2025.</p> <p>Staff will monitor committee meetings and provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.</p>	

Human Services COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
June 10-11	Work Session/ Tour	Bremerton/ Kitsap and Olympic peninsulas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nondependent minors exiting public systems of care • Community-based alternative juvenile detention and youth housing programs • Clallam Bay Corrections Center
October	Tour	Spokane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airway Heights Corrections Center • Eleanor Chase House Reentry Center
December 12-13 Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Department of Children, Youth, and Families Oversight Board	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Alison Mendiola (360) 786-7488
References: 2E2SHB 1661 (2017) ; Oversight Board	
<p>In 2017, the Legislature created the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and the Oversight Board for DCYF. The purpose of the board is to monitor and ensure DCYF achieves its stated outcomes, and complies with administrative acts, relevant statutes, rules, and policies pertaining to early learning, juvenile rehabilitation, juvenile justice, and children and family services. Members of the board include two senators and two representatives from the Legislature.</p> <p>Second Substitute Senate Bill 5331 (2021) directs early childhood court programs to collect and review its data, including data related to race and ethnicity of program participants, to assess its effectiveness, and share this data with the board. The board is to share this data and hold or offer to assist in holding statewide meetings to support alignment to the core components and statewide consistency.</p> <p>Staff will monitor meetings, update members on progress, and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Alison Mendiola (360) 786-7488
References: E3SHB 1482 (2018)	
<p>This task force oversees the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and WorkFirst programs and works collaboratively to develop and monitor strategies to prevent and address adverse childhood experiences and reduce intergenerational poverty. Eight legislative members are appointed to the task force along with eight voting members from state agencies.</p> <p>Staff will monitor meetings, update members on progress, and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group	
Completion Date: December 30, 2029	Staff: Kelsey-anne Fung (360) 786-7479
References: 2SHB 2737 (2020) ; 2SHB 1325 (2021) ; 2SHB 1890 (2022) ; ESHB 2256 (2024)	
<p>The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group was established in 2016 and expires in 2029. The work group is staffed by the Health Care Authority. The work group maintains six advisory subcommittees, including a new subcommittee added in legislation adopted in 2022.</p> <p>Staff will monitor work group meetings, update members on progress, and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Jail Modernization Task Force	
Completion Date: December 31, 2025	Staff: Kelsey-anne Fung (360) 786-7479
References: ESSB 5187 (2023) ; ESSB 5950 (2024)	
<p>The Jail Modernization Task Force was established in the 2023-2025 operating budget. The task force must review a report on jail characteristics from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, any legislation from the Criminal Sentencing Task Force, and any legislation from the Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards. The task force must also discuss, among other issues, employee retention issues and potential solutions, available diversion programs and their costs, impact of challenges, types of facilities needed to house those with behavioral health issues, and any necessary reforms.</p> <p>The task force must develop statewide jail modernization recommendations that include, at a minimum, identifying existing facilities in need of upgrades or remodel and any need for building new facilities, and potential funding sources or mechanisms to make the recommendations feasible.</p> <p>The task force is staffed by the William D. Ruckelshaus Center. The initial meeting of the task force must be no later than December 1, 2024. The task force must report initial findings and recommendations to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature by July 1, 2025, and a final report by December 31, 2025.</p> <p>Staff will monitor meetings, update members on progress, and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Kelsey-anne Fung (360) 786-7479
References: Executive Order 15-03 ; Executive Order 20-02 ; Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice	
<p>The Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice, established in 2010, is the primary state advisory group for juvenile justice-related matters in Washington. The council is staffed by the Office of Juvenile Justice within the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. Members of the council include an appointed member from the Senate and House of Representatives.</p> <p>Staff will monitor meetings and provide support to the legislative membership of the board.</p>	

