

House of Representatives
Office of Program Research

Interim Plans

2013



September 23, 2013

**Office of Program Research
Washington House of Representatives
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Olympia, WA 98504-0600
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Committees

Agriculture & Natural Resources	786-7117
Appropriations	786-7340
Appropriations Subcommittee on Education	786-7340
Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government	786-7288
Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Services	786-7178
Business & Financial Services	786-7127
Capital Budget	786-7142
Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs	786-7124
Early Learning & Human Services	786-7092
Education	786-7383
Environment	786-7196
Finance	786-7139
Government Accountability & Oversight	786-7129
Government Operations & Elections	786-7135
Health Care & Wellness	786-7191
Higher Education	786-7304
Judiciary	786-7180
Labor & Workforce Development	786-7106
Local Government	786-7386
Public Safety	786-7841
Technology & Economic Development	786-7301
Transportation	786-7145

House of Representatives Office of Program Research

2013 Interim Plans

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Washington House of Representatives
Jill Reinmuth, Director

September 23, 2013

Table of Contents

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Page</u>
Agriculture & Natural Resources	1
Appropriations	7
Appropriations Subcommittee on Education	13
Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government	17
Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Services	21
Business & Financial Services	23
Capital Budget	27
Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs	31
Early Learning & Human Services	35
Legislative Task Force on Child Care Improvements for the Future	41
Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Task Force	43
Education	45
Environment	49
Finance	55
Government Accountability & Oversight	59
Government Operations & Elections	63
Health Care & Wellness	67
Prior Authorization Work Group	73
Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight	75
Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Aging and Disability Issues	77
Higher Education	79
Judiciary	83
Labor & Workforce Development	87
Local Government	91
Public Safety	95
Technology & Economic Development	99
Transportation	103

Committee ***Page***

Committee Membership 111

Alphabetical Index of Projects 115

**House of Representatives
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September	2 days / 1 night	Northwest Washington (Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom)	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Resource Management Derelict and Abandoned Vessels Fish Passage Washington State University Agricultural Research, Extension, and Animal Sciences. Working Lands and the Skagit Basin 	Tour
September meeting (on tour)	TBA	Skagit County	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Resource Management Washington State University Agricultural Research, Extension, and Animal Sciences. 	Work Session
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derelict and Abandoned Vessels Wolf Management Columbia River Treaty 	Work Session

Project Title: Fish Passage

Project Goal:

Develop a better understanding of the issues related to fish passage and fish passage barriers.

Project Description:

Securing fish passage has been identified as a significant step towards restoring and securing healthy salmon runs in the state. This idea has been embodied in a number of state regulatory programs (such as the Forest and Fish Law and the hydraulics project approval program) and grant programs (such as the Family Forestry Fish Passage Program). Even with both regulatory and grant programs in place, advocacy continues in an effort to improve the current status of fish passage in the state.

The Committee will develop a better understanding of the issues inherent with fish passage and fish passage blockages. This includes the effects of improved fish passage, costs of fish passage improvements, ideas as to how public investment in fish passage can be targeted to have the maximum environmental benefit, options to build on E2SHB 2238 (2012 - Regarding wetlands mitigation) and marry fish passage improvements with environmental mitigation, ongoing state efforts to replace culverts, and the practical, legal, and cost difference between physical fish passage blockages and velocity blockages.

Number & Type of Meetings: One tour

Completion Date: September 2013

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Title: Water Resource Management

Project Goal:

Develop 2014 legislation and stay abreast of any ongoing water resource management policy changes.

Project Description:

The management of the state's finite water resources will again play a substantial role in the discussions of the Committee in 2014. The Committee will dedicate time this interim to track any ongoing judicial or administrative changes in water resource management policies, develop a deeper comprehension of the issues inherent in water resource management, and seek to foster solutions to known water resource management issues. Specifically, the Committee will focus on the issues expressed in HB 1438 (2013) regarding de facto changes in water use for raspberry growers in the Nooksack Basin and those contained in HB 1375 (2013) which sought to empower counties to play a greater role in the management of exempt wells.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session and one tour

Completion Date: September 2013

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Title: Washington State University Agricultural Research, Extension, and Animal Sciences.

Project Goal:

Learn about new research and extension activities being undertaken by Washington State University.

Project Description:

Washington State University (WSU) is the state's land grant institution. As such, WSU leads the state on both agricultural extension activities and agricultural research. The institution carries out its extension efforts through county extension offices and conducts world-class research not only at its Pullman main campus, but also at a number of research stations spread throughout the state. In addition to traditional agricultural research, WSU also maintains a robust animal sciences program that complements its research and training related to crops. These extension and research efforts help agriculture on all levels, from production through processing and export.

The Committee will explore the capabilities and limitations of WSU in regards to extension and research. It will do this both to keep abreast of research and technologies relevant to agriculture policy in the state and to understand how the unique capabilities of WSU could be called upon in future legislation to aid in solving policy issues. The committee will also build on the work sessions held during the 2012 interim and the 2013 session relating to WSU crop research and organic grain markets by conducting a sequel that is focused on the animal sciences program.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session and one tour

Completion Date: September 2013

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Title: Derelict and Abandoned Vessels

Project Goal:

Monitor the adoption of new rules relating to derelict and abandoned vessels by the Department of Natural Resources and receive a related agency report.

Project Description:

The 2013 Legislature passed ESHB 1245, related to derelict and abandoned vessels. This legislation set forth a number of policy changes in how the state manages its own vessel fleet and steps that certain private vessel owners must complete prior to selling high risk boats. The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for completing a rulemaking process to implement these policies. The Committee will follow this rulemaking process and receive a report on its outcome.

This same legislation also commissions the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Ecology to study and make recommendations as to the next steps the state should make in dealing with derelict and abandoned vessels. The Committee will hear from the two agencies at the conclusion of their work.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session and one tour

Completion Date: November 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Title: Working Lands and the Skagit Basin

Project Goal:

Achieve a greater understanding of the water issues affecting the Skagit Basin and the working lands in the region.

Project Description:

The Skagit River basin covers approximately 2,730 square miles in Washington and flows from its Canadian source into the Puget Sound. The river provides hydroelectric power, drinking water, irrigation, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities as it winds past agricultural, forested, and urban landscapes. The Skagit River watershed contains the second largest wild run of coho salmon and the largest run of chinook salmon in the Puget Sound watershed and is also home to steelhead, bull trout, and Dolly Varden.

Since 1991, the Skagit River's bacterial contamination levels have been of some concern to the state. In addition to the presence of fecal coliform and impaired dissolved oxygen levels, stream temperature has also been identified as an issue in the basin. These issues have led to the closure of shellfish beds in the Skagit Bay and conflict among the various users of the river and landowners in the basin over the source of the contamination. Certain sub-basins in the area have also been closed to additional ground water withdrawal.

The Committee will learn more about the issues affecting the Skagit River basin and the solutions that are both underway and proposed to allow and expand opportunities for working lands in the area.

Number & Type of Meetings: One tour

Completion Date: September 2013

Staff Assigned:

Project Title: Wolf Management

Project Goal:

Review recent wolf management developments, including the implementation of E2SSB 5193 and related administrative rules.

Project Description:

Wolf recovery is occurring in Washington at a rate and in a manner that was unexpected just a few years ago. Like many wildlife species worldwide, healthy wolf populations will inevitably result in potential conflict between the needs of the species and human development. The Department of Fish and Wildlife, guided by the state's Wolf Management Plan, is in the position to balance the needs of the wolf with social acceptance in the areas of the state where recovery will continue to occur.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has recently been provided with additional tools to assist in this balancing act. These tools include E2SSB 5193, which provides stable funding for management and livestock owner compensation, and an emergency rule adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission that allows livestock owners to protect their animals against an attacking wolf.

The Committee will receive a briefing on new wolf management developments, including any newly identified breeding pairs, the value and limitations of the new management tools, federal actions regarding national species delisting, and progress towards permanent rulemaking by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Title: Columbia River Treaty

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on the ongoing discussions regarding the Columbia River Treaty.

Project Description:

The Columbia River Treaty is a 1960's era agreement between the governments of the United States and Canada regarding the international management of the Columbia River. Federal officials are beginning a process to review the terms of the treaty and conversations are occurring that could result in amendments to treaty terms.

Although the Committee has no formal role in treaty discussions, the potential ramifications of treaty amendments could have effects in areas over which the Committee has jurisdiction. This includes salmon and steelhead recovery, commercial and recreational fishing on the Columbia and its tributaries, river navigability, and agricultural irrigation. The Committee will learn more about the Columbia River Treaty and what potential ramifications any changes could have on Washington's natural resources through conversations with energy providers, water users, state agencies, and tribal governments.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

**House of Representatives
Appropriations
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 10	9:30 am	Olympia	Early Learning and Child Care Funding	Early Learning and Child Care Funding	Work Session
October	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Mental Health Program Update ▫ LEAN Management Savings ▫ Department of Corrections Prison Population Impacts 	Work Session
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ K-12 Update ▫ Higher Education Budget Update ▫ Implementing the Affordable Care Act 	Work Session
December	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Mental Health Program Update ▫ 2014 Session Budget Outlook 	Work Session

Project Title: Early Learning and Child Care Funding

Project Goal:

Review approaches to integrating funding for early learning and child care.

Project Description:

Washington funds programs for early learning and child care that are housed in different agencies with different missions (early learning programs like ECEAP in the Department of Early Learning and child care programs in the Department of Social and Health Services). The Committee will review early learning and child care funding and programs in Washington State, and will receive an overview of approaches to integrating child care and early learning funding/programs, particularly examples from other states.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2013

Staff Assigned: Wendy Polzin, Andy Toulon, Lindsay Lanham

Project Title: Mental Health Program Update

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on issues related to the state's mental health program.

Project Description:

Washington's mental health program is administered through the Department of Social and Health Services. The state provides services through state hospitals and provides community services through contracts with 11 Regional Support Networks (RSNs). The budget for state mental health programs for the 2013-15 biennium is \$917 million Near General Fund-State and \$1.7 billion total (includes federal funds). The Committee will be briefed on emerging issues related to RSNs, the T.R v. Dreyfus case (children's mental health), and other mental health program issues.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Andy Toulon

Project Title: LEAN Management Savings

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on the Governor's plan to achieve savings through LEAN management.

Project Description:

The 2013-15 Operating Budget assumes savings of \$30 million from implementing LEAN management practices. The Office of Financial Management is expected to develop a strategic LEAN management action plan to drive efficiencies in state spending and improve delivery of services to the public. The Committee will be updated on the executive branch efforts in this area.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Danielle Cruver, Wendy Polzin, Charlie Gavigan

Project Title: Department of Corrections Prison Population Impacts

Project Goal:

Brief the Committee on the operating costs of incarcerating prisoners, average daily population projections, and possible approaches to reduce costs.

Project Description:

The Department of Corrections (DOC) currently houses approximately 18,000 offenders. A major driver of costs is the average daily population (ADP). The DOC's flexibility to manage the prison population is impacted by the risk status of the prisoners. The 2013-15 Operating Budget assumes savings by lowering the ADP for certain drug offenders (2ESSB 5892) and enabling the DOC to delay the opening of units. The Committee will review the impact of the ADP on operating budget costs, ADP forecasts by number and risk status, and the impacts of the forecast on operating costs.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Alex MacBain

Project Title: K-12 Update

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on the Report of the Joint Select Committee on Article IX Litigation and implementation of the K-12 Operating Budget for 2013-15.

Project Description:

The 2013-15 Operating Budget added just over \$1 billion in total Near General Fund-State policy enhancements for K-12 education. Within that total amount, individual enhancement items generally fall into one of three categories: funding to implement the provisions of HB 2776 and HB 2261; other changes to basic education funding; and nonbasic education funding changes. The Committee will review both the Report of the Joint Select Committee on Article IX Litigation and the implementation of the 2013-15 Operating Budget for K-12 education.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Jessica Harrell; Kristen Fraser

Project Title: Higher Education Budget Update

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on the implementation of the 2013-15 higher education budget.

Project Description:

The 2013-15 Operating Budget provided \$162 million in policy enhancements for higher education institutions and a net \$17 million enhancement to financial aid programs. The institutional enhancements included funds for the Community and Technical College Student Achievement Initiative; medical education and biomedical research; targeted state support for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); and other programs. The budget also assumes no tuition increase for the 2013-15 biennium. The Committee will be updated on implementation of the higher education budget and any emerging higher education fiscal issues.

Number & Type of Meetings: One workgroup

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Catrina Lucero

Project Title: Implementing the Affordable Care Act

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Washington state.

Project Description:

In the 2013 legislative session, Washington opted-in to Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. Also, Washington is implementing the health benefits exchange. The Committee will be updated on progress toward implementation of Medicaid expansion and the health benefits exchange, both taking effect January 1, 2014.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Erik Cornellier

Project Title: 2014 Session Budget Outlook

Project Goal:

Brief the Committee on the preliminary budget outlook for the 2014 legislative session.

