

House of Representatives
Office of Program Research

Interim Plans, 2004

Office of Program Research
Washington House of Representatives
Ken Conte, Director

May 2004

**House of Representatives
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discharge permit fees. 2. Sustainable yield calculation. 3. Tax incentives for achieving water quality objectives. 4. Water rights confirmation. 5. WSU's state-supported agricultural research projects. 	Work Session
September 22	1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Olympia	Agriculture & Natural Resources (Joint with Judiciary)	Water Court	Work Session/ Public Hearing
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<p>Work Session/Public Hearing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administration of water resource programs. 2. Water Court. <p>Work Session:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GIS as a natural resource tool. 2. Reclaimed water. 3. Setting instream flows. 	Work Session/ Public Hearing

Project Title: Food Processing

Project Goal:

Tour a food processing facility and examine food processing issues.

Project Description:

The agricultural products raised and grown in Washington are so diverse that many of the crops characterized as being "minor" in terms of the total volume of national agricultural production are major parts of this state's agricultural economy. One of the benefits to the state's economy of having food processing facilities located in this state for a wide range of these agricultural commodities is that the facilities provide a local market for a wide range of raw commodities.

The committee will tour a rural food processing facility and discuss issues important to the industry.

Number & Type of Meetings: One tour

Completion Date: June 8, 2004

Staff Assigned: Ken Hirst, Caroleen Dineen, and Jason Callahan

Project Title: Forest Health Tour

Project Goal:

Develop an understanding and appreciation of the forest health issues facing the state by observing in person the effects of forest pest and disease infestations.

Project Description:

2SSB 6144 regarding forest health was passed by the Legislature during the 2004 Regular Session. The legislation included direction to the Department of Natural Resources to convene a group of stakeholders to review the issues facing the state and the effectiveness of current laws. This work group is scheduled to deliver its recommendations for future legislation before the end of the year. 2SSB 6144 also provided temporary tools that the Department of Natural Resources can use to address forest health issues on state-owned lands.

The Committee will spend a day in June visiting the Loomis State Forest. While on site, the Committee will observe the effects of pest and disease infestations. The staff of the Department of Natural Resources will discuss with the Committee the risks the infestations pose, the costs of not addressing the infestations, and the steps that are being taken to address the forest health issues. The tour will provide a background context for reviewing the recommendations of the forest health work group created by 2SSB 6144 and for deciding whether the temporary tools given to the Department of Natural Resources for addressing health issues on state land should be extended or made permanent.

Number & Type of Meetings: Tour: one day of a two-day tour

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Title: Discharge Permit Fees

Project Goal:

Study and monitor the development of the Department of Ecology's (DOE's) permit fee rule.

Project Description:

The Committee will study and monitor the DOE's amendment of the wastewater discharge permit fees rule (Chapter 173-224 WAC) for state waste discharge and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge permits issued by the DOE. The Committee will consider changes in the permit fee rule related to legislation enacted during the 2004 session (ESSB 6415) addressing construction and industrial general storm water discharge permits and with respect to the DOE's development of municipal separate storm sewer system general discharge permits pursuant to federal Clean Water Act requirements. The Committee also will consider the relationship of permit fees and discharge permit program costs.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Session: part of one meeting

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff Assigned: Caroleen Dineen

Project Title: Sustainable Yield Calculation

Project Goal:

Examine the impact of the final adoption by the Board of Natural Resources of a sustainable timber harvest level on future opportunities for the state.

Project Description:

The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for managing state-owned forest lands on a sustained yield basis, meaning that state forests must be managed in a manner that provides a continuing harvest level without any prolonged curtailments or cessation of harvests. To satisfy this requirement, a sustainable yield harvest level is periodically adopted by the Board of Natural Resources. The harvest level represents the volume of timber scheduled for sale from state-owned lands during the upcoming planning decade. The Board is scheduled to adopt a new final sustainable harvest level during the summer of 2004.

The Committee will review the new sustainable harvest level that the Board of Natural Resources is scheduled to adopt. The Committee also will consider how the new harvest level could impact future legislative discussions on issues such as those dealing with third party certification (as initially raised by HB 2733 and HB 2753 in 2004) as well as other options for state forest management, such as future habitat conservation plans and other management agreements.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Session: part of one meeting

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Jason Callahan

Project Title: Tax Incentives for Achieving Water Quality Objectives

Project Goal:

Consider whether state tax laws may be used to create incentives for achieving water quality objectives.

Project Description:

The Committee will hold a work session to consider use of tax laws to create incentives for achieving water quality goals. The Committee will review whether tax policies and/or incentives may encourage businesses to comprehensively address water quality impacts, increase effectiveness of funds spent to comply with water quality requirements, and enhance development of creative solutions to water quality problems.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Session: part of one meeting

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff Assigned: Caroleen Dineen

Project Title: Water Rights Confirmation

Project Goal:

Examine proposals for confirming the quantity of water that may be used under an existing water right.

Project Description:

Legislation introduced at the request of the Governor, SB 6734, included provisions for confirming the quantity of water that may be used under an existing water right. The bill remained in the Senate policy committee at the end of the 2004 Regular Session.

The Committee will examine any proposals for altering the process outlined in SB 6734 or for providing an alternative confirmation process that may have been developed by groups during the legislative interim period.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Session: part of one meeting

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff Assigned: Ken Hirst

Project Title: Washington State University's State-Funded Agricultural Research Projects

Project Goal:

Examine the type of agricultural research projects Washington State University (WSU) proposes to support with state funds during the 2005-07 biennium.

Project Description:

The vast majority of the state research funds appropriated to WSU are not dedicated by provisos; in this regard, their use is discretionary. Section 604(8) of the supplemental operating budget (ESHB 2459) requires WSU to present reports to the fiscal committees of the Legislature detailing the use of state research funds for the current biennium.

The Committee will examine the agricultural research projects that WSU proposes to support with state funding during the 2005-07 biennium in the budget it submits to the Governor.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Session: part of one meeting

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff Assigned: Ken Hirst & Susan Howson

Project Title: Water Court

Project Goal:

Study whether the state should create a specialized water court system and review legislative proposals regarding establishment of this system.

Project Description:

The Committee, as a joint project with the Judiciary Committee, will study whether the state should create a specialized water court system for general adjudications and resolution of water rights disputes. The Committee will review the January 2004 report of the Water Disputes Task Force, which recommended the creation of a water court, and legislation introduced during the 2004 session to create the new court system (i.e., HB 3140, HJR 4219, SB 6674, SJR 8224, and SSJR 8225). The Committee also will monitor the activities and review the recommendations of the Board for Judicial Administration's ad hoc committee, which is being created to develop a formal judicial branch position on the creation of a water court system.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Session/Public Hearing: one full meeting in September and part of one meeting in December

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Caroleen Dineen and Ken Hirst (with Judiciary Committee staff)

Project Title: Administration of Water Resource Programs

Project Goal:

Examine the recommendations of the Water Resources Administration and Funding Task Force.

Project Description:

Section 301(20) of the supplemental operating budget (ESHB 2459) provides funding to the DOE to convene a Water Resources Administration and Funding Task Force to develop proposals for the state's water resource programs and to recommend several options for funding the programs.

The Committee will examine the recommendations of the Task Force.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Session/Public Hearing: part of one meeting.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Ken Hirst and Caroleen Dineen.

Project Title: GIS as a Natural Resource Tool

Project Goal:

Examine the use of geographic information systems (GIS) in supporting natural resource projects and decision-making.

Project Description:

The Committee will examine the implementation of Sections 301(14)(b) and 303(5) of the supplemental operating budget (ESHB 2459), which:

- provide funding with which the Department of Ecology is to work with counties with local GIS to evaluate systems for determining existing water rights and to map existing water rights and document current ownership; and
- provide funding to the Inter Agency Committee for Outdoor Recreation to implement a state-wide biodiversity conservation program.

The Committee also will examine the use of GIS by the Department of Natural Resources as part of its management and planning operations.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Session: part of one meeting

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Ken Hirst, Jason Callahan & Caroleen Dineen

Project Title: Reclaimed Water

Project Goal:

Review current law and projects and study potential legislative issues and/or proposals.

Project Description:

The Committee will examine current state statutes and regulations governing reclaimed water and consider how the use of reclaimed water may be promoted throughout the state. The Committee will study the development and implementation of reclaimed water projects throughout the state, including projects for which the Legislature has provided or is currently providing state funding (e.g., in the supplemental capital budget, ESHB 2573). The Committee also will study issues related to development of reclaimed water projects and use of reclaimed water. The Committee will consider whether any statutory or regulatory changes are necessary to facilitate either the development of these projects or the use of reclaimed water in the state. The Committee will tour one reclaimed water project in Ephrata.