Labor & Commerce COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
May	Work Session	Olympia/ Hybrid	Updates on social benefit insurance programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment insurance review • Paid family and medical leave issues • Workers' compensation state fund/ self-insured programs (industrial insurance) • WA Cares - long-term care services and supports trust program
September	Work Session	Olympia/ Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of current Washington law on workers' rights to organize and states' ability to safeguard workers' rights to organize if the National Labor Relations Board's authority is limited by the U.S. Supreme Court • Update on regulations to protect and support working minors and trends in child labor violations in Washington State
December 12-13 Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

States' Ability to Safeguard Workers' Rights to Organize if the National Labor Relations Board's Authority is Limited by the U.S. Supreme Court	
Completion Date: August 31, 2024	Staff: Jarrett Sacks (360) 786-7448
<p>The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) administers and enforces the National Labor Relations Act, the primary law governing collective bargaining in the private sector. Duties of the NLRB include conducting elections for employees to join or decertify a union and to investigate and remedy unfair labor practices committed by employers or unions.</p> <p><i>Jarkesy v. Securities and Exchange Commission</i>, 34 F.4th 446, 5th Cir. (2022), is a pending United States Supreme Court case that challenges the constitutionality of the Security and Exchange Commission's statutory enforcement structure. Similar constitutional challenges have been raised regarding the NLRB's enforcement structure in several proceedings, including a pending federal district court case (<i>Space Exploration Technologies v. NLRB</i>, S.D. Tex., No. 1:24-cv-00001).</p> <p>Staff will research states' ability to safeguard workers' rights to organize if NLRB's authority is limited by the U.S. Supreme Court.</p>	

State Laws and Regulations on Working Minors and Trends in Child Labor Violations in Washington State	
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Completion Date: August 31, 2024	Staff: Susan Jones (360) 786-7404
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Various state and federal child labor laws exist to protect minors at work. Staff will research state and federal laws and regulations; review forms and processes on working minors; and obtain information and review trends in child labor violations in Washington State. Staff will also research laws of surrounding states regarding working minors.

The committee will hold a work session on these topics. Committee staff will draft legislation requested by members.

Law & Justice COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
May 30	Work Session	Bainbridge/ Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention • Judicial resentencing • Prosecutor data • Caseload standard recommendations
To be determined	Work Session	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
December 12-13 Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Common Interest Communities	
Completion Date: December 31, 2024	Staff: Ryan Giannini (360) 786-7285
References: Chapters 64.32, 64.34, 64.38, and 64.90 RCW; ESSB 5796 ; and Uniform Law Commission 2021 Amendments to the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act	
<p>The Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act (UCIOA) governs the formation, management, and termination of common interest communities, including condominiums, homeowner associations, and real estate cooperatives. Washington enacted UCIOA in 2018, which applies to all common interest communities created on or after July 1, 2018. Common interest communities that existed before July 1, 2018, can elect to be governed by UCIOA or choose to remain governed by older common interest community statutes. In 2021, the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) approved amendments to UCIOA. The 2021 amendments to the UCIOA makes updates to address recent legal and technological developments. These changes include options to retroactively apply the UCIOA to all common interest communities.</p> <p>In 2024, the Legislature passed SB 5796, which adopted the ULC's 2021 amendments to UCIOA and additional amendments. SB 5796 both repeals older common interest community statutes and retroactively applies UCIOA effective January 1, 2028.</p> <p>Committee staff will research and monitor issues related to the retroactive application of UCIOA.</p>	

Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents	
Completion Date: December 31, 2024	Staff: Ryan Giannini (360) 786-7285
References: RCW 9A.36.078 ; RCW 9A.36.080 ; RCW 9A.36.083 ; RCW 49.60.030 ; and SSB 5427 (2024)	
<p>In 2024, the Legislature passed SB 5427 which directed the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to oversee a hate crimes and bias incidents hotline to assist people who have been targeted or affected by these crimes. The AGO must develop a pilot hotline program to assist individuals in at least three counties, one of which must be in eastern Washington, by July 1, 2025, and implement the hotline statewide by January 1, 2027.</p> <p>Committee staff will monitor implementation of the hate crimes and bias incidents hotline.</p>	