Project Description:

The Committee will be briefed on the status of the 2013-15 Operating Budget heading into the 2014 legislative session. The Committee will: (1) examine how revenue forecast changes impacted the balance sheet and reserves; (2) estimate the impact of caseload and per capita changes may have on the budget; and (3) note any significant policy level items that might be considered in 2014.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Dave Johnson; Charlie Gavigan

**House of Representatives
 Appropriations Subcommittee on Education
 Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
November Committee Assembly	1:30 pm	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative Learning Experience Audit Findings Expanding the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program Update on 2SSB 5624 - Aligning STEM Programs with Applied Baccalaureate Programs College Bound Scholarship Program Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) Program status 	Work Session

Project Title: Alternative Learning Experience Audit Findings

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on Alternative Learning Experience recovery efforts related to audit findings.

Project Description:

Since the State Auditor's Office (SAO) released its initial Alternative Learning Experience audit findings estimate in February 2013, the Superintendent of Public Instruction has begun the process of recovering state funds related to the findings and revising the estimated total to be recovered, based on additional information provided by the SAO and school districts. An overview of the recovery process will be provided, as well as an updated estimate of the total anticipated recovery.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Jessica Harrell

Project Title: Expanding the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on the Department of Early Learning's plan to expand the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program.

Project Description:

The 2010 Legislature directed that the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), the state's preschool program for children from families with income less than 110 percent of the federal poverty level, be expanded beginning in the 2013-14 school year, and become an entitlement by the 2018-19 school year for all eligible children. The 2010 Legislature (chapter 16, Laws of 2013 Second Special Session) directed that ECEAP slots be expanded and that payment to ECEAP providers be increased. The 2013-15 Operating Budget expanded the program by 350 slots in the 2013-14 school year and by an additional 1,350 slots in the 2014-15 school year, as well as increasing the payment rate. The Committee will be updated on implementation of these directives to expand the ECEAP.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Wendy Polzin

Project Title: Update on 2SSB 5624 - Aligning STEM Programs with Applied Baccalaureate Programs

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on the implementation of 2SSB 5624 regarding aligning STEM programs with applied baccalaureate programs.

Project Description:

The 2013 Legislature (2SSB 5624) required the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges to work with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Schools to develop two applied baccalaureate degree programs that support the continuation of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) or career and technical education (CTE) programs offered to K-12 students. The Committee will be updated on development of these two programs and identify which colleges have been selected to offer these programs.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Catrina Lucero

Project Title: College Bound Scholarship Program

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on College Bound Scholarship enrollment and funding requirements.

Project Description:

The College Bound Scholarship (CBS) program is open to low-income 7th and 8th grade students who sign a pledge to meet certain criteria including graduating from high school on time with a 2.0 grade point average. Students who meet the eligibility requirements are eligible for scholarships covering the costs of public sector tuition and fees and a small book allowance. The first CBS cohort began receiving funding in the Fall of 2012. The Committee will be briefed on the number of students enrolled in the program receiving scholarships, sector of attendance, award amounts, and overall program costs.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Catrina Lucero

Project Title: Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) Program status

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on the actuarial status of the Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) program.

Project Description:

The State Actuary will provide an update on the current fiscal status of the GET program including the impact of tuition assumptions in the 2013-15 Operating Budget.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Catrina Lucero

**House of Representatives
Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	· Department of Corrections Update · Information Technology Update	Work Session

Project Title: Department of Corrections Update

Project Goal:

Provide the Committee with a briefing on capacity in the Department of Corrections' facilities, including updates on the November caseload forecast and the implementation of policies to reduce the demand for prison beds. Update the Committee on the impacts of the changes to a "swift and certain" model for community supervision.

Project Description:

The biennial budget provides the Department of Corrections (DOC) a total of \$1.7 billion to house approximately 18,000 offenders in its facilities and to supervise approximately 16,000 offenders in the community.

During the 2013 session, the Legislature enacted 2ESSB 5296 (Reducing corrections costs), which modifies the drug sentencing grid and standardizes offender presentence good-time credits to help reduce the need to open or build additional housing units for the DOC. In addition, the 2013-15 Operating Budget includes funding to expand the Residential Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (DOSA) Program and proviso language to authorize rental of local jail beds for certain DOC offenders. The Committee will be briefed by the DOC on the implementation of policies impacting the demand for prison beds and on the November prison caseload projections.

The 2012 Legislature enacted Chapter 6, Laws of 2012, 1st sp.s. (2E2SSB 6204) creating a structured community supervision violation process, effective June 2012. Beginning in the 2012 Supplemental Operating Budget, \$6.4 million from the estimated annual savings from implementation of the new model is reinvested into additional programming and treatment for offenders based on their assessed risk level and treatment needs. The Committee will be briefed by the DOC on the implementation of the "swift and certain" model for community supervision, including impacts on the community supervision violator population, implementation of changes in the delivery of treatment and programs for offenders on community supervision, and impacts to public safety.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Alex MacBain

Project Title: Information Technology Update

Project Goal:

Provide the Committee with an update on technology investment planning, information technology project implementation, and the State Data Center business plan and migration schedule.

Project Description:

The 2013-15 Operating Budget requires the Office of the Chief Information Officer, in coordination with the Technology Services Board, to evaluate existing state technology policies and project implementation to determine whether these policies reflect current industry leading practices.

The Office of the Chief Information Officer will brief the Committee on technology investment planning, information technology project implementation, and the State Data Center business plan and migration schedule.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Danielle Cruver

**House of Representatives
 Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Services
 Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Behavioral Health Legislative and Budget Initiatives	Work Session
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Rate Setting for Assisted Living and Adult Family Homes	Work Session

Project Title: Behavioral Health Legislative and Budget Initiatives

Project Goal:

Monitor the implementation of 2013 behavioral health related legislation and budget initiatives and identify issues that need to be addressed in the 2014 session.

Project Description:

The 2013 Legislature approved several legislative and budget initiatives related to behavioral health services. These include legislation related to improving behavioral health accountability, involuntary treatment standards, and forensic mental health services. There are also budget initiatives related to enhancing federal funding for delivery of services. The Committee will be updated on the status of these initiatives and will identify potential issues for the 2014 legislative session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2013

Staff Assigned: Andy Toulon

Project Title: Rate Setting for Assisted Living and Adult Family Homes

Project Goal:

Examine the process for establishing Medicaid rates for assisted living and adult family homes.

Project Description:

The Committee will be briefed on licensing and physical plant standards, contracting provisions, and per capita and biennial expenditures for assisted living and adult family homes.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: James Kettel

**House of Representatives
Business & Financial Services
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 29, 2013	TBA	Seattle	Full Committee (BFS members invited to attend TED work session)	Access to capital for Washington start-ups	Work Session
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Regulation of debt adjusters Insurance Fair Conduct Act	Work Session

Project Title: Access to capital for Washington start-ups

Project Goal:

Identify policies that can encourage entrepreneurs to found new businesses in high growth industry sectors in Washington.

Project Description:

During the 2013 legislative session, the Technology and Economic Development Committee heard testimony that the creation of new jobs in Washington is linked to the formation of new businesses, but new businesses face challenges obtaining the significant influx of capital investment they need to move from the early stages of development into production.

Also during the 2013 legislation session, legislation to promote crowdfunding, which involves raising money through small contributions from a large number of investors, was introduced and referred to the Business and Financial Services Committee.

The Technology and Economic Development Committee will hold a work session to examine crowdfunding, microfinance, the W Fund, and other policies that promote access to financing mechanisms and help new businesses obtain necessary capital. Members of the Business and Financial Services Committee will be invited to attend the work session. (Business and Financial Services Committee members will be reimbursed for their travel to the work session.)

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: Fall 2013

Staff Assigned: Jasmine Vasavada and Alexa Silver

Project Title: Regulation of debt adjusters

Project Goal:

Review prior legislation related to debt adjusters and discuss potential legislation.

Project Description:

Washington's Debt Adjusting Act regulates the provision of debt adjusting services, which include managing, counseling, settling, and adjusting a debtor's indebtedness, as well as receiving funds for distribution to creditors. During the 2013 session, the Committee considered three bills that would have modified regulation of the debt adjusting industry. HB 1340 would have enacted the Uniform Debt Management Services Act. HB 1491 would have prohibited debt adjusting, except when performed by a nonprofit agency licensed by the Department of Financial Institutions. HB 1572 would have permitted debt adjusters to receive fair share payments from creditors.

The Committee will review prior legislation and consider whether and how regulation of the debt adjusting industry should be changed.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Alexa Silver

Project Title: Insurance Fair Conduct Act

Project Goal:

Review the effects of implementation of the Insurance Fair Conduct Act and explore whether legislation is needed to further the goals of the Act.

Project Description:

The Insurance Fair Conduct Act (Act) was enacted in 2007 (SSB 5726). Subject to a referendum (R-67), it was approved by the people. Under the Act, a first party claimant may sue his or her insurer for unreasonably denying a claim. The claimant may sue for actual damages, litigation costs, and attorneys' fees. A judge may award treble the actual damages and must award attorneys' fees and litigation costs if an insurer has: (1) acted unreasonably in denying a claim for coverage or payment of benefits; (2) violated one of five specific unfair practice rules; or (3) violated an unfair claims settlement practice rule intended to implement the Act. A first party claimant must give written notice to the insurer and the Commissioner 20 days before filing suit. The remedies are not available in an action against a health plan offered by a health carrier.

The Committee will review the effects of the implementation of the Act and will contemplate possible legislation to further the goals of the Act.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Jon Hedegard

**House of Representatives
Capital Budget
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October 2013	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Financing Specialized School Facilities	Work Session
November 2013	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Financing Specialized School Facilities	Work Session
November 2013	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Management Plan and Teanaway Land Acquisition	Work Session

Project Title: Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Management Plan and Teanaway Land Acquisition

Project Goal:

To increase the Committee's knowledge of the environmental, agricultural, and municipal aspects of the proposed 30 year Yakima Integrated Plan, including its initial \$100 million purchase, the Teanaway Land Acquisition. To monitor the progress of agencies and stakeholders in financing and implementing the plan.

Project Description:

Expected topics include status reports by: (1) the DOE, other agencies, and stakeholders on efforts to obtain federal and other non-state funding commitments for Integrated Plan projects; (2) the Washington State University Water Research Center on preparations for carrying out benefit-cost analyses of proposed Integrated Plan projects and for reviewing water supply construction projects exceeding \$100 million; (3) the DNR and the DFW on cooperative management agreements and easements related to the Teanaway land acquisition; and (4) the DOE and State Treasurer's Office on preparations for the cost estimate and financing plan due December 2014.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Meg VanSchoorl and Susan Howson

Project Title: Financing Specialized School Facilities

Project Goal:

To review and make recommendations regarding the financing of specialized K-12 school facilities including skill centers and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) schools.

Project Description:

The review may include: (1) A brief overview of current funding mechanisms; (2) Options for revising the School Construction Assistance Program and/or local levy authority to accommodate skill centers, facilities shared among districts, or other specialized educational program needs; and (3) An evaluation of skill center expansion to satellite and branch campuses as implemented under RCW 28A.245.030. The Committee may also consider options for increasing efficiency in the use of high-cost specialized school facilities, such as the shared use of specialized facilities at skill centers and community colleges, and ways to share funding responsibilities between multiple school districts and the state.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson

Project Title: 1063 Block Replacement

Project Goal:

To monitor progress on the 1063 Block Replacement project.

Project Description:

The 2013-15 Capital Budget authorized the replacement of the 1063 Block which is adjacent to the capitol campus. Funding includes \$13 million in state bonds for developing a predesign and bridging documents and for demolition of the current structure. Also included is \$69 million in Certificates of Participation. The Department of Enterprise Services will advertise for a contractor for the predesign. Design-Build proposals are due by January 31, 2014. A progress update will be provided to the Committee at the November Committee Assembly meeting.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Steve Masse

**House of Representatives
Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October 2013	All Day	Yakima	Full Committee	Assessment of Farmworker Housing Investments	Work Session
November 2013 Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Affordable Housing Investments Overview of the Department of Commerce's Community Development Programs	Work Session

Project Title: Assessment of Farmworker Housing Investments

Project Goal:

Evaluate the needs, conditions, and types of farmworker housing projects.

Project Description:

The state's agricultural industry depends on a stable seasonal workforce. Up to 148,000 farmworkers worked in Washington in 2010. The availability of adequate housing for migrant farmworkers, however, varies widely around the state. Sustainable housing remains a critical need for farmworkers and different models have developed for how to address this need.

The Committee will invite stakeholders to participate in a work session on farmworker housing conditions and the different models for providing sustainable housing.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2013

Staff Assigned: Sean Flynn and Jill Reinmuth

Project Title: Affordable Housing Investments

Project Goal:

Provide an overview of the administration of housing investment programs and state-funded housing projects.

Project Description:

The Department of Commerce and the Housing Finance Commission will present an overview of each agency's administration and programs and explain how the state invests in affordable housing. The presentation will include information on new housing developments and long-term planning for managing and maintaining existing projects.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Sean Flynn and Jill Reinmuth

Project Title: Overview of the Department of Commerce's Community Development Programs

Project Goal:

Provide a broad level understanding of the scope and goals of the Department of Commerce.