Number & Type of Meetings: Committee tour and Committee work session (part of one meeting).

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Caroleen Dineen, Ken Hirst, Jason Callahan, Charlie Gavigan

Project Title: Setting Instream Flows

Project Goal:

Examine the activities of the Department of Ecology (DOE) in setting instream flow requirements in the state.

Project Description:

An instream flow requirement set by rule by the DOE is treated by statute as a water right. Its date of priority (or seniority) is the date the instream flow requirement is established. An instream flow established by rule may be protected from impairment caused by the use of more junior water rights or by the effects of the transfer or change of an existing junior or senior water right.

Section 301(14)(a) of the supplemental operating budget (ESHB 2459) provides funding to the DOE that is dedicated to establishing instream flow requirements by rule for the main stem rivers and their key tributaries in the state. In areas where flows are not being set as part of locally initiated watershed planning, the DOE is to create a process for public involvement in setting these flows that is similar to that in the watershed planning process.

The Committee will examine the activities and progress of the DOE in setting those instream flow requirements.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Session/Public Hearing: part of one meeting.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Ken Hirst & Caroleen Dineen.

**House of Representatives
Appropriations
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Appropriations	TBA	Work Session
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Appropriations	TBA	Work Session

Work Group on K-12 Finance

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
April	All Day	Olympia	Appropriations/ Education Work Group	K-12 Finance	Work Session
May 12	Afternoon	Olympia or Seattle	Appropriations/ Education Work Group	K-12 Finance	Work Session
June 7	Afternoon	Olympia	Appropriations/ Education Work Group	K-12 Finance	Work Session
July 12	Afternoon	Olympia	Appropriations/ Education Work Group	K-12 Finance	Work Session
December	TBA	Olympia	Appropriations/ Education Work Group	K-12 Finance	Work Session

Project Title: K-12 Finance Study

Project Goal:

To review the current K-12 financing methodology and consider how education reform might influence new approaches to K-12 funding.

Project Description:

A joint work group will be appointed from the Appropriations and Education committees (eight each, equal party representation). The work group will develop a work plan to include the following tasks:

1. Review the current definition of basic education and the current funding system.
2. Review literature on approaches to finance reform and approaches taken in other states.
3. Examine various approaches to teacher compensation.
4. Look at data and studies on the correlation between student performance and funding.

Number & Type of Meetings: The work group will meet five times to establish the scope of the study, to review and direct staff work, and to approve the work product.

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Denise Graham, Suzi Morrissey

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Salmon Recovery Efforts

Project Goal:

Review salmon recovery programs and funding history.

Project Description:

This project will educate the committee on salmon recovery programs and funding history in preparation for the 2005-07 budget deliberations. This is a coordinated study between the Appropriations, Fisheries, Ecology & Parks, and Capital Budget Committees particularly in regard to the funding history. Other items include reviewing the extent to which a cohesive state strategy exists, whether performance measures exist and whether goals are identified and are being achieved, and to what extent spending is coordinated between different agencies and related issues.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2004.

Staff Assigned: Charlie Gavigan, Jeff Olsen, Alicia Paatsch

Project Title: Child Welfare Program Funding History

Project Goal:

Provide committee with a recent history (four biennia) of funding decisions for child welfare programs.

Project Description:

During the 2004 session, the Legislature received the results of a federal audit on this state's child welfare programs. The audit pointed out many deficiencies in the state's program. The Legislature was presented with several options for child welfare program improvements. While portions of the proposal were funded, there was little time available to analyze the audit and potential budget and policy responses.

In preparation for further discussions of a potential response to the federal audit and possible child welfare program improvements, staff will compile a history of funding decisions for child welfare programs beginning in FY 1998.

The findings can be disseminated either by memo or as a committee presentation.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: September 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Amy Skei, Cynthia Forland

Project Title: Evidence-based Medicine Study

Project Goal:

To encourage the use of evidence-based medicine in the delivery of state-funded medical care.

Project Description:

The cost of state-funded health care has grown dramatically in the last several biennia. In an effort to help control costs, the 2003 Legislature passed ESHB 1299 "an act relating to evidence-based health services purchasing." that directed state medical directors to "develop and implement uniform policies across state purchased health care programs that will ensure prudent, cost-effective health services purchasing".

Appropriations and Health Care committee staff will meet with the medical directors to determine their progress towards the directives in ESHB 1299, and explore other strategies which will encourage evidence-based procedures through state-funded health care programs.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Amy Hanson/Dave Knutson/David Pringle

Project Title: Remedial Education

Project Goal:

Provide committee with the status of coordinating efforts between K-12 and higher education to minimize the necessity of remedial math courses in institutions of higher education.

Project Description:

During the 2004 session, the House Appropriations Committee discussed the costs and need for remedial classes in the higher education system. The concerns of the committee centered on the potential duplication of costs in the K-12 and higher education systems, when a student would take a course in the K-12 system and then repeat the course in college.

Sec. 602(15) of the budget bill (ESHB 2459) appropriated \$300,000 to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to "address the need to reduce remedial math courses taken at institutions of higher education."

The SBCTC will provide a progress report to the policy and fiscal committees of the legislature by December 1, 2004, and a final report by December 1, 2005.

Staff will monitor the progress of the K-12/higher education work group in meeting the requirements of the budget proviso and inform the committee of the work taking place.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson

Project Title: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program Expenditure History

Project Goal:

Provide the committee with a recent history (four biennia) of how TANF monies have been spent.

Project Description:

Back in the early 90s, welfare reform legislation included provisions that created a "box" around TANF appropriations that gave the executive branch broad discretion as to how the funds would be spent. Consequently, the Legislature has had virtually no role in allocating how TANF would be spent. The "box" tends to obscure how TANF monies are spent over time.

Legislation in the 2004 session proposed to eliminate the "box" and allow the Legislature to once again control how TANF monies are to be spent. The bill did not pass.

In order to provide more information to the Legislature on how TANF program money is spent inside the "box", staff will compile a history of how state and federal TANF monies have been spent, beginning in FY 1998.

The findings can be disseminated either by memo or as a committee presentation.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: September 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Amy Skei, Cynthia Forland

**House of Representatives
Capital Budget
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Capital Budget	1) Update on the Legislative Building Renovation. 2) Higher Education Capital Project Prioritization Lists. 3) Public Works Trust Fund Assessment.	Work Session/ Public Hearing
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Capital Budget	1) Water Programs and Funding. 2) Salmon Recovery Funding. 3) Management of Public Lands: a) grazing; and b) old growth forests.	Work Session/ Public Hearing

Project Title: Legislative Building Renovation

Project Goal:

Monitor the progress of the Legislative Building renovation.

Project Description:

This project will monitor the remaining work on the Legislative Building renovation and its readiness for the 2005 Legislative Session. The Legislative Building is scheduled to be finished in September 2004. The project schedule and budget are very tight, but the Legislative Building should be ready for tenant reoccupation in November 2004. This project will consist of a tour of the Legislative Building and a public hearing during the interim.

Number & Type of Meetings: One committee meeting and one tour.

Completion Date: December 2004.

Staff Assigned: Marziah Kiehn-Sanford, Charlie Gavigan

Project Title: Higher Education Capital Project Prioritization

Project Goal:

Monitor and review the project priority lists developed during the 2004 interim by the community and technical colleges and the 4-year institutions (under HB 2151).

Project Description:

This project will monitor and review the process the community and technical colleges and the 4-year institutions use to develop a project prioritization list as part of their 2005-07 budget request. This project will coordinate with the Higher Education and Appropriations Committees to the extent policy issues or operating budget impacts are related.

Number & Type of Meetings: One committee meeting.

Completion Date: December 2004.

Staff Assigned: Marziah Kiehn-Sanford, Charlie Gavigan

Project Title: Public Works Trust Fund Assessment Project

Project Goal:

Monitor the Public Works Board's assessment of the Public Works Trust Fund program and the changes the board may recommend to the program.

Project Description:

The Public Works Trust Fund program was created in 1985 to provide a source of loan funds to assist local governments and special purpose districts with infrastructure projects. The Public Works Board, within the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED), is authorized to make low-interest or interest-free loans to finance the repair, replacement, or improvement of the following public works systems: bridges; roads; water and sewage systems; and solid waste and recycling facilities. All local governments except port districts and school districts are eligible to receive loans. This program traditionally is the second largest single appropriation in the capital budget.