Artificial Intelligence	
Completion Date: December 31, 2024	Staff: Ryan Giannini (360) 786-7285 Joe McKittrick (360) 786-7287
References: SHB 1999 (2024)	
<p>Generative artificial intelligence (AI) refers to technology that can mimic human ability to learn and create based on the underlying training data and guided by a user or prompt. Generative AI tools are capable of performing complex decision-making or creative tasks typically performed by humans or with human oversight. Several forms of generative AI technology are currently widely accessible to consumers and can perform a wide range of functions. Such functions may include illegal activity, such as the creation of fabricated intimate or sexually explicit images and depictions.</p> <p>In 2024, the Legislature passed SHB 1999 which created new criminal offenses and civil causes of actions related to fabricated depictions of identifiable minors and fabricated intimate images. In addition, statewide work groups are beginning to convene on the issue of generative AI.</p> <p>Committee staff will monitor the implementation of SHB 1999, and research emerging criminal and civil issues related to generative AI.</p>	

Statute of Repose for Medical Malpractice	
Completion Date: December 31, 2024	Staff: William Bridges (360) 786-7312
Reference: RCW 4.16.350	
<p>A statute of repose terminates the right to file a lawsuit after a specified time. With few exceptions, the statute of repose for medical malpractice claims in Washington is eight years from the date of the alleged negligent act or omission. In 1998 and 2023, the Washington Supreme Court ruled the statute of repose for medical malpractice claims violates the Washington State Constitution's privileges and immunities clause.</p> <p>Committee staff will review the legislative history of the statute of repose for medical malpractice, analyze the relevant case law, and develop options should there be a legislative response.</p>	

Disposition of Forfeited Firearms	
Completion Date: December 31, 2024	Staff: William Bridges (360) 786-7312 Christopher McCallister (360) 786-7430
Reference: RCW 9.41.098; ESHB 2021 (2024)	
<p>Firearms possessed by local law enforcement agencies that have been judicially forfeited and no longer needed for evidence or forfeited as unclaimed property, may be disposed in any manner determined by the local legislative authority.</p> <p>Committee staff will review the legislative history of the firearm forfeiture statute, analyze the relevant case law, and identify which counties and major cities have passed legislation regarding the disposition of forfeited firearms.</p>	

Tribal Extradition	
Completion Date: December 31, 2024	Staff: Joe McKittrick (360) 786-7287
Reference: SSB 6146 (2024)	
<p>Indian tribes are recognized as unique aggregations possessing attributes of sovereignty over both their members and their territory. The interplay between tribal governments and federal, state, and local governments is a complex system of treaties, statutes, and government-to-government agreements.</p> <p>SSB 6146 provides a process for federally recognized Indian tribes within the state of Washington to request extradition of an individual from within the jurisdiction of Washington State or any political subdivision thereof to the jurisdiction of the tribe.</p> <p>Committee staff will track the progress of the Governor's Office implementation work group and its work developing processes and recommendations needed to implement this act.</p>	

Police Pursuits	
Completion Date: December 31, 2024	Staff: Joe McKittrick (360) 786-7287
References: I 2113 (2024)	
<p>The Legislature passed I 2113 in 2024. This initiative modified the statute regulating vehicular pursuits be police officers. The evidentiary threshold required for engaging in a vehicular pursuit was modified to allow an officer to conduct the vehicular pursuit when there is reasonable suspicion a person has violated the law, provided all other statutory requirements for the vehicular pursuit are met. The required risk assessment for the vehicular pursuit was modified to specify that an officer may not engage in the vehicular pursuit unless the person poses a threat to the safety of others and the safety risks of failing to apprehend or identify the person are considered to be greater than the safety risks of the vehicular pursuit under the circumstances.</p> <p>Staff will contact law enforcement agencies throughout Washington to determine if and how this change in law has affected specific agencies' pursuit policies, and will attempt to gather data on the relative change in number of pursuits conducted after enactment of I 2113.</p>	

Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs
COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
May	Work Session/ Tour	Whatcom County/ Anacortes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban growth area boundaries • Multifamily housing • Boundary review board • Cohousing • Tribal wellness
October/ November	Work Session	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary line adjustments - subdivisions - short plats • Cultural resources
December 12-13 Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Boundary Line Adjustments and Boundary Review Boards	
Completion Date: December 2024	Staff: Maggie Douglas (360) 786-7279
References: ESHB 1245 (2023)	
<p>In the 2023-25 biennium, the Legislature considered several bills related to local government land use and permitting processes, including ESHB 1245, relating to lot splitting. The bill, which did not pass, would have required cities planning under the Growth Management Act to incorporate certain lot splitting regulations into their development regulations, zoning regulations, and other official controls.</p> <p>Committee staff will research and summarize the existing lot splitting processes for cities and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Characteristics of Urban Growth Areas	
Completion Date: December 2024	Staff: Maggie Douglas (360) 786-7279 Karen Epps (360) 786-7424
References: SSB 5834 (2023)	
<p>Counties that fully plan under the Growth Management Act must designate Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), within which urban growth must be encouraged, and outside of which growth may occur only if it is not urban in nature. UGAs must contain sufficient areas and densities to accommodate projected urban growth for the succeeding 20-year period. Fully planning counties must review the designated UGAs, patterns of development within the UGAs, and the densities permitted within the incorporated and unincorporated portions of each UGA during the regularly scheduled comprehensive review update cycle.</p> <p>Committee staff will review and summarize defining characteristics of UGAs, including water and sewer infrastructure, critical areas, and urban uses.</p>	

Rural Housing	
Completion Date: December 2024	Staff: Maggie Douglas (360) 786-7279 Karen Epps (360) 786-7424
References: SB 5357 (2023); SB 6029 (2023)	
<p>In the 2023-25 biennium, the Legislature considered several bills related to local government land use and permitting processes. This included SB 5357 and SB 6029, authorizing the development of detached accessory dwelling units outside UGAs under certain conditions.</p> <p>The committee will consider rural housing issues during a spring tour. Committee staff will provide support and assistance planning the tour and conduct research as requested.</p>	

Cultural Resource Protection	
Completion Date: December 2024	Staff: Karen Epps (360) 786-7424
References: SB 6061 (2024); SHB 1717 (2022)	
<p>The Growth Management Act includes historic preservation as one of the 15 planning goals to guide the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations. Specifically, counties or cities fully planning under the GMA should identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures, that have historical or archeological significance. The Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) regulates archaeological sites and excavations, Indian graves and excavation, preservation and maintenance of abandoned cemeteries, and inadvertent discoveries of human remains that are non-forensic. DAHP does not have the authority to require surveys or archeological work prior to development.</p> <p>The committee will conduct a work session on issues related to cultural resource protection. Committee staff will provide support and assistance planning the work session and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

State Government & Elections COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
May 7	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olympia/Hybrid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redistricting update • Service members and voting
December 12-13 Assembly Days	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olympia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election processes and voting • Prompt pay • Wildland urban interface • Veteran's benefits and services