Project Description:

The Department of Commerce (Department) is a diverse state agency with the mission to grow and improve jobs in the state. The Department manages over 100 programs that invest in local agencies and businesses to promote community and economic development.

The Department will present an overview of its organizational structure and programs, with an emphasis on community service and facility programs and the community block grant program.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Sean Flynn and Jill Reinmuth

**House of Representatives
Early Learning & Human Services
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 2013	TBD	Olympia	Full Committee (Joint w/Judiciary Committee)	Legal Representation for Minors in Dependency Proceedings	Work Session
November 2013	TBD	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services for Families involved in the Child Welfare System and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program Delivery of Services by the Division of Developmental Disabilities 	Work Session

Project Title: Legal Representation for Minors in Dependency Proceedings

Project Goal:

Review issues and possible legislation regarding providing legal representation to minors in dependency proceedings.

Project Description:

For a number of years the Judiciary Committee has addressed the issue of providing legal representation to minors who are involved in dependency proceedings. Under current law, it is discretionary with the court whether to appoint an attorney for a minor in a dependency case. Legislation enacted in 2010 provided that a child who is age 12 or older must be notified of his or her right to request an attorney, and required the Administrative Office of the Courts to work with the Washington Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care to develop recommendations for training and caseload standards for attorneys representing children in dependency proceedings. In 2012 the Washington Supreme Court ruled that minors in dependency cases have due process rights that must be protected and, in some cases, must be protected by appointment of counsel, but that the right to appointment of counsel is not universal. During the 2013 session, the Judiciary Committee heard HB 1285, which would have established a right for a minor in a dependency case to be represented by an attorney in some circumstances. This legislation passed the House but did not pass the Senate.

The Judiciary and Early Learning and Human Services Committees will hold a joint work session involving interested stakeholders to review the current practices in the counties relating to appointment of attorneys for minors in dependencies, and to discuss whether the Legislature should establish statutory standards or requirements for legal representation of minors in dependency proceedings.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session joint with Judiciary Committee

Completion Date: September 2013

Staff Assigned: Cece Clynch

Project Title: Services for Families involved in the Child Welfare System and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program

Project Goal:

Provide an overview and analysis of the available services and how those services are delivered.

Project Description:

The most enduring characteristic of child welfare involvement in the United States is poverty. Academic research consistently documents that families living in poverty are more likely to be referred to the child welfare system, more likely to be investigated by child protective services, and more likely to have their children placed in the temporary conservatorship of the state. Once children are placed in the protective custody of the state, poverty related concerns (e.g., homelessness) may further complicate family reunification or other permanency efforts.

As a result, an analysis of the intersection of families receiving dual services from the child welfare and public assistance systems is warranted. The analysis will examine current service array, funding for court-ordered services, Child-Only TANF Grants (Kinship Care), and the effect of the Affordable Care Act on the identified study sample. Committee staff will collaborate with the Department of Social and Health Services to complete this project.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Delivery of Services by the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Project Goal:

Provide an overview of the State Auditor's Performance Audit of the developmental disabilities program, including the effectiveness of delivery of services by the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Project Description:

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), within the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) provides a range of services which supports the integration of DDD clients into the community. Included in these services are respite, personal care, employment, and community access. In 2012 the State Auditor's Office began a review of how services were delivered to those with a developmental disability.

Respite services allow families relief from full-time care of a family member with a developmental disability. Personal care services assist individuals with daily hygiene and other requirements. Employment services assist individuals in pursuing or maintaining gainful employment, and community access allows individuals to participate in activities that promote skill development, independent living, and community integration.

In 2004 the DSHS began implementing the "working age adult" policy. Under the policy, clients of the DDD between the ages of 21 and 65 could not receive community access services. Except in rare cases, employment services was the only option available to those clients.

In the 2011 budget, the DSHS was directed to revise its working age adult policy to allow clients to choose between employment and community access activities. Clients, after nine months of enrollment in an employment program, could chose to transition to a community access program. If a client, after nine months, chose a community access program, he or she could return to an employment program at any time.

In 2012, pursuant to SSB 6384 (Persons with Developmental Disabilities - Community Access Program), the Legislature made statutory changes to enact the provisions that were spelled out in the 2011 budget. In addition, the Legislature directed the DSHS to work with counties and stakeholders to strengthen and expand existing community access programs, including options which would allow clients to receive services outside of his or her residence. The DSHS was also directed to adopt rules allowing an exception to the requirement that a client participate in an employment program for nine months before transitioning to a community access program.

From 2011 to 2012, a Task Force convened to address the delivery of services to individuals with a developmental disability and made recommendations to the Legislature.

The Committee will hold a work session to review the report of the State Auditor's Office and to provide an overview of how the DDD delivers its services.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Parents involved in the Child Welfare System and who have Developmental Delays

Project Goal:

Identify resources and services that are available to parents who are involved in the child welfare system and who have been identified as having a developmental delay.

Project Description:

The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 requires the state to initiate termination of parental rights proceedings after the child has been in foster care 15 of the previous 22 months, except if it is not in the best interest of the child, or if the child is in the care of a relative. Parents involved in the child welfare system who are also diagnosed with developmental delays face unique challenges when working towards family reunification.

Committee staff will examine the types of services available and offered by the Department of Social and Health Services for parents who have a developmental delay and examine strategies and resources available in other states to assist parents in meeting goals and requirements in dependency matters.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

Project Title: Transportation for Parent-Child and Sibling Visitation

Project Goal:

Examine transportation procedures and costs associated with sibling and parent-child visitation for families involved in the child welfare system.

Project Description:

The Fostering Connections to Success Act of 2008 requires states to make "reasonable efforts" to place siblings entering the child welfare system in the same relative placement or foster home. In practice there are incidents that necessitate the separation of a sibling group. If one sibling is determined to have unique or more intensive needs, for example, the state may elect to separate the siblings in order to best meet the needs of each child.

In 2004, the Legislature enacted SB 6643 (Providing Guidelines for Family Visitation for Dependent Children), which establishes that visitation is a right of the family including the child and parent. SB 6643 further stated that family visitation may not be limited as a sanction based upon a parent's inability to comply with court orders. Similarly in 2013, the Legislature enacted, ESSB 5389 (Concerning Sibling Visitation and Sibling Contact for Children in Foster Care), which specifies that sibling visitation may not be limited as a sanction for a child's behavior.

The Children's Administration (CA) is required to encourage maximum parent, child, and sibling contact. In addition to providing transportation to and from family or sibling visitation, the CA is also required to provide supervision if it is determined that visitation may impact child safety. Statute provides further guidance to CA by stating that CA should rely upon "community resources, relative, foster parents, or other appropriate persons to provide transportation and supervision for visitation."

In order to meet statutory responsibilities, the CA not only contracts with visitation agencies to provide both transportation and supervision, but the CA also relies upon agency staff and other appropriate people to help ensure that regular visitation occurs for families receiving supportive services from the child welfare system.

Under SB 6643, the Legislature maintains that "early, consistent, and frequent visitation is crucial for...parents and children to safely reunify;" however, there is little understanding of the strengths, gaps, and costs associated with transportation required to complete visitation services.

Utilizing CA data and informant interviews, this study will examine factors associated with transportation for parent-child and sibling visitation for families involved in the child welfare system.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: Tentatively December 2013

Staff Assigned: Lindsay Lanham

**House of Representatives
Legislative Task Force on Child Care Improvements for the Future
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
TBD	TBD	TBD	Full Committee	Legislative Task Force on Child Care Improvements for the Future	Work Session

Project Title: Legislative Task Force on Child Care Improvements for the Future

Project Goal:

To examine a tiered reimbursement model, eligibility requirements, early learning funding, and incentives for integrating child care and preschool and to develop recommendations for the expansion of the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, further graduation of the copay scale, and market rate reimbursement to allow access to quality care.

Project Description:

Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) provides subsidies to child care providers serving families at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Parents are also expected to make a copayment based upon income and household size. While the Department of Early Learning (DEL) has the authority to establish and implement policies in the WCCC, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has the responsibility for verifying a families' eligibility to receive the WCCC subsidies.

The WCCC is often associated with Washington's WorkFirst Program and is intended to support parents who are working, attending training, or enrolling in educational programs outside the home. Not all families receiving the WCCC benefits participate in Workfirst activities. For example, a parent under 22 years of age may be eligible for the WCCC benefits, if the parent is enrolled in a high school development program. Children of families receiving the WCCC benefits are required to be less than 13 years of age, or less than 19 years of age and have a verified special need or be under court supervision.

The DEL and the DSHS contracted with the Aclara Group to evaluate the WCCC eligibility system. The Aclara Group provided its report to the DEL and the DSHS on October 31, 2012. Utilizing the lens of lean management, an evaluation was conducted to identify gaps in the system and provide a list of recommendations that if adopted may improve efficiency of eligibility processes, enhance cost effectiveness, and improve parental access to the WCCC.

The Task Force will examine some of findings and recommendations highlighted by the report completed by the Aclara Group. Additionally, the Task Force will examine early learning models that integrate preschool and child care programming.

Number & Type of Meetings: TBD

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Lindsay Lanham

**House of Representatives
Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Task Force
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
TBD	TBD	TBD	Full Committee	Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Task Force	Task Force

Project Title: Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Task Force

Project Goal:

Oversight of the redesign of the WorkFirst program by the legislative and executive branches.

Project Description:

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a federal block grant established under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. The TANF program replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, which had provided grants to poor families with children since the 1930s.

States use TANF block grants to operate their own programs. State programs differ, but operate in accordance with the following purposes set forth in federal law: (1) to provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; (2) to end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage; (3) to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and (4) to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Washington's TANF program is called WorkFirst, and it is administered by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). Under WorkFirst, eligible adults receive various forms of assistance while they participate in activities that will help them connect to the workforce. The federal statutes require a certain "participation" rate for adults receiving TANF benefits, and states may be penalized if they fail to meet the required participation rate.

The Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Task Force (Task Force) was established in SSB 5921 (Revising Social Services Programs). Its duties are to: (1) oversee implementation of the redesign of the WorkFirst Program and operation of the TANF program; (2) determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst Program; (3) develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature regarding early identification of recipients likely to have short or long stays on the program and the characteristics of families who have been unsuccessful in the program and subject to sanctions.

Since its inception in 2011, the Task Force has met six times and is expected to meet throughout the 2013 interim. The work of the Task Force through the 2012 interim has focused on the development of a new assessment tool, performance measures, and data regarding outcomes.

Number & Type of Meetings: TBD

Completion Date: January 2014

Staff Assigned: Linda Merelle

**House of Representatives
Education
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 2013	All Day	Mount Vernon	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Career Readiness as well as College Readiness High Quality Teaching: Preparation, Support & Evaluation Wraparound Services and Supports for Students 	Site Visit
October 2013	All Day	Vancouver	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Career Readiness as well as College Readiness High Quality Teaching: Preparation, Support & Evaluation Wraparound Services and Supports for Students 	Site Visit
November 2013	Morning	Seattle	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Quality Teaching: Preparation, Support & Evaluation Wraparound Services and Supports for Students 	Site Visit
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Career Readiness as well as College Readiness High Quality Teaching: Preparation, Support & Evaluation Wraparound Services and Supports for Students 	Work Session

Project Title: Supporting Career Readiness as well as College Readiness

Project Goal:

Explore various models of intensive high school career and technical education and identify strategies to support and measure career readiness upon high school graduation.

Project Description:

Assuring that students graduate from high school ready for career and college has become a prominent goal for the K-12 education system. A common strategy to enhance career and college readiness is to increase the academic rigor of high school graduation requirements. Questions have been raised about whether increased requirements permit sufficient opportunity for students to pursue a career and technical education (CTE) pathway while in high school, particularly of the intensive type offered through skill centers and magnet schools. A Legislative Task Force on Career Education Opportunities was established in the 2013-15 Operating Budget to identify strategies for how education that supports career readiness, including but not limited to CTE, may be better integrated into secondary education opportunities for all students. During the 2013 Interim, the Education Committee will monitor the work of this Task Force and will also independently conduct site visits in Northwest and Southwest Washington to examine various models of intensive CTE, including a skill center co-located on a community college campus, a new CTE program in a comprehensive high school, and a new health and biotech magnet high school. Also during these site visits, the Committee will convene CTE faculty and administrators from high schools, skill centers, and colleges, as well as representatives of local businesses, to discuss strategies and opportunities to support career readiness as well as college readiness for students. The theme of career readiness will be explored through work session presentations at the November Committee Assembly.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two site visits and one work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain and Luke Wickham

Project Title: High Quality Teaching: Preparation, Support & Evaluation

Project Goal:

Gain greater understanding of new models of educator preparation and development, as well as implementation of revised educator evaluation systems.

Project Description:

In recent years, the Legislature has supported several initiatives intended to prepare, support, and measure the performance of high quality teachers.