The Public Works Board, as it nears its 20th anniversary, is conducting a comprehensive review of the program, including mission, priorities, categories served, and business practices. Any recommended changes will be brought to the Governor and Legislature prior to the 2005 Legislative Session.

This project will monitor the deliberations of the board and hold a hearing during the interim on the board's assessment and possible recommendations.

Number & Type of Meetings: One committee hearing.

Completion Date: December 15, 2004.

Staff Assigned: Charlie Gavigan

Project Title: Water Programs - Capital and Operating Funding

Project Goal:

Review major water-related legislation and funding in the Capital and Operating budgets since 1998.

Project Description:

This project will examine issues related to identifying the various water-related programs and funding, review the effectiveness of spending on water programs, examine whether performance measures exist and whether goals are identified and are being achieved, and review to what extent water policy and spending is coordinated between different agencies and related issues like salmon recovery.

Number & Type of Meetings: One committee meeting.

Completion Date: December 15, 2004.

Staff Assigned: Charlie Gavigan, Alicia Paatsch

Project Title: Salmon Recovery Efforts

Project Goal:

Review salmon recovery programs and funding history.

Project Description:

This project will educate the committee on salmon recovery programs and funding history in preparation for the 2005-07 budget deliberations. This Capital Budget Committee project will coordinate with the Fisheries, Ecology, and Parks and Appropriations Committees particularly in regard to the funding history. Other items include reviewing the extent to which a cohesive state strategy exists, whether performance measures exist and whether goals are identified and are being achieved, and to what extent spending is coordinated between different agencies and related issues.

The committee will conduct a hearing on this topic.

Number & Type of Meetings: One committee meeting.

Completion Date: December 2004.

Staff Assigned: Charlie Gavigan, Jeff Olsen, Alicia Paatsch

Project Title: Public Lands Management

Project Goal:

Educate the committee regarding public lands, particularly trust management topics.

Project Description:

Several issues related to management of public lands arose during the 2004 Legislative Session. Two of them resulted in studies in the 2004 Supplemental Capital Budget. These issues generally involve the duty to manage the trust lands for the interests of the beneficiaries versus the interests of the general public, and whether they should be managed for short-term or long-term goals.

This project will include a hearing on the two studies.

Number & Type of Meetings: One committee hearing.

Completion Date: December 15, 2004.

Staff Assigned: Charlie Gavigan

**House of Representatives
Children and Family Services
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
May 11	Half Day	Vancouver	Full Committee	Early Learning	Work Session
May 28	Half Day	Olympia	Full Committee	Child and Family Services Program Improvement Plan	Work Session
June	Half Day	South King County	Full Committee	Early Learning	Work Session
June	Half Day	Toppenish	Full Committee	Early Learning	Work Session
June 29	Half Day	Spokane	Joint Meeting w/ House Education Committee	Early Learning	Work Session
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Collaborative Decision Making 2. Community Services Block Grant	Work Session
September 22	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Research-Based Prevention and Early Intervention Programs 2. Guardianship	Work Session
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Child and Family Services Program Improvement Plan 2. Early Intervention (Birth-to-Three) Services	Work Session

Project Title: Early Learning

Project Goal:

Developing options for legislative action in the 2005 Legislative Session concerning early learning and child care programs and services across the state.

Project Description:

The committee will convene meetings and site visits around the state to hear from early learning and child care providers about issues and concerns relating to the provision of early learning and child care in Washington. The committee will utilize the information gathered at those meetings and site visits to develop possible legislation for the 2005 Legislative Session. The meeting to be convened in Spokane will be held jointly with the House Education Committee and members of the House Education Committee will be invited to the remaining meetings.

Number & Type of Meetings: Four Work Sessions

Completion Date: December 31, 2004

Staff Assigned: Cynthia Forland

Project Title: Child and Family Services Program Improvement Plan

Project Goal:

Monitoring the state's child and family services Program Improvement Plan.

Project Description:

The committee will actively monitor the development and implementation of the state's Program Improvement Plan, which is required to address the areas assessed in the federal Child and Family Services Review in which the state did not achieve substantial conformity. The committee will convene a meeting early on in the interim, to be facilitated by NCSL staff, of interested legislators and the Children's Administration of the Department of Social and Health Services on the following: how areas in which Washington did not achieve substantial conformity compare with other states, what Washington can learn from how other states are addressing those same areas, and how legislators are/should be involved in the development and oversight of state's Program Improvement Plans. The committee will also hold a work session on the state's Program Improvement Plan toward the end of the interim to receive an update on the plan.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two Work Sessions

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff Assigned: Cynthia Forland

Project Title: Collaborative Decision Making

Project Goal:

Monitoring the Department of Social and Health Service's development of recommended policies and protocols concerning collaborative decision making.

Project Description:

The 2003-05 operating budget requires the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to convene regional and local DSHS staff and community-based agency staff to develop recommended policies and protocols concerning collaborative decision making, including contracting, referrals, and resource allocation, and submit those recommendations to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2004. In monitoring DSHS' development of these policies and protocols, the committee will devote a work session to this topic.

Number & Type of Meetings: One Work Session

Completion Date: December 31, 2004

Staff Assigned: Cynthia Forland

Project Title: Community Services Block Grant

Project Goal:

Conducting a legislative hearing in conjunction with the development of the biennial state plan for the Community Services Block Grant, as required by federal law.

Project Description:

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is a federal, anti-poverty block grant that funds the operations of a state-administered network of local agencies, which create, coordinate, and deliver programs and services to low-income individuals. The CSBG is administered in Washington by the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development according to the state plan approved by the federal Department of Health and Human Services. In accordance with federal program requirements, the committee will devote a work session to the state's biennial plan for the CSBG.

Number & Type of Meetings: One Work Session

Completion Date: September 30, 2004

Staff Assigned: Cynthia Forland

Project Title: Research-Based Prevention and Early Intervention Programs

Project Goal:

Developing options for legislative action in the 2005 Legislative Session concerning research-based prevention and early intervention programs in the state.

Project Description:

The committee will convene a meeting to consider: the report to be issued by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy reviewing research assessing the effectiveness of prevention and early intervention programs concerning children and youth; and criteria to be developed by the Department of Social and Health Services at the Governor's direction for funding state-operated or contracted prevention and early intervention services. The meeting will include the members of the Work Group on Effective Family Intervention Strategies, which the committee convened during the 2003 interim, and will focus on possible legislative action for the 2005 Legislative Session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One Work Session

Completion Date: December 31, 2004

Staff Assigned: Cynthia Forland

Project Title: Guardianship

Project Goal:

Developing options for legislative action in the 2005 Legislative Session concerning dependency guardianships.

Project Description:

In 2003, HB 2877, which eliminates dependency guardianships and defines a new category of guardianship, was introduced at the request of the Department of Social and Health Services but was not enacted. The committee will be considering possible legislative action for the 2005 Legislative Session concerning dependency guardianships. As part of its work, the committee will convene a meeting with stakeholders to consider the issue.

Number & Type of Meetings: One Work Session

Completion Date: December 31, 2004

Staff Assigned: Sonja Hallum

Project Title: Early Intervention (Birth-to-Three) Services

Project Goal:

Developing options for legislative action in the 2005 Legislative Session concerning early intervention services in the state.

Project Description:

The goals of the Work Group on Deaf Education in Washington, which the committee convened over the 2003 interim, included ensuring that appropriate early intervention services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, spanning the spectrum of communication and educational options, are provided throughout the state. In 2004, HB 2765 was enacted, which establishes an advisory council in the Department of Social and Health Services for the purpose of advancing the development of a comprehensive and effective statewide system to provide prompt and effective early interventions for children in the state who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. The committee will convene a meeting with stakeholders to consider the provision of early intervention services throughout the state, with a focus on possible legislative action for the 2005 Legislative Session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One Work Session

Completion Date: December 31, 2004

Staff Assigned: Cynthia Forland

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Children's Mental Health

Project Goal:

Participation in the Joint Task Force on Mental Health.

Project Description:

Members of the committee will be involved in the joint legislative and executive task force on mental health services and delivery and financing, which is established in the 2003-05 operating budget. It is anticipated that the work of the Joint Task Force will take into account the work underway within the Department of Social and Health Services relating to children's mental health.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 31, 2004

Staff Assigned: Cynthia Forland/Sonja Hallum

Project Title: Family Support Services for Families with Children with Developmental Disabilities

Project Goal:

Developing options for legislative action in the 2005 Legislative Session concerning family support services.