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

DATE	COMMITTEE/ TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
October	Joint Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
December	Joint Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olympia/Hybrid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
December	Legislative Oral History Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olympia/Hybrid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Election Processes and Voting	
Completion Date: December 2024	Staff: Greg Vogel (360) 786-7413
References: SB 5843 , ESB 5890 , SSB 6269 , E2SHB 1272 , HB 1962	
<p>In 2024, the Legislature passed multiple bills modifying election processes and voting, including laws related to election network security, violations and penalties for election interference, ballot curing and rejection, voter verification, voters' pamphlets, and voter registration.</p> <p>Committee staff will track implementation of these laws as election processes and voting procedures are updated throughout the 2024 election year. Committee staff will also draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Prompt Pay	
Completion Date: November 2024	Staff: Danielle Creech (360) 786-7412
Reference: ESSB 6040	
<p>In 2024, the Legislature passed ESSB 6040, requiring the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB) to review the extent to which prompt pay statutes meet the needs of small businesses, particularly women and minority-owned businesses. The review must include consideration of a requirement for state and local entities to pay the prime contractor within 30 days for work satisfactorily completed or materials delivered by a subcontractor of any tier that is a small business or women or minority-owned business enterprise. The review must also consider a requirement that within 10 days of payment, the prime contractor and each higher tier subcontractor must make payment to its subcontractor until the small business or women or minority-owned business has received payment.</p> <p>CPARB must present its findings and recommendations to the Legislature on or before November 1, 2024. Committee staff will monitor the CPARB review process and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Wildland Urban Interface	
Completion Date: December 2024	Staff: Danielle Creech (360) 786-7412
Reference: ESB 6120	
<p>In 2024, the Legislature passed ESB 6120, requiring the Department of Natural Resources to complete a statewide wildfire hazard map and a base level wildfire risk map for each county, while allowing jurisdictions to complete their own maps for use in applying the International Wildland Urban Interface Code (WUI Code) until the statewide maps are complete.</p> <p>The legislation also specifies which portions of the WUI Code the State Building Code Council may adopt.</p> <p>Committee staff will monitor the development of both jurisdictional maps and statewide maps, as well as State Building Code Council procedures for adoption of the permitted portions of the WUI Code, and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Veterans' Benefits and Services	
Completion Date: November 2024	Staff: Greg Vogel (360) 786-7413
Reference: 2SHB 2014	
<p>In 2024, the Legislature passed 2SHB 2014, expanding eligibility for several state veterans' services and benefits to veterans discharged with a general under honorable conditions characterization of service; veterans discharged with an other than honorable characterization of service if the veteran is eligible for certain U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits; and veterans discharged due to sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.</p> <p>The legislation also directed the state Department of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement an outreach program to ensure eligible veterans are aware of the new eligibility requirements.</p> <p>Committee staff will monitor implementation of the new eligibility requirements for state veterans' benefits and programs and impacts on use of services and benefits by state veterans, and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Transportation COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
October 15	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
December 12-13 Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Transportation Revenue Forecasting	
Completion Date: September 2024 first transportation revenue forecast under new system	Staff: Bryon Moore (360) 786-7726 Hayley Gamble (360) 786-7452
References: ESHB 1838 , ESHB 1125 - Section 113	
<p>The Legislature passed ESHB 1838 which created the Transportation Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (TERFC) to prepare 6-year transportation revenue forecasts beginning in September 2024.</p> <p>The council members will be the directors of the Office of Financial Management and the Department of Licensing, the State Treasurer, and the chair and ranking members of the House and Senate Transportation committees.</p> <p>The transportation revenue forecasting function is currently performed by a staff work group comprised primarily of agencies involved in the collection of transportation revenues. Staff will continue to monitor the transition of the transportation forecasting responsibilities to TERFC and will consult with relevant members to ensure legislative intent and expectations are met.</p>	

Washington State Ferries - Vessel Procurement	
Completion Date: ongoing through 2024	Staff: Jenna Forty (360) 786-7755
References: ESHB 2134 - Sec. 307 (2024); EHB 1846 (2023)	
<p>The Legislature passed EHB 1846 which authorized procurement of five new hybrid-electric Olympic class vessels through a nationwide solicitation, with up to two contracts awarded. The 2024 supplemental transportation budget provided funding for two new hybrid-electric vessels, and for the Joint Transportation Committee to provide oversight on the procurement of the hybrid-electric Olympic class vessels.</p> <p>Staff will continue to monitor progress of the implementation of the legislation, in coordination with the Joint Transportation Committee, and provide regular updates to members.</p>	