In 2012 ESHB 2799 established the Collaborative Schools for Innovation and Success (CSIS) pilot project that pairs a College of Education with a low-achieving elementary school to design and deliver a research-based model of educator preparation and professional development intended to close the educational opportunity gap in the school. During the 2013 Interim the Education Committee will conduct site visits to two of the pilot schools, Washington Elementary School in Mount Vernon and Roxhill Elementary School in Seattle, to learn about the design and progress of the projects.

In addition, legislation enacted in 2010 and 2012 established significant revisions to the criteria and process for evaluating performance of teachers and principals. The implementation of the Teacher Principal Evaluation Project (TPEP) occurred first through pilot school districts and then was supported in additional school districts through regional implementation grants (RIGs). The Education Committee has heard numerous presentations from the pilot school districts, but will take the opportunity during site visits to the Mount Vernon and Evergreen School Districts to hear from teams of educators in districts that received RIG grants about their progress and challenges in implementing the new evaluations. At the November Committee Assembly, the Committee will receive a report due from the TPEP Steering Committee with recommendations for how evaluations should inform human resource practices.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two site visits and one work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain and Luke Wickham

Project Title: Wraparound Services and Supports for Students

Project Goal:

Gain a greater understanding of the nonacademic challenges faced by students and the strategies used by school districts in creating family and community partnerships to address these challenges.

Project Description:

Research and data indicate that home and family factors such as poverty, social-emotional and physical health, homelessness, and family instability all have a negative impact on student success in school. Schools do not have the expertise or the resources to address these issues alone. However, many schools and districts have developed partnerships with families, community-based organizations, and other public agencies to deliver wraparound support services to address students' nonacademic needs and help them successfully re-engage in learning. Readiness to Learn is an example of a state grant program that supports these partnerships. During a site visit, the Education Committee will meet with representatives of the Northwest Washington Readiness to Learn consortium, led by the Mount Vernon School District. While in Southwest Washington, the Committee will visit an elementary school that has an award-winning model of Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS). The PBIS is a research-based program that teaches students appropriate behavior to create a positive learning environment in a school.

In addition, the Committee will visit a Family-Community Resource Center school site in the Vancouver School District. These Centers provide a one-stop location for a wide range of services for students and families. The visit to the Roxhill Elementary School in Seattle will provide an opportunity for the Committee to examine a school-based health clinic, as well convene a discussion with representatives from various community-based organizations that are partnering with the school.

Finally, the Committee will explore the prevalence and impact of student homelessness and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) through work session presentations at the November Committee Assembly.

Number & Type of Meetings: Three site visits and one work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain and Luke Wickham

**House of Representatives
Environment
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
Late October	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Reducing Public and Environmental Exposures to Toxic Hazards ▫ Current Priorities and Program Funding from the Model Toxics Control Act 	Work Session
November	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Consumer Product Lifecycle Management 	Work Session
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Environmental Justice ▫ Report from the Climate Legislative and Executive Workgroup 	Work Session

Project Title: Reducing Public and Environmental Exposures to Toxic Hazards

Project Goal:

Continue to develop an understanding of policy and program options that could reduce ongoing public and environmental exposures to toxic hazards, and to develop legislation for consideration during the 2014 legislative session.

Project Description:

In 2013 the Committee considered legislation to restrict certain flame retardant chemicals in children's products and furniture, and to require a comparison of the toxicity-related hazards of alternative product components. In recent years, the Legislature has also enacted other restrictions on chemicals and toxic substances, such as lead in children's products and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in other consumer products.

In the spring of 2013, the Department of Ecology (DOE), working in conjunction with other states, released a draft alternatives assessment guidance document. The purpose of this guidance document is to provide a set of tools that manufacturers, product designers, businesses, and governments can use to make informed decisions and compare risks associated with the use of toxic chemicals in products and processes.

In 2012 the DOE also convened the Toxic Reduction Strategies Workgroup of stakeholders to discuss toxic chemical management, and in 2013 this workgroup issued a report to the Legislature and the Governor delivering certain recommendations for reform to toxics policies and programs. The DOE is in the process of reviewing public comments on this report.

The Committee will review the recommendations of the Toxics Reduction Strategies Workgroup, will consider toxic reduction strategies adopted by other states, and will assess options available to the DOE and the Legislature to reduce toxics. The Committee will also monitor the progress of the DOE's development of the alternatives assessment guidance document and other department activities to reduce toxic threats.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2013

Staff Assigned: Jacob Lipson and Jason Callahan

Project Title: Current Priorities and Program Funding from the Model Toxics Control Act

Project Goal:

Continue to develop an understanding of the various programs funded using Model Toxics Control Act accounts, and monitor the impacts of any recent temporary or permanent changes to program funding from the accounts.

Project Description:

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), which is administered and enforced by the Department of Ecology (DOE), requires liable parties to clean up sites contaminated with hazardous substances. Under the MTCA, the State and Local Toxics Control Accounts (STCA & LTCA) were established to provide for activities including hazardous and solid waste planning, contaminated site cleanup grants to local governments, and other activities related to hazardous waste prevention, management, and remediation. The primary source of revenue used to fund the activities authorized under STCA and LTCA is a hazardous substances tax.

In 2012 the Environment Committee and General Government Appropriations Committee worked with the DOE and held a work session to understand the current allocation of program funding from MTCA, and the prioritization of MTCA account funds. In 2013 the Legislature passed a law which shifts program funding under the two existing MTCA accounts, and created a new Environmental Legacy Stewardship account to fund certain activities. The law also made certain other substantive changes.

During the interim, the Committee will work with the DOE to monitor the status of the 2013 legislative changes to MTCA and STCA program funding allocations and pollution cleanup and prevention program administration, and will consider the preparation of related legislation for the 2014 legislative session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2013

Staff Assigned: Jacob Lipson and Jason Callahan

Project Title: Environmental Justice

Project Goal:

Continue to explore policy approaches to address environmental justice issues in Washington, and develop legislation for the 2014 legislative session.

Project Description:

Environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment and equal opportunity for all people under environmental laws, regulations, and policies, regardless of race, income, color, or national origin. During the 2012 interim, the Environment Committee held a work session to understand various environmental justice concerns. During the 2013 session, the Committee considered legislation which proposed certain procedural changes related to air, water, and hazardous waste regulations, and to the incorporation of community concerns into certain state agency activities and agency-approved projects.

The Committee will work with interested stakeholders to continue to discuss and refine possible ideas for legislation to be introduced in the 2014 legislative session to address environmental justice concerns.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Jacob Lipson and Jason Callahan

Project Title: Report from the Climate Legislative and Executive Workgroup

Project Goal:

Monitor the efforts of the Climate Legislative and Executive Work Group to recommend a state program to reduce state greenhouse gas (GHG) emission, that if implemented would achieve the state's GHG emission reduction limits.

Project Description:

In 2008 the Legislature passed legislation that established greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction limits for Washington. These GHG emission reduction limits are as follows: (1) by 2020, reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels; (2) by 2035, reduce GHG emissions to 25 percent below 1990 levels; and (3) by 2050, the state will do its part to reach global climate stabilization levels by reducing overall GHG emissions to 50 percent below 1990 levels, or 70 percent below the state's expected emissions that year.

During the 2013 session, legislation was enacted that created the Climate Legislative and Executive Workgroup (Workgroup). The Workgroup is directed to recommend by December 31, 2013, a state program to reduce state GHG emissions, that if implemented would achieve the state GHG emissions reduction limits.

During the 2013 interim, the Committee will monitor the activities of the Workgroup in anticipation of the recommendations being presented to the Committee as required by statute.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Scott Richards and Jacob Lipson

Project Title: Consumer Product Lifecycle Management

Project Goal:

Examine new and existing policies and programs to promote end of lifecycle product management, and new policies and programs to encourage consumer awareness of product lifecycle characteristics.

Project Description:

In 2013 the Environment Committee considered legislation related to the creation of new product stewardship programs for rechargeable batteries. The Committee also considered legislation to amend aspects of existing stewardship programs for mercury-containing lights and electronic products.

The Committee will review the implementation of existing product stewardship programs in Washington. This review will include an update on the status of the mercury-containing lights stewardship program in light of a recent court decision which invalidated a portion of the rule adopted by the Department of Ecology to implement the program. The Committee will also receive an update on programmatic changes to the electronic waste stewardship program that have resulted from legislation enacted during the 2013 session. The review of product stewardship programs will also examine other states' experiences and lessons learned in the course of the establishment of their battery and paint stewardship programs.

The Committee will also evaluate environmental declarations as a method to standardize the reporting of environmental impacts associated with a product. An environmental declaration may include information about the environmental impacts through a product's lifecycle. These impacts may include raw material acquisition, energy use, the types of materials and chemicals contained in the product, and emissions to air, land, and water from the productions of the product.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013

Staff Assigned: Jacob Lipson and Scott Richards

**House of Representatives
Finance
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Washington State Tax Reform	Work Session
November	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Washington State Tax Reform Tax Preference Transparency and Accountability Reform	Work Session
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Local Government Taxation Property Tax Levy Swap	Work Session
December	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Updates on Interim Activities by Various Legislative and Executive Entities, and Other Workgroups with Tax-Related Duties	Work Session

Project Title: Washington State Tax Reform

Project Goal:

Address the current status of Washington's tax structure, how it compares with other states, and recent reform efforts in Washington and other states.

Project Description:

Washington's tax structure has remained largely unchanged since the 1930s even though the economy has changed dramatically from its agrarian-based origins. Over the years, businesses, legislators, and citizens have raised concerns about the regressive nature of our state's tax structure, the burden it places on low-income individuals, and its negative impact on businesses. In light of this, the Committee will look at a number of topics associated with tax reform. More specifically, the Committee will:

1. Look at Washington's tax structure and how it compares with the tax structure of other states.
2. Look at how Washington's tax burden compares with other states using several different approaches.
3. Explore the economic principles of a good tax system and how the state of Washington measures up.
4. Look at recent tax reform efforts in other states and the conclusions of prior Washington-based task forces, studies, and work groups that have addressed Washington state tax reform.
5. Receive suggestions from various stakeholders for business tax reform. These stakeholders will include the Association of Washington Business, the Washington Retail Federation, the Washington Policy Center, and the State Treasurer.
6. Receive an introduction to capital gains taxation and a briefing on the taxation of capital gains in other states.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: November 2013

Staff Assigned: Jeff Mitchell and Dominique Meyers

Project Title: Tax Preference Transparency and Accountability Reform

Project Goal:

Review of tax preference transparency and accountability reform in other states.

Project Description:

Washington currently provides over 600 tax exemptions, deductions, credits, and preferential rates, collectively referred to as tax preferences. These tax preferences decrease state revenues by billions of dollars. Many of these tax preferences lack any discernible intent or purpose and have no scheduled termination date. Legislation was recently enacted that will require more transparency and accountability in the enactment of future tax preferences. The Committee will look at how other states have addressed tax preference transparency and accountability.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013

Staff Assigned: Dominique Meyers

Project Title: Local Government Taxation

Project Goal:

Review local government taxation.

Project Description:

Washington has a myriad of local government entities with varying levels of local taxation. The Committee will get an introduction on local government finance, which includes: an introduction to the types of local taxing districts; a description of the primary revenue sources for major taxing districts, including state-shared resources; and a description of historical changes in local tax authority and local taxation levels.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013

Staff Assigned: Jeff Mitchell and Dominique Meyers

Project Title: Property Tax Levy Swap

Project Goal:

Receive a briefing on the broad contours of a property tax levy swap.

Project Description:

In 2012, in its ruling in *McCleary v. Washington*, the state Supreme Court held that the state has not complied with its Article IX, section 1 constitutional duty to make ample provision for the basic education of all children in Washington. This decision touched on broader issues associated with interaction of the state school levy, which is dedicated entirely to K12 education, and the substantial reliance by local school districts on local levies to fund K12 education. Broadly speaking, a property tax levy swap would involve moving a portion of local levies to the state levy. The Committee will get an introduction to the general elements of a property tax levy swap proposal.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Jeff Mitchell

Project Title: Updates on Interim Activities by Various Legislative and Executive Entities, and Other Workgroups with Tax-Related Duties

Project Goal:

Receive briefings from the Department of Revenue, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee, the Liquor Control Board, the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council, and the Climate Legislative and Executive Workgroup.

Project Description:

During the 2013 interim, the Department of Revenue (DOR), as well as several other agencies and workgroups, will be involved in many endeavors directly impacting state and local taxes. More specifically, the Liquor Control Board (LCB) will be finalizing its rules for the regulation and taxation of recreational marijuana. The LCB and the DOR will also be addressing the regulatory and tax framework for medical marijuana. The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee will be spearheading an effort to make recommendations on the data and metrics that should be included in future tax preference legislation. The Climate Legislative and Executive Workgroup may make tax-related recommendations that would address green-house gas emissions. The DOR is undertaking a process to look at ways to improve annual surveys and reports, which are required by taxpayers claiming many tax preferences. The Economic and Revenue Forecast Council provides quarterly analysis and forecasts of economic activity and state revenue. Two of these forecasts will occur during the 2013 interim. The Committee will get updates on these various activities.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Jeff Mitchell and Dominique Meyers

**House of Representatives
Government Accountability & Oversight
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 24, 2013	11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues Relating to Loss Prevention Efforts by Retailers and Underage Access to Alcohol I-502 Rulemaking by the Washington State Liquor Control Board 	Work Session
September 10, 2013	11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiative Measure No. 502 and Medical Marijuana: Harmonizing the Regulatory Schemes for Recreational and Medical Marijuana Liquor License Issuance Fees and Taxes 	Work Session
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues Relating to Loss Prevention Efforts by Retailers and Underage Access to Alcohol I-502 Rulemaking by the Washington State Liquor Control Board 	Work Session

Project Title: Issues Relating to Loss Prevention Efforts by Retailers and Underage Access to Alcohol

Project Goal:

Examine and assess issues relating to loss prevention efforts by retailers and underage access to alcohol following the passage of Initiative Measure No. 1183.