Project Description:

The committee will consider the existing need for family support services in the state for families with children with developmental disabilities, as well as both existing and potential sources of funding for those services, with a focus on possible legislative action for the 2005 Legislative Session.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 31, 2004

Staff Assigned: Cynthia Forland

Project Title: Limited English Proficiency Pathway

Project Goal:

Monitoring funding and contracting for the Limited English Proficiency Pathway.

Project Description:

The 2003-05 operating budget appropriates funds for the Department of Social and Health Services to maintain specialized employment services through the WorkFirst Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Pathway program for refugees and other limited-English-proficient families and individuals who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), State Family Assistance, or Refugee Cash Assistance benefits. The committee will actively monitor funding and contracting for the LEP Pathway, with a focus on possible legislative action for the 2005 legislative session.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 31, 2004

Staff Assigned: Cynthia Forland

Project Title: Fircrest Professional Services

Project Goal:

Monitoring the Department of Social and Health Services' plans for the provision of professional services provided through Fircrest School to clients living in the community.

Project Description:

The 2003-05 operating budget requires the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to provide a preliminary transition plan for the downsizing of Fircrest School to the fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature, which must include recommendations on ways to continue to provide some of the licensed professional services offered at Fircrest School to clients being served in community settings. Staff will monitor the development of DSHS' plans for the provision of professional services provided through Fircrest School to clients living in the community.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 31, 2004

Staff Assigned: Cynthia Forland

**House of Representatives
Commerce and Labor
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
May	10 AM to 3 PM	Seattle	Full Committee	Collective bargaining of health care benefits.	Work Session
June 16	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee Joint with Trade & Economic Development	Offshore outsourcing.	Work Session
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Workers' compensation issues. Consumer protection and auto finance issues. Certification of sprinkler fitters.	Work Session
November	All Day	Everett	Full Committee	Update on Washington labor market. Construction industry skills gap. Workforce training.	Work Session
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Workers' compensation issues. Problem gambling. Personnel System Reform Act of 2002. Workplace bullying.	Work Session

Project Title: Collective bargaining of health care benefits.

Project Goal:

To examine collective bargaining of health care benefits.

Project Description:

After small, single-digit increases in health care costs in the 1990s, medical inflation hit double-digit levels beginning in 2001. Health insurance premiums increased an average of about 14 percent, or about six times the rate of inflation, in 2003. Many factors contributed to increased medical costs, such as increased prices of drugs, hospital care and other medical services, greater use of medical care, and higher profits for insurers. Increased medical costs, as well as employer size, affect the availability of health insurances for employees.

Some employers are asking their employees to share a greater percentage of their overall health care costs. As a result, health care benefits have overcome wages and job security as the main focus of collective bargaining. Some employers and unions are concerned that they may no longer be able to address rising health care costs through collective bargaining.

During the 2004 interim, the House Commerce & Labor Committee will meet to examine collective bargaining of health care benefits. The committee will: (1) hear labor and management perspectives on collective bargaining of health care benefits; (2) discuss employment-based health care trends; and (3) receive a report on cost-shifting from employment-based benefits to state-funded benefits.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth/Chris Cordes

Project Title: Offshore outsourcing.

Project Goal:

To examine "offshore outsourcing" of work performed under state contracts, international trade agreements applicable to this practice, and legislative and other alternatives for addressing this practice.

Project Description:

"Offshore outsourcing" is a term sometimes used to describe the practice of contracting with individuals or companies in foreign countries to perform certain work.

Offshore outsourcing of work performed under state contracts was the subject of nearly half a dozen bills introduced in Washington during the 2004 legislative session, none of which passed the Legislature. Some bills would have required studies of such outsourcing, while others would have prohibited such outsourcing. (See EHCR 4419, House version of ESHB 2459, HB 2405, HB 2768, and SHB 3187.) According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, similar legislation was introduced in 26 other states in 2004.

During the 2004 interim, the House Commerce & Labor and Trade & Economic Development Committees will examine:

- Work performed under certain state contracts at locations outside the United States, including personal services contracts, purchased service contracts, and public works contracts, and any subcontracts under such contracts;
- Efforts, if any, to measure work performed under certain state contracts, and any subcontracts under such contracts, at locations outside the United States;
- The extent to which state contracts performed at locations outside the United States involve solicitation or disclosure of personal information;
- The applicability of international trade agreements to state procurement policies;
- The extent to which the process of making commitments under international trade agreements and the exceptions in such agreements are adequate to protect legislative authority over state procurement, including domestic preferences; and
- The economic benefits of awarding state contracts to Washington companies.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session, joint with Trade and Economic Development Committee.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth/Chris Cordes/Tracey Taylor

Project Title: Workers' compensation issues - Governor's workers' compensation work group.

Project Goal:

To receive periodic updates on the development of recommendations from the work group on workers' compensation being convened by the Governor.

Project Description:

For nearly a decade, the Department of Labor and Industries proposed small or no increases in industrial insurance premium rates. Beginning with 2003, however, average rates were increased: 29 percent for 2003 and 9.8 percent for 2004. After the rate increases were adopted in 2004, the Governor proposed a plan to review the workers' compensation system in conjunction with both business and labor representatives.

The Committee will review the progress of the Governor's work group in developing recommendations for the industrial insurance system and will evaluate any recommendations.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 or 2 work sessions

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Chris Cordes/Jill Reinmuth

Project Title: Workers' compensation issues - industrial insurance state fund audit.

Project Goal:

To receive a report from the Department of Labor and Industries and the Workers' Compensation Advisory Committee on the development of an Industrial Insurance State Fund audit process.

Project Description:

The Washington workers' compensation system has undergone a number of reviews in the past decade. The most recent review, completed in 1998 by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee, included a recommendation that the Department of Labor and Industries produce an actuarial rate filing report and a reserve report for the Industrial Insurance State Fund (State Fund) detailing the assumptions and methods used in establishing State Fund premium rates and reserves. It was suggested that this report be similar to reports submitted by insurance companies to regulatory agencies in other states. In its written response to the 1998 JLARC recommendations, the Department suggested that well documented information was available on the State Fund rate-making process. In addition, the Department noted that it annually contracts for independent third party actuarial and financial audits of the State Fund.

During the 2004 Legislative Session, the Legislature considered Senate Bill 6414 that would have established requirements for both financial and actuarial audits of the State Fund. In a work session on the issue, the Department testified that it would be appropriate for the Workers' Compensation Advisory Committee (WCAC) to contract for an additional independent audit that could provide information to assist both the State Auditor's financial review of the State Fund and the work of the WCAC.

The Committee will evaluate information provided on the WCAC and Department implementation of a financial and/or actuarial audit process.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 or 2 work sessions.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Chris Cordes

Project Title: Workers' compensation issues - spinal cord stimulator study.

Project Goal:

To monitor the Department of Labor and Industries' study of the use of spinal cord stimulators.

Project Description:

Spinal cord stimulators are surgically implanted devices that are designed to provide relief from chronic pain. In a significant decision in 1998, the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals (Board) agreed with the Department of Labor and Industries (Department) that spinal cord stimulator treatment is controversial and, thus, must be presumed not to be medically necessary. However, the Board also determined that this presumption can be rebutted on a case-by-case basis. Thus, in an individual case, spinal cord stimulator treatment may be determined to be "medically necessary" and also "proper and necessary medical and surgical services." In such a case, the injured worker is entitled to spinal cord stimulator treatment.

Legislation reported out of the Committee in 2004 (SHB 2154) would have required the Department to develop treatment guidelines for spinal cord stimulators in accordance with relevant standards adopted by national payors and most state industrial insurance programs.

During the 2004 interim, the Department will begin permitting the limited use of spinal cord stimulators as part of a study. The Department expects the study to be completed over a two-year period. The Department plans to involve the Workers' Compensation Advisory Committee as the Department develops the study, as well as throughout its progress. Once the study is completed, the Department plans to evaluate the results, and if appropriate, develop any needed treatment guidelines governing future use of spinal cord stimulators.

During the 2004 interim, the Committee will monitor the Department's study of the use of spinal cord stimulators.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth/Chris Cordes

Project Title: Consumer protection and auto finance issues.

Project Goal:

To consider proposed amendments to the law governing contingent sales of automobiles to consumers.