Public-Private Partnership Work Group	
Completion Date: July 2024	Staff: Brandon Popovac (360) 786-7465
References: ESHB 1125 , Sec. 204(2) (2023), SSB 6277 (2024)	
<p>The 2023 transportation budget directs the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC), in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), to convene a work group to study and recommend a new statutory framework for WSDOT’s Public-Private Partnership Program. The work group includes several stakeholders, including the secretary of WSDOT and JTC executive committee members or their designees.</p> <p>In December 2023, the work group submitted a preliminary report with recommendations on draft legislation (see SB 6277). The legislation was not enacted during the 2024 legislative session. The work group must submit a final report with new or updated draft legislation by July 1, 2024. Committee staff will continue to monitor the progress of the work group, provide periodic updates, and assist in drafting any legislation as requested.</p>	

Alternative and Innovative Project Delivery Methods Study – Joint Transportation Committee	
Completion Date: December 15, 2024; June 30, 2025	Staff: Megan Tudor (360) 786-7478
References: ESHB 2134 , Sec. 204(9) (2024)	
<p>The 2024 transportation budget directs the Joint Transportation Committee to study and provide recommendations, in collaboration with industry stakeholders, on alternative and innovative project delivery methods for use by Washington State Department of Transportation projects.</p> <p>The study must review contracting methods and how the choice of project delivery method impacts cost, contract competition, and project delivery schedules. The committee must submit a preliminary report on any findings and recommendations by December 15, 2024, and a final report on June 30, 2025. Committee staff will monitor the progress of this research, provide periodic updates, and draft any relevant legislation as requested.</p>	

Joint Washington/Oregon I-5 Bridge Committee	
Completion Date: through 2024	Staff: Kelly Simpson (360) 786-7403
References: RCW 47.01.505	
<p>In 2017, the Legislature established the Joint Oregon-Washington Legislative Action Committee to provide legislative oversight from both states regarding the construction of a new Interstate 5 bridge spanning the Columbia River. In recent years, the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program (IBR) has met certain milestones, including recommending a modified locally preferred alternative and beginning the corresponding environmental evaluation required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to better understand benefits and impacts.</p> <p>In 2024, the IBR Program will publish a draft supplemental environmental impact statement and disclose the findings of the environmental evaluation. The project has received significant funding commitments from the state legislatures of Oregon and Washington, as well as from the federal government.</p> <p>As the project progresses toward a 2026 estimated construction start, committee staff will continue to staff the joint committee and provide periodic updates as requested.</p>	

Improving Driver Safety of Older and Younger Drivers	
Completion Date: December 1, 2024	Staff: Bryon Moore (360) 786-7726
References: ESHB 1125 , Secs. 208(3) & (14) (2023); ESSB 5583 (2023); ESHB 2134 , Secs. 208(33) and 612 (2024)	
<p>During both the 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions, the Legislature directed the Department of Licensing (DOL) to take various steps towards examining ways to improve driver safety of both older and younger drivers. Specifically, DOL is required to develop a comprehensive implementation plan for expanding driver training education requirements for driver's license purposes to persons between the ages of 18 and 24 and to develop a comprehensive plan aimed at improving older driver safety.</p> <p>Committee staff will monitor the progress of the development of the plans, provide periodic updates, and draft any relevant legislation as requested.</p>	

Climate Commitment Act: Revenue & Expenditure Tracking	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Jed Herman (360) 786-7346; Michael Bezanson (360) 786-7449 Bryon Moore (360) 786-7726 Jenna Forty (360) 786-7755
References: Chapter 70A.65 RCW	
<p>Senate Ways & Means Committee and Transportation Committee staff will collaborate to scope and report on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track revenue generation quarterly from Climate Commitment Act allowance auctions and report the results in comparison to fiscal year forecast estimates. • Once developed, provide quarterly expenditure reports for Senate members and committee staff. Each quarterly report will include summarized contextual information for both revenue and expenditures. 	

