

2023-24 House Standing Committees/Issue Areas

Please note: This is a general description of issue areas considered by committees; not a definitive or exhaustive listing. It is provided solely to assist the public in understanding the general roles of House committees.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

The House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee considers issues relating to agricultural production, marketing, and sales; food policy; animal and plant disease control; fisheries and wildlife; forest practices and forest fire protection; water; and mining. The committee also considers the management of certain state-owned lands.

Appropriations

The House Appropriations Committee considers the operating budget bill and related legislation; budget processes; and fiscal issues such as pension policy and compensation. The committee also considers bills with operating budget fiscal impacts.

Capital Budget

The House Capital Budget Committee considers the state capital budget which approves money for the construction and repair of public buildings and for other long-term investments, such as land acquisitions and transfers. In addition, the committee considers grants and loans to local governments or nonprofit organizations for infrastructure, broadband, housing, and cultural and heritage facilities. The committee also considers bills relating to public works contracting; state buildings and land; and the authorization of state debt.

Civil Rights & Judiciary

The House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee considers a wide variety of legal issues, including constitutional law; privacy rights; anti-discrimination measures; commercial law; torts; probate; guardianships; civil commitment; forensic mental health; firearms; and eminent domain. The committee also considers issues relating to courts and judicial administration; and family law issues such as marriage, marriage dissolution, child support and adoption.

Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry

The House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee considers a broad array of issues relating to the criminal legal system, including policing; crisis response; crime prevention; criminal penalties and sentencing; impaired driving; adult correctional programs, including rehabilitation and reentry; and adult correctional institutions. The committee also considers issues relating to the registration and civil commitment of sex offenders.

Consumer Protection & Business

The House Consumer Protection & Business Committee considers consumer protection and consumer education issues and the licensing and regulation of businesses and professions (except for health care and law-related professions). The committee also considers issues relating to the application of data and business analytics, the activities of the Office of the Insurance Commissioner and the Pollution Liability Insurance Agency; the solvency of insurance companies; and the rates and practices of insurance companies. Financial services issues include the safety and soundness of state banks and credit unions; the regulation of consumer credit and lending; and the regulation of securities and investments.

Education

The House Education Committee considers issues relating to kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12) education.

Environment & Energy

The House Environment & Energy Committee considers issues relating to air quality; aquatic lands; oil spill prevention; solid waste; hazardous waste; toxics; climate change; energy; Puget Sound; and the State Environmental Policy Act, the Shoreline Management Act, and environmental impacts under the Growth Management Act.

Finance

The House Finance Committee considers issues relating to state and local revenues, such as increases or decreases in taxes; exemptions from taxes; and changes in the administration of taxes. (Note: Issues involving revenue for transportation purposes are usually considered by the House Transportation Committee.)

Health Care & Wellness

The House Health Care & Wellness Committee considers a broad range of issues relating to the provision of physical and behavioral health care services; long-term care; and strategies to promote better health. Health care service issues include the licensing and regulation of health care facilities and the credentialing of new health care professions and the scope of practice for all health care professions. The committee also regulates pharmacies and pharmaceutical drugs and has oversight and regulatory responsibility for state public health programs. The committee also considers issues relating to the accessibility and affordability of health care in both the private health insurance market and public health programs such as Medicaid and the state health exchange.

Housing

The House Housing Committee considers a broad array of issues relating to housing, including accessibility, affordability, assistance, and supply; local land use, zoning, building and energy codes; housing impacts under the Growth Management Act; landlord-tenant law; homelessness; farmworker housing; manufactured housing; housing authorities; and the Housing Finance Commission.

Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning

The House Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning Committee considers a broad array of issues and services affecting children and families, including early learning; child care; economic assistance programs; developmental disabilities; child and youth development; child welfare services; children's mental health; at-risk and homeless youth; and juvenile justice.

Innovation, Community & Economic Development, & Veterans

The House Innovation, Community & Economic Development, & Veterans Committee considers issues relating to community development; community investment programs; underrepresented communities; and veterans' and military affairs. The committee also considers issues relating to life sciences, aerospace, and other technology innovation industries and businesses, economic development, and economic resiliency, including small business assistance; minority and women's business enterprises, business financing; international trade; tourism; rural economic development, parks, and outdoor recreation; telecommunications and broadband; as well as emergency preparedness, response, and resiliency.

Labor & Workplace Standards

The House Labor & Workplace Standards Committee considers issues relating to industrial insurance; unemployment compensation; collective bargaining; family leave; safety and health standards; occupational health; and employment standards such as wage laws and employment discrimination. The committee also considers issues relating to the building and construction trades.

Local Government

The House Local Government Committee considers a broad array of issues relating to local government entities, including local government taxation; comprehensive planning processes; non-residential land use, zoning, building and energy codes; health codes; the structure, governance, and operations of counties, cities, and special purpose districts; local government procurement standards; and local government open meeting and public records obligations.

Postsecondary Education & Workforce

The Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee considers issues relating to postsecondary education, including governance and coordination of public and private institutions of higher education and technical training; postsecondary offerings; student success; wraparound services; apprenticeships; lifelong learning; workforce development; training; modification of credentialing of existing health care professions; health care occupational compacts; and removing barriers to employment.

Regulated Substances & Gaming

The House Regulated Substances & Gaming Committee considers issues relating to the regulation and taxation of alcohol, tobacco, vapor products and cannabis, as well as product safety and access, and issues relating to the regulation and oversight of gaming, including tribal compacts.

Rules

The House Rules Committee considers all bills reported from policy and fiscal committees and determines whether, and in what order, to schedule their consideration on the floor of the House. The Rules Committee also reviews, adopts, and schedules consideration of floor resolutions.

State Government & Tribal Relations

The House State Government & Tribal Relations Committee considers a broad array of issues relating to state government, including state agency structure; rulemaking; procurement standards; performance audits; state information technology; and public employment. The committee also considers issues relating to elections; campaign finance; state open meeting and public records obligations; ethics in government; and the government-to-government relationship of the state and Indian tribes.

Transportation

The House Transportation Committee considers issues related to a broad range of multimodal transportation services and infrastructure for all communities and residents regardless of physical and mental disability, income status or age and the intersection of transportation policy with the environment and safety. The committee also considers the transportation budget and revenues to fund investments in transportation and related carbon-reduction programs, and transportation agencies, including the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission, the Washington State Patrol, and the Department of Transportation.