Project Description:

During the 2004 Legislative Session, the House Commerce & Labor Committee heard testimony on HB 2656, which was aimed at modifying the law governing financing practices of auto dealers. Specifically, the bill would have extended the period that auto dealers would have to accept or reject the terms of an offer. As a practical matter, this would give auto dealers more time to check a customer's credit history and verify other financial information provided by consumers.

The Department of Licensing and the auto dealers who supported the bill agreed to negotiate amendments to the bill to protect the interests of consumers, as well as auto dealers. The work session on auto dealer and consumer finance issues will allow those interested parties, as well as the Attorney General's Office, to update the Committee on this subject.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Kiki Keizer/Jill Reinmuth

Project Title: Certification of sprinkler fitters.

Project Goal:

To hear about and discuss work of state Fire Marshal's Office and various stakeholders on legislation requiring certification of sprinkler fitters.

Project Description:

The state Fire Marshal's Office currently administers state laws relating to licensing of fire protection sprinkler system contractors and certification of persons designing and installing certain sprinkler systems. There are no state laws relating to certification of sprinkler fitters.

During the 2004 legislative session, House Bill 2922 was heard by, but not reported out of, the House Committee & Labor Committee. This bill would have: (1) established a certification requirement for sprinkler fitters to be administered by the state Fire Marshal's Office; (2) specified qualifications for certification of journeyman and residential sprinkler fitters with and without examination, and for certification of trainees; and (3) established an advisory board and a dedicated account.

During the 2004 legislative interim, the state Fire Marshal's Office and various stakeholders plan to develop similar legislation requiring certification of sprinkler fitters.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth

Project Title: Update on Washington labor market.

Project Goal:

To continue monitoring the state's labor market conditions.

Project Description:

Washington's labor market conditions continue to be among the Committee's top concerns. As noted by the state Economic Forecast Council, the recession had a disproportionate impact on Washington employment growth, and the recovery in Washington is expected to be unusually slow.

In 2003 the state had the third highest annual unemployment rate in the country, 7.5 percent (behind Alaska and Oregon). This followed rates of 7.3 percent in 2002 (also the third highest in the country) and 6.4 percent in 2001 (the highest in the country).

Washington nonfarm payroll employment stabilized in 2003, rising only 0.2 percent following declines of 0.5 percent and 1.6 percent in 2001 and 2002.

During the 2004 interim, the Committee will continue to monitor the state's labor market conditions.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth/Chris Cordes

Project Title: Construction industry skills gap.

Project Goal:

To discuss strategies for addressing the shortage of skilled workers in the construction trades in Washington State.

Project Description:

The state Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board reports that skilled workers in the construction trades will be retiring without enough apprentices in training to fill their jobs. According to the 2002 edition of High Skills, High Wages: Washington's Strategic Plan for Workforce Development – Our Agenda for Action, 46 percent of construction firms that tried to hire workers in 2001 reported difficulty finding qualified job applicants. The average age of workers in many construction trades was about 50, and the average entering age was near 30.

Current efforts to address this shortage include establishing construction industry skills panels, drafting standards for technical education in the K-12 system, engaging in a marketing campaign to attract students to construction industry careers, and requiring apprentice utilization on state and certain local public works projects. (In 2004 SHB 2439, which would have codified Executive Order 00-01 on apprentice utilization passed out of the House, but died in the Senate Commerce & Trade Committee.) Other strategies could include partnering with the industry to provide resources for training in the construction trade, and expanding apprenticeship training in the construction trades and related preparation programs.

During the 2004 interim, the Committee will examine current efforts and other strategies to address the shortage of skilled workers in the construction trades.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth

Project Title: Workforce training.

Project Goal:

To monitor certain workforce training programs and the reauthorization of the federal Workforce Investment Act.

Project Description:

In recent years, the Committee has closely monitored certain aspects of the state's workforce development system, including apprenticeship programs and training programs for incumbent and dislocated workers. In addition, the Committee has examined implementation and reauthorization of the federal Workforce Investment Act.

During the 2004 interim, the Committee will continue to monitor these programs as well as the reauthorization of the federal Workforce Investment Act.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth/Chris Cordes

Project Title: Problem gambling.

Project Goal:

To gather facts and analyze costs, funding sources, and efficacy of other states' programs designed to prevent and treat problem gambling as a matter of public health and, if the governor establishes a task force to develop a strategic plan with respect to problem gambling, monitor the task force's work.

Project Description:

The legalization of various forms of gaming has increased opportunities for Washington residents to gamble. As the number of gambling opportunities has increased, the Washington State Lottery Commission has commissioned studies documenting the prevalence of pathological and problem gambling in the state and the risk of rising problem gambling. Since the early 1990s, a number of studies have identified a range of detrimental consequences of problem and pathological gambling, including increasing debt problems and bankruptcies, rising rates of substance abuse and crime aimed at satisfying debts, higher levels of child neglect and family stress, and higher suicide rates.

Washington has provided funding for a problem gambling hotline and for signs posted in gambling establishments. In 2002 and 2003, the state also provided funding for a program to treat pathological gamblers. However, the state has yet to establish a comprehensive program for the prevention and treatment of problem gambling, to be funded on a permanent basis.

During the 2004 legislative session, the Committee heard testimony on HB 2776, which would have created a dedicated account to fund a problem gambling prevention and treatment program in the Department of Social and Health Services. HB 2776 would also have created a task force to recommend an equitable system for funding treatment of problem gambling.

The Committee's interim analysis will consider how other states are confronting the issue of problem and pathological gambling within their borders. Specifically, the Committee will focus on funding models, as well as the costs and efficacy of treating state residents who are problem or pathological gamblers.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session.

Completion Date: December 2004.

Staff Assigned: Kiki Keizer/Jill Reinmuth

Project Title: Personnel System Reform Act of 2002.

Project Goal:

To examine implementation of the collective bargaining system enacted for state employees in 2002 and prepare for legislative review in 2005 of the first collective bargaining agreements reached under the new law.

Project Description:

In 2002 the Personnel System Reform Act (PSRA) was enacted, giving state employees certain new collective bargaining rights, including the right to bargain over wages. Funding requests for the first collective bargaining agreements reached under this new law must be forwarded to the Office of Financial Management by October 1, 2004, and if certified as feasible for the state, must be included in the Governor's budget proposal submitted to the Legislature for the 2005 Legislative Session. The Legislature must then approve or reject the funding request as a whole.

The Committee will review the requirements for state employee collective bargaining under the PSRA and the Legislature's role with respect to funding these collective bargaining agreements. The Committee will coordinate its review of the new collective bargaining system with the review of the PSRA being conducted by the State Government Committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Chris Cordes/Jill Reinmuth

Project Title: Workplace bullying.

Project Goal:

To examine the issue of workplace bullying, and to discuss draft legislation to make it an unlawful employment practice to subject an employee to an abusive work environment.

Project Description:

"Workplace bullying" is a term used by some researchers to describe interpersonal hostility that is deliberate, repeated and sufficiently severe as to harm the targeted person's health or economic status. Workplace bullying is not based on the targeted person's race, gender or other protected status. Consequently, statutory law making discrimination or harassment based on a person's race, gender or other protected status may not protect the person from workplace bullying. Common law tort theories also may not provide such protection.

Laws enacted in certain other countries (Australia, France, Great Britain, and Sweden) address workplace bullying. Legislation introduced in at least two other states (California and Oklahoma) would explicitly prohibit abusive workplaces, and provide for individual liability for perpetrators and limited vicarious liability for their employers.

During the 2004 legislative interim, the Committee will examine the issue of workplace bullying, and discuss draft legislation similar to that introduced in other states.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth

Project Title: Workplace safety in state hospitals.

Project Goal:

To discuss the Department of Social and Health Services' efforts to reduce violence at Western State Hospital, Eastern State Hospital, and the Child Study and Treatment Center.

Project Description:

According to a Department of Labor and Industries report published in 1997, data from 1992 to 1995 show that social services and health services accounted for 51 percent of assault-related claims in the workplace. Psychiatric hospitals had the highest rate of assault of any industry, averaging 90 injuries per 1,000 workers over the four-year period.

Legislation enacted in 2000 (SHB 2899) required certain state hospitals (Western State Hospital, Eastern State Hospital, and the Child Study and Treatment Center) to develop and implement a plan to protect employees from workplace violence. It also required the Department of Social and Health Services (Department) to report on efforts to reduce violence in these state hospitals not later than September 1st of each year. This reporting requirement, however, was repealed in 2003.