Ways & Means COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
October 15	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
December 12-13 Committee Assembly	Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

2024 Legislative Budget Notes	
Completion Date: June 2024	Staff: Ways & Means Committee staff
<p>Legislative fiscal staff in the Senate and House will work together with the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program staff to publish <i>Legislative Budget Notes</i> by fall 2024. <i>Legislative Budget Notes</i> is a publication that represents the official record of legislative action on the omnibus operating, transportation, and capital budgets. It is used by legislators, legislative staff, state agencies, and the public to determine the legislative intent behind the hundreds of policy changes embedded in the three major documents.</p>	

2025 Citizen’s Guides to the State Operating and Capital Budgets	
Completion Date: January 2025	Staff: James Kettel (360) 786-7459 Michael Bezanson (360) 786-7449
<p>The Senate Ways & Means Committee staff and the LEAP Committee staff will publish updated versions of the <i>Citizen's Guide to the Operating Budget</i> and the <i>Citizen's Guide to the Capital Budget</i> for the 2025 legislative session. The guides are published on a biennial basis for use by members, legislative staff, and the public to answer basic questions about the Washington State operating and capital biennial budgets. The guides will be published at the start of the 2025 legislative session and will be available from committee staff, as well as online.</p>	

2025 Citizen’s Guide to K-12 Finance	
Completion Date: January 2025	Staff: Kayla Hammer (360) 786-7305 Trevor Press (360) 786-7446
<p>Committee staff will update the <i>Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance</i>. The guide is published annually and serves as a resource for members, legislative staff, and the public to answer frequently asked questions regarding K-12 finance. The guide will be published at the start of the 2025 legislative session and will be available from committee staff, as well as online.</p>	

2025 Legislative Guide to Washington State and Local Taxes	
Completion Date: January 2025	Staff: Jeff Mitchell (360) 786-7438 Alia Kennedy (360) 786-7405
<p>Staff will update the <i>Legislative Guide to Washington State and Local Taxes</i>. The guide serves as an overview of Washington’s full tax structure for members, legislative staff, and the public. The updated guide will reflect the changes made in the 2024 legislative session. The guide will be published at the start of the 2025 legislative session and will be available from committee staff, as well as online.</p>	

Four-Year Balanced Budget and Outlook	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Corban Nemeth (360) 786-7736
<p>Beginning with the 2013-2015 biennium, SSB 6636 (2012) required budgets at the time of passage be projected to be balanced for current and following biennia based on a maintenance level projection. The Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (ERFC) must prepare a budget outlook document for the Governor's proposed budget and for the budget enacted by the Legislature.</p> <p>To assist ERFC, a State Budget Outlook Work Group is created, consisting of one staff person from the Office of Financial Management, the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program, the Office of the State Treasurer, ERFC, the Caseload Forecast Council, the Senate Ways & Means Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee. Committee staff will participate in the work group and provide technical assistance.</p>	

Caseload Forecast Council Technical Staff Work Groups	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Ways & Means Committee staff
<p>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, juvenile rehabilitation, and the Working Families Tax Credit Program. The caseload forecasts are used to develop the majority of the budgets for these programs.</p> <p>The work groups meet periodically and include staff from the Senate Ways & Means Committee, House Appropriations Committee, Caseload Forecast Council, Office of Financial Management, the Department of Social and Health Services, and other caseload-driven agencies.</p>	

Joint Committee on Employment Relations	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Amanda Cecil (360) 786-7460
References: RCW 41.80.007	
<p>The Joint Committee on Employment Relations meets annually to consider matters related to collective bargaining with state employees. Each year the committee is expected to meet six times to consult with the Governor or the Governor's designee, and institutions of higher education, on matters related to collective bargaining with state employees conducted under the authority of RCW 41.80.007 and chapters 41.56, 47.64, and 74.39A. Staff will provide support to the committee and monitor activity.</p>	