Project Description:

In 2011 the voters passed Initiative Measure No. 1183 (I-1183), which privatized the distribution and sale of liquor. Following I-1183's passage, state-owned liquor stores were sold to private parties and certain large retailers, generally grocery stores, were licensed to conduct retail sales of liquor. As a result, there have been numerous retail outlets licensed to sell liquor which, in turn, has made liquor more available to the general public to an extent that did not exist prior to I-1183.

This increased availability has given rise to concerns about underage persons gaining access to liquor and the security measures taken by retail outlets in order to prevent liquor theft.

The Committee will hold two work sessions to examine and assess issues pertaining to loss prevention efforts by retailers and to increased access to liquor by minors.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Thamas Osborn and Trudes Tango

Project Title: I-502 Rulemaking by the Washington State Liquor Control Board

Project Goal:

Monitor and evaluate the efforts of the Washington State Liquor Control Board to create a regulatory scheme for the production, processing, and sale of marijuana pursuant to Initiative Measure No. 502.

Project Description:

Under Initiative Measure No. 502 (I-502), the Washington State Liquor Control Board (LCB) is required to adopt administrative rules necessary to regulate the production, processing, and sale of marijuana. Although I-502 made possession of one ounce or less of marijuana legal as of December 2012, the production and marketing of marijuana remains illegal until the completion of the LCB's rule-making process and the subsequent issuance of the licenses necessary for lawful participation in the market. The LCB is required to complete the rule-making process not later than December 1, 2013.

The Committee will hold a series of two work sessions to monitor and evaluate the efforts of the LCB to promulgate the rules necessary to regulate the production, processing, and sale of marijuana pursuant to the requirements of I-502.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Thamas Osborn and Trudes Tango

Project Title: Initiative Measure No. 502 and Medical Marijuana: Harmonizing the Regulatory Schemes for Recreational and Medical Marijuana

Project Goal:

Evaluate and assess the inconsistencies and issues that may arise by the different regulatory schemes applicable to recreational and medical marijuana.

Project Description:

In 1998 Washington voters approved Initiative Measure No. 692 (I-692), the Medical Use of Marijuana Act, which legalizes marijuana use and possession for specified types of medical patients who obtain the requisite prescription from a physician. Under the act, a qualified patient can possess up to 24 ounces of marijuana and up to 15 marijuana plants. Retail sales of marijuana by dispensaries are subject to retail sales tax. Medical marijuana dispensaries are subject to local zoning, licensing, and health and safety requirements.

By contrast, the regulatory scheme created by Initiative Measure No. 502 (I-502) is more comprehensive and will include extensive, detailed administrative rules adopted by the Liquor Control Board by December 2013. I-502 allows a person to possess a maximum of one ounce of marijuana, allows only licensed producers to grow marijuana, requires retailers to be licensed, subjects licensees to regulatory requirements, and imposes a separate 25 percent excise tax on producers, processors, and retailers.

The Committee will hold a work session to identify and evaluate the inconsistencies between the regulatory schemes governing medical marijuana and recreational marijuana. In doing so, the Committee intends to identify those inconsistencies that could create problems with respect to law enforcement, tax policy, the elimination of the illegal marijuana market, and other regulatory requirements.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Thamas Osborn and Trudes Tango

Project Title: Liquor License Issuance Fees and Taxes

Project Goal:

Examine issues arising from the license issuance fees created by Initiative 1183 and explore possible approaches to streamlining the complex system of fees and taxation of liquor.

Project Description:

As part of privatizing the sale and distribution of liquor, Initiative 1183 (I-1183) requires spirits retail licensees (except craft distilleries) and spirits distributors to pay to the Liquor Control Board license issuance fees on spirit sales revenues. These fees are in addition to any taxes collected on the sales of spirits.

There are a variety of stakeholders, including owners of former contract liquor stores, former state-owned liquor stores, wholesale retailers, and grocery stores, that have concerns with the various license issuance fees in terms of the amounts and to whom the fees apply. In the 2013 regular legislative session, bills were introduced to attempt to address some of the issues raised by stakeholders.

In the second legislative special session, SSB 5644 was passed that exempts former contract liquor stores and former state liquor stores bought at auction from the retail license issuance fee. The bill also extends, by three months, the number of months that spirits distributors must pay a 10 percent distributor license issuance fee. The Committee will examine post I-1183 issues regarding fees and taxes from a variety of stakeholders' perspectives in light of SSB 5644 and explore possible legislative approaches to streamlining fees and taxes of liquor.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Trudes Tango

**House of Representatives
Government Operations & Elections
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	· Advisory Votes · Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Funding	Work Session

Project Title: Advisory Votes

Project Goal:

Brief the Committee on advisory votes.

Project Description:

Initiative 960 was passed by the voters in 2007. The initiative includes a requirement, under certain circumstances, for an advisory vote of the people whenever the Legislature passes a bill that raises taxes. Specifically, an advisory vote is required if the bill is not referred to the people by a referendum petition or is not subject to a referendum petition because of an emergency clause.

Advisory votes must be included on the ballot as follows:

"The legislature imposed, without a vote of the people, (identification of tax and description of increase), costing (most up-to-date ten-year cost projection, expressed in dollars and rounded to the nearest million) in its first ten years, for government spending. This tax increase should be:

Repealed . . . []

Maintained . . . []"

Advisory votes are for information only and do not require the Legislature to take any action based on the results of the vote. The first advisory vote was included on the 2012 general election ballot.

The Secretary of State will provide information to the committee regarding the inclusion of advisory votes on the ballot.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013

Staff Assigned: Marsha Reilly and Jasmine Vasavada

Project Title: Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Funding

Project Goal:

Update the Committee on election improvements funded by the Secretary of State through the Help America Vote Act.

Project Description:

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was passed by Congress in 2002, primarily in response to irregularities that emerged during the 2000 Presidential General Election. The HAVA provided funding to states for the purposes of improving elections, including the replacement of dated voting equipment and creation of a centralized voter registration database. Since HAVA was passed, Washington has received approximately \$72 million in HAVA funds.

The Office of the Secretary of State will update the Committee on election improvements made through the use of HAVA funds in our state.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013

Staff Assigned: Marsha Reilly and Jasmine Vasavada

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Equal protection issues in voter registration

Project Goal:

Summarize legal precedent concerning when state election laws that treat military voters differently than non-military voters might be found to violate the Equal Protection Clause.

Project Description:

All states permit members of the military who are stationed overseas, their dependents, and other U.S. citizens living abroad to vote by absentee ballot, and a variety of state and federal laws exist to ensure that active duty military who are absent from their voting residence are able to participate in elections conducted in their home state. At the same time, in 2012 a federal court ordered Ohio to extend to all voters the early voting opportunities provided by state law to military voters. Staff will prepare a memo outlining the legal framework for considering whether legislation that creates two classes of voters--military and non-military voters--passes Constitutional muster, and highlighting relevant litigation on this subject.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: November 2013

Staff Assigned: Jasmine Vasavada

**House of Representatives
Health Care & Wellness
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	▫ Health Care Price Transparency ▫ Birth Defects, Premature Birth, and Stillbirth	Work Session

Project Title: Health Care Price Transparency

Project Goal:

Study variance in health care pricing and ways in which to make health care pricing more transparent.

Project Description:

Significant variance exists with respect to health care pricing; the price a provider or facility bills a payor for a given health care procedure or service can vary widely, even within a narrow geographic region. Using a case study for reference, the Committee will study the price providers charge various payors for a given procedure.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2014

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima

Project Title: Birth Defects, Premature Birth, and Stillbirth

Project Goal:

To gain a better understanding of current trends and ways to reduce the number of birth defects, premature births, and stillbirths statewide.

Project Description:

The Committee will examine current statewide data trends regarding birth defects, premature births, and stillbirths. The Committee will also examine strategies to reduce the number of birth defects, premature births, and stillbirths in consultation with the Department of Health, health care provider groups, parental support groups, and organizations with expertise in this area.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: January 2014

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Dental Coverage in the Exchange

Project Goal:

Monitor the evolution of dental coverage offered in the Washington Health Benefit Exchange.

Project Description:

The Washington Health Benefit Exchange (Exchange) is a public-private partnership through which Washington consumers may compare and purchase health insurance coverage and access federal premium subsidies. Federal law requires pediatric dental coverage to be offered in the Exchange. Under state law, this can be done either in stand-alone coverage or in coverage embedded in a broader health plan. Currently, only pediatric dental coverage is available in the Exchange.

Committee staff will monitor the evolution of dental coverage in the Exchange, including take-up rates and the possibility of adult dental coverage being offered.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: January 2014

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima

Project Title: Patient Confidentiality Statutes

Project Goal:

Consult with practitioners and stakeholders to identify issues that may affect implementation of HB 1679 (Regarding the disclosure of health care information).

Project Description:

In 2013 the Legislature passed ESHB 1679 related to the disclosure of health care information. The bill reorganized confidentiality standards related to sexually-transmitted disease information, mental health information, and general health care information. The bill does not take effect until July 1, 2014, to allow for the consideration of any options for improving implementation by health care practitioners. Committee staff will work with stakeholders to identify any issues that might facilitate implementation of the law.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: January 2014

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Injury Prevention

Project Goal:

Develop legislative options to promote the development of evidence-based injury prevention practices.

Project Description:

During the 2013 legislative session, the House Health Care and Wellness Committee held a work session regarding statistics for injury-related deaths in Washington. Several of the most common types of injuries were evaluated and the interventions being used to prevent them were considered. Committee staff will consider options for promoting the development of evidence-based injury prevention practices for categories of injuries where none currently exist.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: January 2014

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: School Health Clinics

Project Goal:

Develop policy options to support the establishment of school-based health centers in public schools.

Project Description:

School-based health centers provide age-appropriate health care services to students while at school campuses, including primary care, preventive care, and mental health services. About 2,000 school-based health centers are in operation nationwide, but there are only a few communities in Washington that operate these centers. Committee staff will explore challenges to establishing school-based health centers and develop options to encourage communities in Washington to provide these services to their students.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: January 2014

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Clinical Evaluations for Mental Health Commitments

Project Goal:

Understand how mental health clinical evaluation standards affect variations in Involuntary Treatment Act commitment rates in different jurisdictions due to mental health clinical evaluation standards.

Project Description:

Committee staff will review the continuity between the clinical standards for commitments by mental health professionals and study the variations between mental health professionals in different counties and regional support networks with respect to the commitment rate of people under the Involuntary Treatment Act (Act). Committee staff will review how differences in professional training and qualifications, clinical evaluation standards, and the lack of access to clinical treatment resources may result in differences in the number of people screened under the Act in various geographic regions and the number of people committed under the Act.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: January 2014

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Balance Billing

Project Goal:

Address the issue of balance billing for emergency services.

Project Description:

Balance billing occurs when a health care provider bills a patient for amounts not covered by insurance. Balance billing most often occurs when a patient receives services from a provider who does not contract with the patient's insurer. The issue is further complicated in the emergency department because: (1) emergency departments are required by federal law to treat every patient with an emergency medical condition, regardless of ability to pay or insurance status; (2) insurers are required by law to pay for emergency services, even if they are rendered by out-of-network providers; (3) patients often have little choice as to which emergency department to utilize in an emergency; and (4) patients in an emergency department may be treated by a variety of providers, some of whom are in-network and some of whom are out-of-network. In this project, committee staff will monitor ongoing developments in this area and work with stakeholders to develop legislation to address balance billing for emergency services rendered by out-of-network providers in in-network facilities.

Number & Type of Meetings: None

Completion Date: January 2014

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima

**House of Representatives
Prior Authorization Work Group
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Streamlining the Prior Authorization Process	Work Session
November	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Streamlining the Prior Authorization Process	TBA

Project Title: Streamlining the Prior Authorization Process

Project Goal:

Streamline the prior authorization process for prescription drugs, medical procedures, and medical tests

Project Description:

Prior authorization is the requirement that a health care provider seek approval of a drug, procedure, or test before seeking reimbursement from an insurer. Pursuant to legislation passed in 2009, the Office of the Insurance Commissioner has designated a lead agency (OneHealthPort) to develop processes, guidelines, and standards to streamline health care administration, including the prior authorization process.