During the 2004 interim, the Committee will hold a work session to discuss the Department's efforts to reduce violence in state hospitals.

Number & Type of Meetings: Possible work session.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Jill Reinmuth

**House of Representatives
Criminal Justice and Corrections
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) Victim Restitution. (2) Criminal Background Checks.	Work Session
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Department of Corrections Risk Assessment Tools and Community Supervision.	Work Session

Project Title: Restitution

Project Goal:

To study ways to encourage offenders to pay court ordered restitution to victims of violence in a timely manner.

Project Description:

Courts often sentence offenders to pay restitution to the victims of the offender's crimes. In most instances, a sentencing court is usually required to order the payment of restitution whenever a victim of the crime is entitled to crime victims compensation benefits. In addition, a court must order restitution when the offender is convicted of an offense which results in personal injury or property damage unless extraordinary circumstances exist that make restitution inappropriate.

When a court imposes restitution or other legal financial obligations, the judgment must identify the victim or victims entitled to restitution and the amount due to each victim. The court must also set a minimum monthly payment that the offender is required to make which may be modified upon a change of circumstances. Although the requirement that an offender pay a monthly sum towards a legal financial obligation is a condition of the sentence, restitution often goes unpaid for years.

The committee will study ways to assist victims in collecting restitution and to encourage offenders to pay their restitution in a timely manner, both in prison and in the community.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 Work Session

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker & Jim Morishima

Project Title: Background Checks

Project Goal:

To make criminal history record information background checks more easily accessible to employers by eliminating long response times.

Project Description:

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) discloses criminal background checks of applicants and employees to any business or organization in Washington that educates, trains, treats, supervises, houses, or provides recreation to persons with developmental disabilities, vulnerable adults, mentally ill persons, or children under 16 years of age, including but not limited to public housing authorities, school districts, and educational service districts. Law enforcement agencies, the Office of the Attorney General, prosecuting authorities, and the Department of Social and Health Services may also request background check information to aid in the investigation and prosecution of cases of abuse that may have involved a child, developmentally disabled person or vulnerable adult.

Occasionally it can take a while to get a timely background check back once it has been submitted to the WSP or the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation). It seems that each police department, the WSP, and the FBI has its own individual system for conducting background checks and finding missing persons, but they are each different. In 2003, the Attorney General's office established a work group to study the issues surrounding criminal background checks as well as missing person reports. In addition, the 2004 Legislature passed legislation (ESHB 2556) that established a Joint Task Force on Criminal Background Check Processes. This Task Force is required to review and make recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor regarding the criminal background check process and must, at a minimum, review the following issues:

- What state and federal statutes require regarding criminal background checks.
- What criminal offenses are currently reportable through the criminal background check program.
- What information is available through the Washington State Patrol and the Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal background check systems.
- What are the best practices among organizations for obtaining criminal background checks on their employees and volunteers.
- What is the feasibility and costs for businesses and organizations to do periodic background checks.
- What is the feasibility of requiring all businesses and organizations, including nonprofit entities, to conduct criminal background checks for all employees, contractors, agents, and volunteers who have regularly scheduled supervised or unsupervised access to children, developmentally disabled persons, or vulnerable adults.
- What are the benefits and obstacles of implementing a criminal history record information background check program.

Both the Attorney General's Office and the Joint Task Force on Criminal Background Check Processes will be invited to provide an update on their findings to the full committee in September.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 Work Session

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Yvonne Walker & Jim Morishima

Project Title: Department of Corrections Risk Assessment Tools and Community Supervision.

Project Goal:

To enhance public safety by examining current risk assessment tools and community supervision approaches used by the Department of Corrections to determine whether a felony offender poses a high risk to the community once he or she is released.

Project Description:

A felony offender may be sentenced to a term of supervision in the community after his or her term of incarceration ends. Depending on the type of offense and when it was committed, the supervision in the community may be in the form of community supervision, community custody, post-release supervision, or both community custody and post-release supervision. However, it should be noted that all supervision in the community for felony offenders who commit their crimes on or after July 1, 2000, is in the form of community custody.

The Department of Corrections (DOC) is responsible for supervising in the community all felony offenders who have been evaluated by the DOC as posing high risk to the community; i.e., offenders who have been placed in the two highest risk categories by the DOC. Offenders are placed in risk categories using a risk assessment tool used by the DOC which is designed to consider the offender's risk of re-offense and the nature of harm done by the offender. The Department of Corrections and several community corrections officers will be invited to explain current risk assessment tools used by the Department of Corrections and to provide their insights on alternative risk assessment tools that may be used by the department in the future. The committee will examine ways in which community safety can be enhanced by altering the manner in which the department supervises offenders.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 Work Session

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Jim Morishima & Yvonne Walker

**House of Representatives
Education
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
June 29	TBA	Spokane Convention Center	Full Committee	Achievement Gap - Meet with school superintendents and principals during their summer conference to discuss effective strategies for raising the achievement of students who are members of groups in the achievement gap and workload issues impacting schools and teachers in meeting the students' instructional needs.	Work Session
June 29	TBA	Spokane	Full Committee Joint with Children & Family Services	Early learning - Discussion of issues with early learning and child care providers.	Work Session
September 22	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) Recruitment and retention of teachers. (2) Civics education - effective strategies for teaching civics.	Work Session
September 23	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Accountability - Consider agency reports required by 3ESHB 2195.	Work Session
December 1	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee Full Committee Joint with Juvenile Justice & Family Law	(1) Interim Synthesis - Explore policy options on the elimination of the achievement gap, school readiness, and accountability. (2) School drop-outs - the data, the reasons, effective prevention and retrieval programs, and the interaction of schools and the juvenile justice system.	Work Session/Jt. Work Session
December 2	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Accountability - Consider agency reports required by 3ESHB 2195 and discuss session priorities.	Work Session

Note: See also Appropriations Committee interim plan - Work Group on K-12 Finance.

Project Title: Elimination of the Achievement Gap

Project Goal:

Explore policy options that have proven effective in helping teachers and schools raise the achievement of all children, including children in groups that have historically underachieved in education.

Project Description:

The Committee will examine:

1. Schools and school districts that are exhibiting success in raising the achievement of students who are members of groups in the achievement gap.
2. The research on effective strategies for raising student achievement.
3. The research on instructional approaches used in countries in which students are performing at the highest levels on the International Math and Science Examination.
4. Policy options the legislation may consider to help teachers and schools raise the achievement of all students, including students who are members of groups in the achievement gap.
5. Possible legislation for the 2005 session.

Number & Type of Meetings: 2 work sessions, one on-site visit

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Morrissey, Forrester

Project Title: Elimination of the Achievement Gap

Project Goal:

Explore policy options that have proven effective in helping teachers and schools raise the achievement of all children, including children in groups that have historically underachieved in education.

Project Description:

The Committee will examine:

1. Schools and school districts that are exhibiting success in raising the achievement of students who are members of groups in the achievement gap.
2. The research on effective strategies for raising student achievement.
3. The research on instructional approaches used in countries in which students are performing at the highest levels on the International Math and Science Examination.
4. Policy options the legislation may consider to help teachers and schools raise the achievement of all students, including students who are members of groups in the achievement gap.
5. Possible legislation for the 2005 session.

Number & Type of Meetings: 2 work sessions

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Morrissey, Forrester

Project Title: Early Learning

Project Goal:

The Committee will examine policies that will help children with the readiness skills they need to be successful in the early years of school.

Project Description:

The committee will:

1. Join the Children and Family Services Committee at one meeting with early learning and child care providers to discuss issues and concerns related to helping children with the readiness skills they need to be successful in the early years of school.
2. Review the research on school readiness and explore policy options that address the research.
3. Prepare possible legislation for the 2005 session.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 31, 2004

Staff Assigned: Forrester; Morrissey

Project Title: Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Project Goal:

Explore issues that facilitate the recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers.

Project Description:

The committee will examine the issues that facilitate or inhibit the recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers. The examination will include the results and recommendations of recent studies and the role of compensation and work load issues in the recruitment and retention of teachers.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff Assigned: Morrissey, Forrester

Project Title: Civics Education

Project Goal:

Review the efforts of school districts, the state, and national organizations to increase the civics skills and knowledge of K-12 students.

Project Description:

The committee will review:

1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction's efforts to define the essential academic learning requirements in civics and to pilot model classroom-based assessments of those requirements; and
2. The recommendations of national organizations and experts about ways to enhance the understanding of students about the state and nation's foundational documents and the ways students can contribute to the civic life in their communities.