Local Government Finance and Distributions	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Alia Kennedy (360) 786-7405 Jeff Mitchell (360) 786-7438
<p>Staff maintain a reference guide to the over billion dollars in state distributions to local governments, primarily cities and counties. This information is available at the fiscal.wa.gov website. The reference guide of state shared revenues, distributions, grants, and loan programs that benefit local governments is intended for use by members, legislative staff, local governments, and the public.</p> <p>Staff will continue working with the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program to update the reference guide and develop more complete information on the variety of different forms of assistance to local governments, better search capabilities, and mapping tools.</p>	

Pension Funding Council	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Amanda Cecil (360) 786-7460
References: RCW 41.45.030 and RCW 41.45.060	
<p>The Pension Funding Council is directed to meet annually. During odd numbered years the council must adopt certain long-term economic assumptions that are used to establish pension rates in the subsequent year. During even numbered years the council must adopt pension funding rates for the subsequent fiscal biennia.</p> <p>During the 2024 calendar year, the council is expected to meet up to two times to adopt pension funding rates for the 2025-27 fiscal biennium. Committee staff will provide support to the council.</p>	

Competitive Capital Budget Grant and Loan Programs	
Completion Date: July 2024	Staff: Michael Bezanson (786-7449)
References: https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/CapitalGrantLoanPrograms	
<p>The Senate Ways & Means Committee capital budget staff and the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP) staff will update the <i>Competitive Capital Budget Grant and Loan Program</i> website. The LEAP public webpage contains information about capital budget grant and loan programs for which individuals and organizations may apply. The page includes links to the grant and loan programs, amounts, approximate due dates, and other information.</p>	

Washington State Tax Structure Alternatives Model	
Completion Date: January 2025	Staff: Jeff Mitchell (786-7438) Tianyi Lan (786-7432)
<p>During the 2023 interim, Senate Ways & Means revenue staff created a Tax Structure Alternatives Model that allows users to change the tax rates for existing major state and local taxes in Washington State, add certain business and household taxes and tax exemptions, and view the resulting impacts on state and local revenues and the tax burden change for households and businesses.</p> <p>Committee revenue staff will update the model.</p>	

Input-Output Model	
Completion Date: January 2025	Staff: Jeff Mitchell (786-7438) Tianyi Lan (786-7432)
<p>An input–output (I-O) model is a quantitative economic model that shows the interdependencies between different sectors of a national or regional economy. I-O models can be used to create multipliers to estimate the change in output, income, and employment across industries due to a change in inputs in one or more specific industries. The Office of Financial Management produced an I-O model and the related multiplier tables for many decades based on a combination of survey data and external data sources. It is updated every five years.</p> <p>Committee revenue staff will create a Senate version of an Input-Output multiplier table/model that is based on federal economic data, but regionalized to the state of Washington.</p>	

Vendor Rates – Review and Analysis	
Completion Date: December 2024	Staff: James Kettel (786-7459)
<p>In fiscal year 2024, OFM submitted a report describing vendor rates within the Department of Social and Health Services, the Department of Children, Youth and Families, and the Department of Corrections. Committee staff used this report as the launching point for a broader analysis of other agencies. The analysis described services provided, recent rate changes, rate methodology, base budget, and other key variables. The goal is to provide a reasonably comprehensive picture of contracted services in advance of the 2025 session.</p>	

Climate Commitment Act - Revenue & Expenditure Tracking	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Jed Herman (786-7346) Michael Bezanson (786-7449) Bryon Moore (786-7726) Jenna Forty (786-7755)
References: Chapter 70A.65 RCW	
<p>Senate Ways & Means Committee and Transportation Committee staff will collaborate to scope and report on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track revenue generation quarterly from Climate Commitment Act allowance auctions and report the results in comparison to fiscal year forecast estimates. • Once developed, provide quarterly expenditure reports for Senate members and committee staff. Each quarterly report will include summarized contextual information for both revenue and expenditures. 	