The Prior Authorization Work Group will streamline the prior authorization process for prescription drugs, medical procedures, and medical tests, with the goal of simplification and uniformity. The work group must: establish timelines for urgent requests and timelines for non-urgent requests, work on a receipt of missing information time frame, determine time limits for a response of acknowledgement of receipts of request of missing information, establish when an authorization request will be deemed as granted when there is no response, and submit recommendations to the Legislature by November 15, 2013.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: November 2013

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima

**House of Representatives
Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
October	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Oversight and Monitoring Implementation of Health Care Policy in Washington	Work Session
December	TBA	TBA	Full Committee	Oversight and Monitoring Implementation of Health Care Policy in Washington	Work Session

Project Title: Oversight and Monitoring Implementation of Health Care Policy in Washington

Project Goal:

Oversee and monitor executive agencies and the Washington Health Benefit Exchange as they implement the state's health care policy

Project Description:

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. The Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight will provide oversight between these agencies and organizations. This oversight will include monitoring of each entity's activities to ensure they are not duplicating their efforts and are working towards a goal of increased quality of service.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: January 2014

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima and Chris Blake

**House of Representatives
 Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Aging and Disability Issues
 Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Joint Legislative and Executive Committee on Aging and Disability Issues	Work Session
December	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Joint Legislative and Executive Committee on Aging and Disability Issues	Work Session

Project Title: Joint Legislative and Executive Committee on Aging and Disability Issues

Project Goal:

Develop a strategy by December 2014 to build capacity in the long-term care system to meet the demands of the future demographic trends in elderly and disabled populations

Project Description:

The 2013-15 operating budget creates the Joint Legislative and Executive Committee on Aging and Disability Issues. By December 2014, the Committee must develop a strategy to build capacity to meet the demands of Washington's elderly and disabled populations in such areas as improving the efficiency of long-term care services and supports, making caregiver supports available, promoting the use of technology and chronic care management, developing specialized resources, and providing housing and transportation options. The Committee will hold work sessions during the 2013 interim to understand the current long-term care services and supports system and to frame the issues facing its future.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: January 2014

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake and Jim Morishima

**House of Representatives
Higher Education
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September 18-20	3 Days	Walla Walla, Richland, Pasco, Yakima	Full Committee	Higher Education Opportunities and Challenges: Projected Needs, Retention Strategies, College Readiness, Serving Under-Represented Populations, and the Role of Research in Undergraduate Education	Work Session
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	2014 Legislative Agendas for Higher Education	Work Session

Project Title: Higher Education Opportunities and Challenges: Projected Needs, Retention Strategies, College Readiness, Serving Under-Represented Populations, and the Role of Research in Undergraduate Education

Project Goal:

Examine the higher education needs of the state, regional opportunities and challenges, retention and completion strategies, college readiness, serving under-represented populations, the research mission in undergraduate education, and to develop 2014 legislative proposals.

Project Description:

Over three days the Committee will examine:

- The higher education needs of the state, including a state and regional economic analysis of higher education needs.
- Regional higher education opportunities and challenges with input from local public and private higher education institutions and stakeholders.
- Innovative strategies to support student retention, completion, and progression to careers, including serving under-represented students.
- The college readiness of graduating high school students, including a discussion of the communication and alignment of higher education and K-12 education sectors.
- The college readiness of re-entering adults and innovative strategies to serve them.
- How the research mission of research universities supports their education mission.

During the first day, the Committee will hold work sessions in Walla Walla. The Committee will hold a work session on the state's projected needs for higher education at Whitman College. The Committee will also hear presentations and have a panel discussion on regional higher education opportunities and challenges at public and private institutions at Walla Walla Community College (WWCC). Also at WWCC, the Committee will have a presentation and discussion on the results of student retention and completion strategies and potential for replication around the state.

During the second day, the Committee will hold work sessions in Pasco and Richland. The Committee will hear presentations and host a statewide panel that will provide updated information regarding college readiness, communications and alignment between the K-12 and higher education sectors, and implementation of the Common Core State Standards. The Committee will host a panel and hear presentations on the college readiness of re-entering adults including an update on Washington's Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training and developmental education programs. The Committee will also hear a presentation on the research missions of Washington State University (WSU) and the University of Washington.

During the third day, the Committee will hold work sessions in Yakima. The Committee will hear a presentation on meeting the state's needs for health care higher education programs. The Committee will have a work session at Yakima Valley Community College that includes a panel discussion with Heritage University and Central Washington University (CWU) on regional opportunities and challenges. The Committee will also have a panel discussion regarding serving under-represented students in higher education.

Number & Type of Meetings: 3-day meetings (work sessions) of higher education institutions

Completion Date: September 2013

Staff Assigned: Madeleine Thompson and Luke Wickham

Project Title: 2014 Legislative Agendas for Higher Education

Project Goal:

To update the committee on legislative proposals and recommendations for the 2014 legislation session, and to present legislatively directed reports.

Project Description:

Higher education agencies, institutions, and organizations will present their 2014 legislative priorities. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy and the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) will present their financial aid reports. The WSAC will also present its Ten-Year Roadmap. The Education Data and Research Center will present on public baccalaureate institution performance measures. The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges will present recent enrollment reports and the results of the Student Achievement Initiative.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Madeleine Thompson and Luke Wickham

**House of Representatives
Judiciary
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 29	All Day	Lakewood	Full Committee	Competency to Stand Trial and Civil Commitment under the Involuntary Treatment Act	Work Session
October 3	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee (Joint with Early Learning and Human Services Committee)	Firearms-Related Background Check Processes Legal Representation for Minors in Dependency Proceedings	Work Session
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Attorney General Authority to Prosecute Environmental Law Violations	Work Session

Project Title: Competency to Stand Trial and Civil Commitment under the Involuntary Treatment Act

Project Goal:

Develop legislation to address the process for civil commitment evaluations of persons whose misdemeanor criminal charges are dismissed due to incompetency to stand trial.

Project Description:

During the past several sessions, the Judiciary Committee has dealt with multiple pieces of legislation addressing the issues of criminal defendants who are incompetent to stand trial and civil commitment of persons under the Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA). Legislation enacted in the past two sessions attempts to streamline and improve the process for conducting competency evaluations and providing restoration services to criminal defendants who are found incompetent. In addition, legislation enacted in the 2013 session altered the procedures and standards for involuntary commitment of persons who have been deemed incompetent to stand trial for violent felonies. A separate piece of legislation addressed the standards for commitment of persons under the ITA.

The Committee will hold a work session involving interested stakeholders to discuss the competency evaluation and restoration process for criminal defendants, and the process for evaluating persons who are found incompetent to stand trial for potential civil commitment under the ITA. In particular, the work session will focus on potential changes to the law relating to civil commitment evaluations of persons whose misdemeanor criminal charges are dismissed due to incompetency to stand trial.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Omeara Harrington and Edie Adams

Project Title: Firearms-Related Background Check Processes

Project Goal:

Gain a detailed understanding of federal and state firearms-related background check requirements and processes.

Project Description:

During the 2013 session, the Committee dealt with several bills relating to firearms, including HB 1588, which establishes background check requirements for the sale of firearms by unlicensed persons. HB 1588 did not pass the House. There are indications that an initiative to the Legislature may be filed that would require background checks for private firearms sales. The Committee will hold a work session to gain a better understanding of the state and federal background check processes that apply when a person purchases a firearm or seeks a firearms-related permit. The work session will provide an overview of the federal National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and applicable state background check requirements, including mental health background checks through the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and local mental health agencies. The work session will also include a look at the background check requirements and processes for firearm sales at gun shows. The Committee will invite various stakeholders to participate in the work session, including representatives of federal and state law enforcement agencies, the DSHS, the Department of Licensing, firearms dealers, gun show organizers, and others.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2013

Staff Assigned: Edie Adams

Project Title: Legal Representation for Minors in Dependency Proceedings

Project Goal:

Review issues and possible legislation regarding providing legal representation to minors in dependency proceedings.

Project Description:

For a number of years the Judiciary Committee has addressed the issue of providing legal representation to minors who are involved in dependency proceedings. Under current law, it is discretionary with the court whether to appoint an attorney for a minor in a dependency case. Legislation enacted in 2010 provided that a child who is age 12 or older must be notified of his or her right to request an attorney, and required the Administrative Office of the Courts to work with the Washington Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care to develop recommendations for training and caseload standards for attorneys representing children in dependency proceedings. In 2012 the Washington Supreme Court ruled that minors in dependency cases have due process rights that must be protected and, in some cases, must be protected by appointment of counsel, but that the right to appointment of counsel is not universal. During the 2013 session, the Judiciary Committee heard HB 1285, which would have established a right for a minor in a dependency case to be represented by an attorney in some circumstances. This legislation passed the House but did not pass the Senate.

The Judiciary and Early Learning and Human Services Committees will hold a joint work session involving interested stakeholders to review the current practices in the counties relating to appointment of attorneys for minors in dependencies, and to discuss whether the Legislature should establish statutory standards or requirements for legal representation of minors in dependency proceedings.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session joint with Early Learning and Human Services Committee

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Cece Clynych

Project Title: Attorney General Authority to Prosecute Environmental Law Violations

Project Goal:

Review issues and possible legislation regarding the Attorney General's authority to prosecute environmental law violations.

Project Description:

During the 2013 session, the Judiciary Committee was referred HB 1655 relating to the authority of the Attorney General to prosecute various environmental law violations. The stated intent of the legislation is to more efficiently address environmental law violations by streamlining and integrating cooperation between local and state jurisdictions to better protect Washington's natural environment. The Committee will hold a work session involving representatives from the Attorney General's Office and other interested stakeholders to inform members about the current system of local, state, and federal enforcement of environmental laws, and to discuss alternate models and potential expansion of the role of the Attorney General in enforcing state environmental laws.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned:

**House of Representatives
Labor & Workforce Development
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September	TBA	Mt. Vernon	Full Committee	· Agricultural labor	Work Session
October	Afternoon	Ellensburg	Full Committee	· Youth unemployment	Work Session
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	· Workers' compensation fraud report · Workplace bullying · Private sector retirement programs	Work Session

Project Title: Agricultural labor

Project Goal:

Examine issues relating to agricultural labor.

Project Description:

About 40,000 employees work in seasonal agricultural employment in Washington. Under the federal H-2A guest-worker program, employers may hire temporary workers from other countries if there are not sufficient domestic workers. Federal and state laws establish various wage requirements for agricultural workers.

This summer, work stoppages have occurred over farm worker wages and other issues. The Committee will hear from affected workers and employers. The Committee will also hear from the Employment Security Department regarding the H-2A program and the Department of Labor and Industries regarding wage enforcement in agriculture.

Employer associations and worker representatives will be asked to address labor availability and other agricultural labor issues and provide any recommendations for policy changes.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Joan Elgee and Trudes Tango

Project Title: Youth unemployment

Project Goal:

Explore the causes of and solutions to youth unemployment.

Project Description:

Employment for teens and recent college graduates continues to be a challenge. In 2012 more than 25 percent of Washington's teens ages 16 or over were looking for work and unable to find a job and only about 25 percent were employed. In October 2011 the national unemployment rate for 20- to 29-year-olds who recently had earned bachelor's degrees was 13.5 percent. College graduates also face underemployment.

The Committee will review data on youth unemployment and the laws and rules for teen workers with the goal of exploring the causes of and solutions to youth unemployment. As part of its review, the Committee will also review the rule-making authority of the Department of Labor and Industries with respect to teen workers.

The Committee will hear from state agency representatives, academic experts, students, and representatives of business and labor.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: September 2013

Staff Assigned: Joan Elgee and Alexa Silver

Project Title: Workers' compensation fraud report

Project Goal:

Hear presentation regarding workers' compensation fraud.

Project Description:

In 2011 the Legislature made multiple changes to workers' compensation. An element of EHB 2123 required the Department of Labor and Industries (Department) to continue applying proven best practices to employer fraud and to apply the same best practices to worker and provider fraud. The Legislature directed that the Department's activities include approaches to prevent, educate, and ensure compliance by providers, employers, and workers.

EHB 2123 further required the Department to report to the Legislature on its efforts and outcomes and make recommendations for statutory changes to address barriers for addressing fraud.

The Department will present the fraud report to the Committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Joan Elgee

Project Title: Workplace bullying

Project Goal:

Examine the issues related to workplace bullying to better assess whether legislation is needed.

Project Description:

Legislation related to workplace bullying has been introduced in at least 20 states, including Washington, but not enacted. In 2012 the Committee held a public hearing on a bill addressing workplace bullying. Several issues were raised during that hearing, including the complexity of defining "bullying."

The Committee will explore the definition issue and other issues related to workplace bullying, including the extent to which current law does or does not address abusive conduct in the workplace. The Committee will also identify best practices to address workplace bullying from the perspectives of business and labor.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Trudes Tango

Project Title: Private sector retirement programs

Project Goal:

Examine California's Secure Choice Retirement Savings Trust Act.

Project Description:

In 2012 California enacted SB 1234, the California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Trust Act. The legislation requires employers to offer a payroll deposit retirement savings arrangement to permit employees to make contributions to the California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program. Employees may opt out of the program. The legislation becomes operative only if the California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Investment Board determines, following a market analysis, that the program will be self-sustaining.