Number & Type of Meetings: one work session

Completion Date: September, 2004

Staff Assigned: morrissey

Project Title: Accountability

Project Goal:

The Committee will consider accountability policies with an emphasis on policies that will recognize the accomplishments of schools and school districts that raise achievement, especially the achievement of students in groups that are included in the achievement gap.

Project Description:

The committee will examine:

1. The findings and recommendations of studies required by 3ESHB 2195. The studies include information on the validity and reliability of the high school assessment system, the performance standards to be used to determine whether students have been successful on the WASL and whether high school students have achieved a certificate of academic achievement or a certificate of individual achievement, and other 2004 reports required by the legislation.
2. The school accountability provisions included in the state's current laws.
3. The accountability provisions included in the federal "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001".
4. Accountability measures used by other states to recognize successful schools and districts.
5. A list of policy options, with an emphasis on options that could be used by the state to recognize the successful efforts of schools and districts to raise student achievement, especially the achievement of students in groups that are included in the achievement gap.
6. Possible legislation for the 2005 session.

Number & Type of Meetings: 3 work sessions

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Morrissey; Forrester

Project Title: Drop-out Prevention

Project Goal:

Educate the committee on the issue of drop-out prevention and potential solutions

Project Description:

The committee will explore the reasons for the high drop-out rates in the state. The study will include an examination of:

1. The drop-out rate by demographic group;
2. The reasons students drop-out of school;
3. Effective drop-out prevention and retrieval programs; and
4. Interactions between schools and the justice system.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Hallum, Hutcheson, Forrester, Morrissey

**House of Representatives
Finance
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Work session: 1. Economic and revenue forecast update. 2. Interim projects update.	Work Session
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Work session: 1. Economic and revenue forecast update. 2. Interim projects update.	TBA

Project Title: Fiscal Notes for Revenue Bills

Project Goal:

Provide the committee with more information on the current assumptions and methodology used in the fiscal note process, and evaluate the desirability of including dynamic modeling as part of fiscal note methodology.

Project Description:

Almost all bills referred to the Finance Committee need fiscal notes to estimate the revenue impact. Legislators often have questions about the assumptions and methodology used in fiscal notes for bills that present complex issues. These issues include questions about the impact of tax incentives on employment and job growth, whether tax incentives can be "self-funding" via an increase in revenue due to economic stimulation, how to separate the growth resulting from a tax incentive from the growth that would occur absent the incentive, and the effects of this growth on the costs of government services. This project will provide committee members with information about fiscal note methodology which will help the members evaluate fiscal notes for future legislation.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 or 2 work sessions at legislative assembly

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Rick Peterson

Project Title: Streamlined Sales Tax Implementation

Project Goal:

Provide continuing analysis of the problems presented by the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement.

Project Description:

The Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement is a multi-state effort to simplify state sales and use tax structures and make them more uniform. Washington has joined the agreement, but like some other states has only partially implemented the agreement with specific legislation. This project involves a review of the options regarding implementation and looking at developments in the other states which are parties to the agreement.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session at December legislative assembly

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Mark Matteson

Project Title: Tax Preference Accountability and Review

Project Goal:

Provide legislators with information they can use to evaluate proposals that involve accountability review of tax preferences, to improve both analytic tools and public confidence in the tax system.

Project Description:

Tax exemptions, exclusions, deductions, credits, deferrals, and preferential rates are known as tax preferences. Questions about the number, magnitude, and beneficiaries of tax preferences have been controversial issues for decades. Some tax preferences have been attacked as "loopholes." The Washington Legislature has considered legislation designed to comprehensively review, limit, or perhaps terminate various tax preferences since 1982. In recent years, questions about tax preferences have arisen as part of a general interest in improving government accountability. These issues also received high visibility in other states and at the federal level.

During the 2003 and 2004 session, several bills were introduced regarding review or limitation of tax preferences. None were enacted. HB 1737 repeals outdated and unused tax exemptions, deductions, credits, and deferrals. HB 1869 creates a citizen commission to do performance audits for tax preferences with annual reports to the legislature. HB 2654 requires a tax preferences report to be produced every two years with the Governor's budget, with a determination as to whether each tax preference is the most fiscally effective means to achieve its purpose. HB 2762 provides mandatory accountability standards for all tax preferences, and limits eligibility to firms that meet these standards. HB 2930 limits the total value of tax preferences to 78% of the projected state expenditure limit. HB 3063 requires the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to review property tax exemptions every six years. In addition, a number of new tax preferences were proposed or enacted during the last two years. Many of these, including tax relief legislation for aerospace, semiconductor manufacturing, high-technology research, and aluminum smelting, included specific "accountability" provisions designed to ensure future legislative review of the tax relief provisions. These accountability provisions drew a good deal of attention and controversy.

This interim project is intended to provide legislators with information they can use to evaluate proposals that involve accountability review of tax preferences, including updated information on approaches used in other states, analyses provided by academic commentators, and possible components that might be included in tax preference accountability laws.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 or 2 work sessions at legislative assembly

Completion Date: December 15, 2004.

Staff Assigned: Bob Longman

**House of Representatives
Financial Institutions and Insurance
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
September 20-21	normal time slot	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) Interstate compact for life insurance. (2) Availability and affordability of liability insurance.	Work Session
September 22	TBA	Bainbridge Island	Full Committee	Aftermarket crash parts (tour of auto body shops).	Tour
December 2-3	normal time slot	Olympia	Full Committee	Availability and affordability of liability insurance.	Work Session

Project Title: Interstate Compact for Life Insurance

Project Goal:

Study the interstate insurance compact to determine whether Washington should enact all or part of the compact.

Project Description:

The financial services marketplace has changed in recent years and continues to evolve, with banks and securities firms competing with insurers for certain types of investment products. This resulted after Congress passed the Financial Modernization Act of 1999 -- also known as the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, which eliminated traditional barriers to permit affiliations and integration among insurance companies, banks, and securities firms. Because banks are federally regulated, the process for approving new types of investments is much faster than the process for approving a new life insurance policy or annuity product, which requires submission and approval in all 50 states.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) proposed an interstate compact whereby state insurance regulators would jointly set uniform product standards and establish a single point of filing for designated insurance products. The compact creates a central clearinghouse for insurance regulators to receive, review and quickly make decisions on insurance product filings according to the uniform standards. The compact is limited to asset-based insurance products, including annuities, life insurance, disability income, and long-term care insurance. During their 2003 annual meetings, both the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) adopted resolutions in support of the proposed interstate compact. The NAIC's goal is to have the compact approved by state legislatures in at least 30 states or in states representing 60% of the premium volume for life insurance, annuities, disability income insurance, and long-term care insurance products by year-end 2008. More than a dozen states were expected to introduce legislation in 2004 with additional states anticipating introduction in 2005.

The Committee will review the interstate insurance compact and will solicit input from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, other states, the NCSL, NCOIL, insurers, and consumers to determine whether legislation should be proposed to enact all or part of the compact in Washington.

Number & Type of Meetings: One committee work session: September committee assembly.

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff Assigned: Carrie Tellefson

Project Title: Availability and affordability of liability insurance

Project Goal:

Determine the factors that contribute to whether liability insurance is available and affordable. Devise solutions to assist groups that are having difficulty locating and/or purchasing affordable liability insurance.

Project Description:

The Committee will conduct an in-depth examination of the liability insurance market, including the underwriting process and the rate-making process, in order to determine the factors that influence the availability and price of liability insurance. The Committee will solicit information, expert advice, and feedback from insurance-related policy organizations, consumer groups, state organizations such as the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), and insurers and insurance organizations. In addition, the Committee will review the laws of other states and countries in which liability insurance is available and affordable. The Committee also will review other states that have implemented tools such as joint underwriting associations, market assistance plans, and patient compensation funds to determine how the tools are structured and whether they have been successful in providing relief in the liability insurance market. The Committee will develop various alternatives to assist groups that are unable to find liability insurance or unable to afford liability insurance.

Number & Type of Meetings: September Committee Assembly: One committee work session.
December Committee Assembly: One committee work session.

Completion Date: December 31, 2004.

Staff Assigned: Carrie Tellefson

Project Title: Aftermarket crash parts

Project Goal:

Understand the difference between "original equipment manufacturer" (OEM) parts and "aftermarket crash parts" and the auto body industry's practices regarding the use of these parts. Examine insurance industry claims practices and policies regarding the choice between OEM or aftermarket parts to determine whether legislation is needed in this area.