The Committee will hold a work session that includes a summary of the California legislation, an update on the status of the California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Investment Board's market analysis, and input from stakeholders.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Alexa Silver

**House of Representatives
Local Government
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
September	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Growth Management Act - A Consideration of Review Options 	Work Session
October	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Growth Management Act - A Consideration of Review Options 	Work Session
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination of the State Building Code Council Local Government Public Record Requests Rulemaking and Legislative Proposals - Monitoring Selected Actions of the Department of Ecology 	Work Session

Project Title: The Growth Management Act - A Consideration of Review Options

Project Goal:

Develop a recommendation, in the form of draft legislation, for a review of selected requirements and associated implementation practices of the Growth Management Act.

Project Description:

Originally adopted in 1990 and 1991, the Growth Management Act (GMA) is the legal framework governing land use and planning actions in most counties and cities. The GMA is also the subject of legislation frequently considered by the Committee.

During the 2013 interim, the Committee will solicit diverse and varied suggestions for structuring a review to examine selected requirements and implementation practices related to the GMA. Topics considered for inclusion in the review include: requirements and practices affecting the interface between rural and urban areas; impacts upon permitting and business siting decisions; obligations to accommodate population growth; and housing affordability. In completing this project, the Committee will consider potential funding options and candidate organizations for completing the review, and will seek input from persons and organizations with relevant expertise. The Committee will also conduct work sessions and develop review options in the form of draft legislation.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two work sessions

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno and Michaela Murdock

Project Title: Examination of the State Building Code Council

Project Goal:

Examine the general requirements and actions of the Washington State Building Code Council.

Project Description:

Legislation affecting Washington's building code and the Washington State Building Code Council is regularly considered by the Committee, including HB 1605, HB 1606, and ESB 5378 in 2013. In accordance with the Committee's jurisdiction over building code matters, this project is intended to provide members and staff with a more comprehensive understanding of the Council's obligations and operations, and will include a work session with information and perspectives from the Council and other interested parties.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno and Michaela Murdock

Project Title: Local Government Public Record Requests

Project Goal:

Monitor efforts of the William D. Ruckelshaus Center to facilitate discussions and the development of recommendations related to public record requests made to local governments.

Project Description:

During the 2013 session the Committee considered SHB 1128, legislation which would have created new provisions governing local government responses to public record requests. The legislation was not enacted, but a budget proviso adopted in the 2013 Operating Budget (*i.e.*, Section 607(3) of 3ESSB 5034) directs the William D. Ruckelshaus Center to facilitate discussions and the development of recommendations related to public record requests made to local governments. The Committee will monitor the efforts of the Ruckelshaus Center to satisfy the proviso, and will conduct a work session to review the Center's actions and legislatively-mandated report.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno and Michaela Murdock

Project Title: Rulemaking and Legislative Proposals - Monitoring Selected Actions of the Department of Ecology

Project Goal:

Monitor State Environmental Policy Act rulemaking and legislative reform proposals of the Department of Ecology.

Project Description:

In accordance with recently adopted legislation (*i.e.*, 2ESSB 6406 of 2012), the Department of Ecology (DOE) is developing updated rules for the State Environment Policy Act (SEPA). The new rules will likely affect the nature and content of subsequent SEPA-related legislation considered by the Committee. Additionally, the DOE intends to develop agency request legislation that includes a general 'clean-up' of its governing statutes, including statutes within the Committee's jurisdiction. Lastly, the DOE is also considering recommendations related to legislatively-mandated reports, some of which, the DOE has asserted, may have outlived their usefulness. In completing this project, the Committee will monitor rulemaking and legislative development activities that correspond to the Committee's jurisdiction and will conduct a work session to review the DOE's actions and 2014 legislative proposals.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno and Michaela Murdock

**House of Representatives
Public Safety
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
TBD	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Burien	Full Committee	Expanding General Law Enforcement Authority	Work Session
November Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Deterrence & Prevention in Criminal Justice: Evaluating Certainty vs. Severity of Punishment	Work Session

Project Title: Expanding General Law Enforcement Authority

Project Goal:

To review the jurisdictional concerns surrounding expanding general law enforcement authority to other state agencies and providing limited commission authority to retired law enforcement officers residing in Washington.

Project Description:

General authority Washington law enforcement agencies and officers have as their primary function the detection and apprehension of persons committing infractions or violating the traffic or criminal laws in general of the state throughout the territorial boundaries of the state.

In contrast, limited authority Washington law enforcement agencies and officers have, as one of their functions, the apprehension or detection of persons committing infractions or violating traffic or specific criminal laws relating to limited subject areas. Agencies so designated include, but are not limited to: the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Social and Health Services, the Gambling Commission, the Department of Corrections, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission), and the Washington State Liquor Control Board (Board).

Although general authority and limited authority law enforcement agencies seemingly have common goals or interests, there are concerns surrounding their boundaries for enforcement authority. Several bills introduced (but not enacted) during the 2013 legislative session change natural resource investigators from the DNR, park rangers from the Commission, and liquor control officers from the Board, from limited authority law enforcement officers to general authority law enforcement officers. The Public Safety Committee will review the training requirements required for each agency and the challenges, impediments, and concerns with designating such agencies with the power of a general law enforcement agency.

The Committee will also review the training requirements for reserve officers and the pros and cons of providing limited commissioned enforcement powers to law enforcement officers that reside in Washington but have retired from a law enforcement agency outside of Washington. The goal is to help increase the footprint of law enforcement without any additional costs, other than any annual requirements, to the state.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker

Project Title: Deterrence & Prevention in Criminal Justice: Evaluating Certainty vs. Severity of Punishment

Project Goal:

To review whether incarceration, length of sentence, prison programming, and reentry programs actually affect recidivism rates in the criminal justice system.

Project Description:

Incarceration rates in the United States have grown to unprecedented levels and continue to climb. Washington's determinate sentencing scheme and incarceration system traditionally have had a variety of goals, which include punishment, deterrence, and rehabilitation. In recent years, sentencing policy initiatives have often been enacted with the goal of enhancing the deterrent effect of the criminal justice system. The Washington Institute for Public Policy and other criminal justice experts will be invited to discuss how the effect of incarceration and the length of time served compares to incarceration and recidivism rates in the corrections system. Several key issues will be addressed during the work session such as: Does the certainty of punishment, as opposed to the severity of punishment, produce deterrent benefits? What are the effects of long term incarceration? What types of offenders does Washington really have locked up? What is the cost of incarceration? How does the public safety and costs implications of Washington's three strikes law compare to California's? Do community supervision and second chance programs help to reduce recidivism rates?

The Committee will also review the programs, treatment, and educational programs offered to offenders incarcerated in prisons as well as reentry, reintigration, and second chance programs that assist inmates with making a successful transition back into the community upon completion of their sentence.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2013

Staff Assigned: Sarah Koster

**House of Representatives
Technology & Economic Development
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
July 29, 2013	Morning	Seattle	Full Committee	International Trade	Work Session
July 29, 2013	Afternoon	Seattle	Full Committee	Access to Capital for Washington Start-ups	Work Session
Wednesday before Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Updating renewable energy, efficiency, and conservation programs	Work Session *
Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Invasive Technology	Work Session *

Note: * Multiple stakeholder meetings

Project Title: International Trade

Project Goal:

Inform statute preparation related to international trade.

Project Description:

Washington is the most trade-dependent state in the nation, with both imports and exports contributing significantly to the state's economy. The Committee will hear from Washington-based organizations involved in international trade to explore import and export data, trends, initiatives, and competitiveness. Additionally, the Committee will convene Consuls and other trade representatives to identify their goals for trade and investment in the state, and identify opportunities for collaboration that will advance Washington's competitive position in the global economy. Members of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy will be invited to attend the work session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: October 2013

Staff Assigned: Jasmine Vasavada and Jill Reinmuth

Project Title: Access to Capital for Washington Start-ups

Project Goal:

Identify policies that can encourage entrepreneurs to found new businesses in high-growth industry sectors in Washington.

Project Description:

During the 2013 legislative session, the Technology and Economic Development Committee heard testimony that the creation of new jobs in Washington is linked to the formation of new businesses, but new businesses face challenges obtaining the significant influx of capital investment they need to move from the early stages of development into production.

Also during the 2013 legislation session, legislation to promote crowdfunding, which involves raising money through small contributions from a large number of investors, was introduced and referred to the Business and Financial Services Committee.

The Technology and Economic Development Committee will hold a work session to examine crowdfunding, microfinance, the W Fund, and other policies that promote access to financing mechanisms and help new businesses obtain necessary capital. Members of the Business and Financial Services Committee will be invited to attend the work session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: Fall 2013

Staff Assigned: Jasmine Vasavada and Alexa Silver

Project Title: Invasive Technology

Project Goal:

Convene stakeholders to survey emerging "invasive" technologies and develop legislation that promotes both personal privacy and commerce.

Project Description:

Surveillance technologies, from spyware and RFID tags to facial recognition software and drones, are capable of looking into formerly private spaces, transforming routine activities of daily life into data points that may be accessed and aggregated by commercial or public institutions. Such activity can have profound economic benefits and at the same time may raise concerns about possible impacts on personal privacy. The Committee will convene stakeholders to consider policy approaches that promote both privacy interests and other economic and security interests, with the ultimate goal of developing legislation that establishes guard rails to permit deployment of new technologies while safeguarding consumer privacy.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session, two in-person stakeholder meetings and two conference calls

Completion Date: January 2014

Staff Assigned: Jasmine Vasavada

Project Title: Updating renewable energy, efficiency, and conservation programs

Project Goal:

Review existing policies and develop legislative proposals relating to renewable energy, efficiency, and conservation.

Project Description:

As 2020 approaches, the committee will revisit laws that were enacted to promote renewable energy, efficiency, and conservation:

- In 2006, voters approved the Energy Independence Act (Act), requiring electric utilities with 25,000 or more customers to meet targets for cost-effective energy conservation and the use of eligible renewable resources. The Act established renewable portfolio standards, requiring qualifying utilities to obtain fifteen percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020.
- In 2005, the Legislature created a Renewable Energy Cost-Recovery Incentive Program (Program) to promote renewable energy systems located in Washington that produce electricity from solar, wind, or anaerobic digesters. Under the Program, which expires in 2020, an individual, business, or local government that owns an eligible system may apply for an incentive payment from its electric utility.

The committee will convene stakeholders with the goal of drafting legislation to update the renewable portfolio standards, revise standards to extend beyond 2020, and address problems identified through the stakeholder process. This will include:

- Working with the Washington State University Energy Extension and other stakeholders to develop thermal efficiency standards that may be applied to the Act.
- Coordinating with the Department of Commerce to facilitate or regulate third-party ownership of renewable energy systems and leasing of solar systems eligible for state tax incentives.
- Holding a work session in which the Utilities and Transportation Commission briefs the committee about alternative approaches to existing ratemaking structures that may better align electric and natural gas utilities' financial interests with the delivery of cost-effective energy efficiency programs. The work session will include a briefing on how decoupling and other approaches may address the delivery of cost-effective energy efficiency programs.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session and two stakeholder meetings

Completion Date: January 2014

Staff Assigned: Scott Richards and Jasmine Vasavada

**House of Representatives
Transportation
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2013**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE
November Committee Assembly	Afternoon	Olympia	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing on the Cost Drivers Study Briefing on Reform Effort Implementation Development of the Business Case for a Road Usage Charge System Liquefied Natural Gas and Compressed Natural Gas Use in Ferries and Freight Movement 2013 Budget and Revenue Forecast Update Briefing on the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2013 Infrastructure Report Card 	Work Session

Project Title: Briefing on the Cost Drivers Study

Project Goal:

Update Committee members regarding the Joint Transportation Committee's Cost Drivers Study.

Project Description:

The 2013-15 Transportation Budget (ESHB 5024, Sec. 204) directs the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) to carry out a study of transportation cost drivers and potential efficiencies to contain project costs and gain more value from investments in the Washington State transportation system. The goal of the study is to enable the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to construct bridge and highway projects more quickly and to build and operate them at a lower cost, while ensuring that appropriate environmental and regulatory protections are maintained and a quality project is delivered. The JTC is to convene an advisory panel to provide study guidance and discuss potential efficiencies and recommendations. The scope of the study must be limited to state-level policies and practices relating to the planning, design, permitting, construction, financing, and operation of WSDOT roadway and bridge projects. The study must:

- Identify best practices;
- Identify inefficiencies in state policy or agency practice where changes may save money;
- Recommend changes to improve efficiency and save money; and
- Identify potential savings to be achieved by adopting changes in practice or policy.

The JTC must issue a report of its findings to the Legislature by the end of 2013.

At the November committee assembly meeting, the House Transportation Committee will address the progress in evaluating the cost drivers and the efficiencies.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Alyssa Ball and Amy Skei (back up)

Project Title: Briefing on Reform Effort Implementation

Project Goal:

Update Committee members regarding the implementation of several reform efforts at the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Project Description:

In the past decade, the Legislature has brought forward a number of reforms in response to the 1998 Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation (BRCT). The BRCT made 18 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature, including recommendations on achieving construction and project delivery efficiencies. During the 2003 session, several reform measures passed, some of which were directed at the highway construction program: contracting out; prevailing wage process reforms; transportation efficiencies (SSB 5248); and transportation permit streamlining (ESB 5279). Additionally, the 2003 Legislature created the Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee (SSB 5748). The transportation permit streamlining bill resulted in the reauthorization of the Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee, which operated for 5 years with several accomplishments, including improving the permit review and decision making process by developing web based permitting tools and reducing duplication.

During the 2013 legislative session, the Legislature introduced several reform measures directed at helping the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) operate more efficiently. The reform measures are as follows: (1) the Belfair Bypass is to be used as a pilot project to begin implementing the concept of right-sizing in the highway construction program (HB 1988, ESSB 5024, Sec. 306(18)); (2) the WSDOT is to submit a report to the Legislature on engineering errors in excess of \$500,000 (SHB 1986); (3) a new streamlined environmental permitting process is created (SHB 1978); and (4) the WSDOT's tolling division is directed to use the results of the cost-of-service study and the state audit as a basis to conduct a review of operations using lean management principles (ESSB 5024, Sec. 209(1)).

While only the right-sizing and lean management provisions were enacted as part of the transportation budget, WSDOT is taking steps to incorporate certain aspects of other reforms. The Committee will monitor implementation of these reform provisions and initiatives. Moreover, the WSDOT will provide an update on internal work being done related to the 2003 reform measures, and more recent initiatives, at the November 2013 committee meeting.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Alyssa Ball

Project Title: Development of the Business Case for a Road Usage Charge System

Project Goal:

Monitor the continuation of the development of the business case for the transition to a road usage charge system as the basis for funding the State's transportation system, from the current motor fuel tax system.

Project Description:

In 2012 the Legislature and the Governor directed the Transportation Commission to convene a stakeholder Steering Committee to assess the feasibility of a Road Usage Charge as a potential replacement for the state's fuel tax. Fuel tax revenue has been stagnating and is likely to decline as vehicles become more fuel efficient and with continued adoption of alternative fuels sources. The purpose of the assessment was to determine whether road usage charging is feasible in Washington, and if so, what the next steps should be. The Commission determined that road usage charging is indeed feasible and, among other things, recommended the development of a business case for the concept.

In the 2013-15 biennial transportation budget, the Legislature directed the Commission to develop the business case for a road usage charge system. The Commission must:

- Convene a steering committee to guide the development of the business case, with membership the same as that of the 2012 steering committee but with the Joint Transportation Committee executive members, as well;
- Develop preliminary road usage charge policies that are necessary to develop the business case, as well as supporting research and data that will guide the potential application in Washington;
- Develop the preferred operational concept or concepts that reflect the preliminary policies;
- Evaluate the business case for the road usage charge system that would result from implementing the preliminary policies and preferred operational concept or concepts;
- Identify and document policy and other issues that are deemed important to further refine the preferred operational concept or concepts and to gain public acceptance; and
- Submit a report of the business case, including a proposed budget and work plan for fiscal year 2015, to the governor and the transportation committees of the legislature by December 15, 2013.

At the November Committee Assembly meeting, the House Transportation Committee will address the progress of the development of the business case.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Mark Matteson, Jerry Long, and Dave Munnecke

Project Title: Liquefied Natural Gas and Compressed Natural Gas Use in Ferries and Freight Movement

Project Goal:

Update the committee members regarding the Washington State Department of Transportation's plan for Liquefied Natural Gas as a potential fuel source for the Washington State Ferries, and the use of Compressed Natural Gas in the private sector freight industry.

Project Description:

Washington State Ferries - Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

In the 2012 Supplemental Transportation Budget, the Legislature directed the Washington State Department of Transportation (Department) to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a design-build contract to fully convert the existing diesel powered Issaquah class fleet to be solely powered by LNG. The RFP as issued in September 2012 required private financing along with a 15-year fuel supply. The Department received two proposals in March 2013. The Department was also directed to work with the appropriate state and federal government agencies to amend the state's current alternative security plan to account for the use of LNG as a propulsion fuel in the ferry fleet and to begin public outreach efforts. The Department presented the interim draft of their plans to the U.S. Coast Guard in May 2013. The Department anticipates submitting a final draft in August 2013 with a decision from the U.S. Coast Guard in September 2013.

Trucking and Freight - Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)

The increasing cost of diesel fuel has led trucking firms and freight companies across the country to explore the possibility of converting their fleets from diesel fuel to natural gas in its compressed form. Aside from the economic benefit of lower fuel costs, vehicles that operate on compressed natural gas (CNG) also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and engine noise. On the other hand, because CNG contains less energy per unit volume than diesel fuel, more CNG is required to maintain the same fuel economy. Some challenges include the costs to convert vehicles, the availability of refueling infrastructure, and the ability to store fuel. Despite these challenges some national companies have already begun making the switch to CNG and experts believe major fleet conversions to CNG could become the norm in the next 10 years.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Paul Ingiosi

Project Title: 2013 Budget and Revenue Forecast Update

Project Goal:

Update legislative members on the November 2013 Transportation Revenue Forecast and Transportation budgets.

Project Description:

Washington State Transportation Budget and Revenue Update

Washington law mandates the preparation and adoption of economic and revenue forecasts. The state organizations primarily responsible for revenue forecasts are the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council and the Office of Financial Management (OFM). The OFM carries out its forecast responsibilities for transportation revenues through the Transportation Revenue Forecast Council. Each quarter, technical staff from the Department of Transportation, Department of Licensing, Washington State Patrol, Department of Revenue, and the OFM, along with legislative staff, produce an update to the transportation forecast. The revenue forecasts are adopted on the same time table as the General Fund forecast. The forecast covers a 10-year projection of resources to 40 treasury accounts related to transportation, supporting approximately 40 transportation programs within 16 transportation agencies. The transportation revenues forecasted for the 2013-15 biennium are \$4.6 billion from fuel taxes, license, permits and fees, driver related fees, ferry fares, tolls, vehicle sales tax, rental car tax, and other transportation revenues.

Transportation budgets are developed every biennium during odd years; supplemental budgets are developed during the even years. State agencies submit their budget requests to the OFM during August and September. The Governor must propose the executive budget to the Legislature by December 20 of each year.

Federal Funding Authorization (MAP-21)

On July 6, 2012, President Obama signed into law MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century). This reauthorized the federal surface transportation policy and program at the Congressional Budget Office's baseline level equal to current funding levels for federal fiscal years (FFY) 2013 and 2014 which ends on September 30, 2014. Each FFY is approximately \$655 million.

Topics to be Addressed by the Committee

The Committee will consider an overview on transportation funding and distributions; an update on the November 2013 Transportation Revenue forecast; the status of the Federal Highway Trust Fund including proposals to improve the financial stability of the fund; an update on MAP-21; and projected federal funding updates for Washington.

Concerning the budget, the Committee will address an update for the 2013-15 biennium including agency 2011-13 appropriation reversions; an overview of major transportation account projected balances over the ensuing 10 fiscal years; updates on major budget items within the 2013-15 transportation biennial budget that are of interest to legislative members and constituents; and an update on 2014 supplemental budget items that have been identified by agencies as emerging needs or budget issues that have been identified since the 2013 legislative session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Amy Skei and Jerry Long

**Project Title: Briefing on the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2013
Infrastructure Report Card**

Project Goal:

Provide Committee members with information on Washington's most recent Infrastructure Report Card.

Project Description:

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) was founded in 1852 and currently represents more than 140,000 members of the civil engineering profession worldwide. ASCE's mission is to advance civil engineering and serve the public good. In order to achieve these goals, ASCE has several strategic priorities:

- Infrastructure -- propose practical solutions to improve America's neglected infrastructure;
- Raise the bar -- establish educational and legal standards necessary to prepare professional engineers to address the future's most pressing challenges; and
- Sustainability -- embrace civil engineers' role as contributors to a sustainable world.

Each year, ASCE prepares an infrastructure report card for the nation's states. The report card includes grades on aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, rail, roads, school facilities, solid waste, and transit. The report card also provides an overall infrastructure grade for each state.

At the November committee assembly meeting, the Committee will address the state's most recent ASCE report card as it relates to transportation infrastructure.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: November 2013 Committee Assembly

Staff Assigned: Alyssa Ball

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ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF PROJECTS

Project Title	Page
1063 Block Replacement	29
2013 Budget and Revenue Forecast Update	108
2014 Legislative Agendas for Higher Education	81
2014 Session Budget Outlook	11
Access to capital for Washington start-ups	24
Access to Capital for Washington Start-ups	100
Advisory Votes	64
Affordable Housing Investments	32
Agricultural labor	88
Alternative Learning Experience Audit Findings	14
Assessment of Farmworker Housing Investments	32
Attorney General Authority to Prosecute Environmental Law Violations	86
Balance Billing	71
Behavioral Health Legislative and Budget Initiatives	22
Birth Defects, Premature Birth, and Stillbirth	68
Briefing on Reform Effort Implementation	105
Briefing on the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2013 Infrastructure Report Card	109
Briefing on the Cost Drivers Study	104
Clinical Evaluations for Mental Health Commitments	71
College Bound Scholarship Program	15
Columbia River Treaty	5
Competency to Stand Trial and Civil Commitment under the Involuntary Treatment Act	84
Consumer Product Lifecycle Management	53
Current Priorities and Program Funding from the Model Toxics Control Act	51
Delivery of Services by the Division of Developmental Disabilities	38
Dental Coverage in the Exchange	69
Department of Corrections Prison Population Impacts	9
Department of Corrections Update	18
Derelict and Abandoned Vessels	3
Deterrence & Prevention in Criminal Justice: Evaluating Certainty vs. Severity of Punishment	97
Development of the Business Case for a Road Usage Charge System	106
Early Learning and Child Care Funding	8
Environmental Justice	52
Equal protection issues in voter registration	66
Examination of the State Building Code Council	92
Expanding General Law Enforcement Authority	96

Project Title	Page
Expanding the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program	14
Financing Specialized School Facilities	28
Firearms-Related Background Check Processes	85
Fish Passage	2
Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) Program status	16
Health Care Price Transparency	68
Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Funding	65
High Quality Teaching: Preparation, Support & Evaluation	47
Higher Education Budget Update	10
Higher Education Opportunities and Challenges: Projected Needs, Retention Strategies, College Re	80
I-502 Rulemaking by the Washington State Liquor Control Board	60
Implementing the Affordable Care Act	11
Information Technology Update	19
Initiative Measure No. 502 and Medical Marijuana: Harmonizing the Regulatory Schemes for Recre	61
Injury Prevention	70
Insurance Fair Conduct Act	25
International Trade	100
Invasive Technology	101
Issues Relating to Loss Prevention Efforts by Retailers and Underage Access to Alcohol	60
Joint Legislative and Executive Committee on Aging and Disability Issues	78
K-12 Update	10
LEAN Management Savings	9
Legal Representation for Minors in Dependency Proceedings	36
Legal Representation for Minors in Dependency Proceedings	86
Legislative Task Force on Child Care Improvements for the Future	42
Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Task Force	44
Liquefied Natural Gas and Compressed Natural Gas Use in Ferries and Freight Movement	107
Liquor License Issuance Fees and Taxes	62
Local Government Public Record Requests	93
Local Government Taxation	57
Mental Health Program Update	8
Oversight and Monitoring Implementation of Health Care Policy in Washington	76
Overview of the Department of Commerce's Community Development Programs	33
Parents involved in the Child Welfare System and who have Developmental Delays	39
Patient Confidentiality Statutes	69
Private sector retirement programs	90
Property Tax Levy Swap	57

Project Title	Page
Rate Setting for Assisted Living and Adult Family Homes	22
Reducing Public and Environmental Exposures to Toxic Hazards	50
Regulation of debt adjusters	24
Report from the Climate Legislative and Executive Workgroup	52
Rulemaking and Legislative Proposals - Monitoring Selected Actions of the Department of Ecology .	93
School Health Clinics	70
Services for Families involved in the Child Welfare System and the Temporary Assistance for Needy	37
Streamlining the Prior Authorization Process	74
Supporting Career Readiness as well as College Readiness	46
Tax Preference Transparency and Accountability Reform	56
The Growth Management Act - A Consideration of Review Options	92
Transportation for Parent-Child and Sibling Visitation	40
Update on 2SSB 5624 - Aligning STEM Programs with Applied Baccalaureate Programs	15
Updates on Interim Activities by Various Legislative and Executive Entities, and Other Workgroups w	58
Updating renewable energy, efficiency, and conservation programs	102
Washington State Tax Reform	56
Washington State University Agricultural Research, Extension, and Animal Sciences.	3
Water Resource Management	2
Wolf Management	5
Workers' compensation fraud report	89
Working Lands and the Skagit Basin	4
Workplace bullying	89
Wraparound Services and Supports for Students	48
Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Management Plan and Teanaway Land Acquisition	28
Youth unemployment	88