Project Description:

Auto body shops that repair crash-damaged vehicles have a choice of either buying new replacement parts from the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) or using "aftermarket" crash parts, produced by copying the design of the original vehicle parts. Until the mid-1980s, auto body shops could only purchase OEM parts. Since then, independent parts manufacturers have sold aftermarket replacement parts at lower cost. Some manufacturers and body shops question the quality of and fit of the aftermarket crash parts. During the 2004 Legislative Session, the Committee considered HB 2133, which specified an insurance company may not require the use of aftermarket crash parts in the repair of a vehicle for five years from the year the auto was manufactured or while the auto is under a manufacturer's warranty. HB 2133 also included an option for the car owner to waive this provision and required insurers to include a specific disclosure regarding the use of aftermarket parts. The bill did not move out of committee.

The Committee will tour auto body shops in order to gain a better understanding of the difference in quality, fit, and cost between OEM parts and aftermarket parts. The Committee will examine the practices in the auto body industry to determine the frequency with which aftermarket parts are used. The Committee will examine insurance industry practices to determine the extent to which insurers request OEM or aftermarket crash parts to be used for cost savings in an insurance claim and how this impacts insurance rates.

Number & Type of Meetings: One tour, in conjunction with September Committee Assembly.

Completion Date: December 31, 2004

Staff Assigned: Carrie Tellefson

**House of Representatives
Fisheries, Ecology and Parks
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
April 5	1 hour	Seattle	Full Committee	Puget Sound Marine Health.	Briefing
June	3 hours	Seattle	Full Committee	Fisheries Management - Fish Hatchery Policy.	Public Hearing/ Work Session
September 20	2 hours	Olympia	Full Committee	Fisheries Management: Salmon Recovery Overview.	Work Session/ Public Hearing
December 2	2 hours	Olympia	Full Committee	Puget Sound Marine Health, Toxics Management and Cleanup, and Habitat and Land Management.	Work Session/ Public Hearing

Project Title: Puget Sound Marine Health

Project Goal:

Review issues affecting the environmental health of the Puget Sound.

Project Description:

The health of Puget Sound has been the backdrop for a number of issues that the Committee has faced during the past two legislative sessions. Puget Sound is relied on for commerce, transportation, recreation, and economic development, however, those uses may affect the water body's use as habitat for marine mammals and other aquatic species. In addition to an overview of major factors impacting the health of Puget Sound, the project will focus on issues that could prove illustrative of the big picture. These issues include the lessons learned from the Point Wells oil spill, the causes and solutions for the depleted oxygen levels in Hood Canal, the state endangered species listing for the orca, and the effectiveness of the memorandum of understanding that has been entered into between the Department of Ecology and the cruise ship industry.

The Committee will participate in a briefing on April 5th with Congressional representatives on the status of Hood Canal provided by the Puget Sound Action Team.

The Committee will also conduct a work session during the December Committee Assembly to hear:

- 1) A report from the Department of Ecology regarding oil transfers and refueling (SSB 6641);
- 2) An update from the Department of Ecology regarding the effectiveness of the memorandum of understanding between the state and the cruise ship industry; and
- 3) An update from the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the listing of the orca under the state endangered species list.

Number & Type of Meetings: (2) 1 briefing, 1 work session/public hearing

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Jeff Olsen and Jason Callahan

Project Title: Fisheries Management

Project Goal:

Conduct review of fisheries management issues with a focus on salmon recovery.

Project Description:

This project will educate committee members on salmon recovery programs and funding history. The Fisheries, Ecology and Parks Committee will coordinate with the Capital Budget and Appropriations Committees in regard to the funding history. Other items include reviewing the extent to which a cohesive state strategy exists, whether performance measures exist and whether goals are identified and being achieved, and to what extent spending is coordinated between different agencies and related issues.

In addition to the funding review, the Committee will invite tribal co-managers and review fisheries management programs with a focus on salmon recovery efforts. The overview shall include a review of the role regional salmon recovery groups and fishery advisory groups play in salmon recovery and fisheries management.

The project will include a work session and public hearing in Seattle on the new federal policy on hatchery salmon and recommendations from the Hatchery Scientific Review Group.

The September committee assembly meeting will include an overview from the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board regarding the status of the state's salmon recovery efforts. The Committee will also hold a work session and public hearing to learn about regional salmon recovery efforts and the role of fishery advisory groups in fisheries management.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Jeff Olsen and Jason Callahan

Project Title: Toxics Management and Cleanup

Project Goal:

Conduct an overview of the toxics management and cleanup policies and programs.

Project Description:

The project includes an overview of the policies and programs for the management and cleanup of toxics and hazardous waste. In addition, the Committee will examine how an area-wide soil contamination strategy may be implemented, and review recommendations for the collection, recycling and reuse of electronic waste.

During the December committee assembly, the Committee will hear a report from the Department of Ecology regarding the recommendations for a state electronic waste collection, recycling, and reuse program (SHB 2488).

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session in Olympia

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Jeff Olsen and Jason Callahan

Project Title: Habitat and Land Management

Project Goal:

Review state policies and programs for managing habitat and wildlife areas.

Project Description:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife manages land for wildlife habitat, including lands leased from the Department of Natural Resources. Currently, the Department of Fish and Wildlife is considering exchanging certain lands with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and may also stop leasing certain DNR lands. The Committee will conduct a work session and public hearing during the December Committee Assembly to examine the Department of Fish and Wildlife's policies and programs for managing habitat and wildlife areas, including issues such as access to public land.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session/public hearing in Olympia

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Jeff Olsen and Jason Callahan

**House of Representatives
Health Care
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Evidence-based Medicine. Update by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Premera conversion request.	Work Session/ Public Hearing
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Mental Health.	Work Session/ Public Hearing

Project Title: Rural Health Topics

Project Goal:

Obtain a better understanding of the health care system issues facing rural Washington by visiting rural communities and meeting with health care providers in these areas.

Project Description:

Rural parts of Washington face unique challenges to providing access to health care services for members of their communities. Distances between health facilities and the population, recruiting and retaining health care providers, and funding are several of the issues that shape the delivery of health care in the rural parts of the state.

Recent tours of the rural health care system have resulted in legislation related to health districts and volunteer health care providers.

The committee will work with the Department of Health's Office of Rural Health and the Area Health Education Center to identify representative sites to highlight the issues confronting rural communities. At these locations the committee will meet with local representatives of the health care community to tour local facilities and review issues affecting health care services in the region. The review will include the effects of public and private reimbursement policies, the availability of health care providers, rural economic conditions, and transportation issues facing rural communities in south central Washington.

Number & Type of Meetings: The tour will have several meetings over the course of the three-day trip. The meetings will generally take place at health care facilities in the communities being visited.

Completion Date: June 30, 2004

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Evidence-based Medicine

Project Goal:

To encourage the use of evidence-based medicine in the delivery of state-funded medical care.

Project Description:

The cost of state-funded health care has grown dramatically in the last several biennia. In an effort to help control costs, the 2003 Legislature passed ESHB 1299, "an act relating to evidence-based health services purchasing" that directed state medical directors to "develop and implement uniform policies across state purchased health care programs that will ensure prudent, cost-effective health services purchasing."

Staff will meet with the medical directors to determine their progress towards the directives in ESHB 1299, and explore other strategies which will encourage evidence-based procedures through state-funded health care programs.

Number & Type of Meetings: The Committee will hold a work session and possible public hearing during the September Legislative Assembly.

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: David Knutson/Amy Hanson/David Pringle

Project Title: Health Care Innovations

Project Goal:

Review innovations in biotechnology, medical devices, and health care research.

Project Description:

The biotechnology industry in Washington has developed several new health care technologies and therapies in recent years. The committee will tour biotechnology entities in Snohomish and King Counties that are developing innovative health care products to learn how technology is contributing to improved health care service delivery and outcomes.

Number & Type of Meetings: One-day tour in October.

Completion Date: October 2004

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Mental Health System Review

Project Goal:

Develop a proposal to address policy, fiscal, and management issues related to the delivery of publicly financed mental health services.

Project Description:

The committee will review issues related to the use of Medicaid funds in the community mental health system, the need for additional community-based inpatient capacity, and the structure and functions of the regional support networks. The committee will also coordinate its efforts with the joint legislative and executive branch task force on mental health established under SHB 2459, section 715.

Number & Type of Meetings: The Committee will hold a work session and possible public hearing during the December Legislative Assembly.

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Affordable Health Care Coverage for Small Employers

Project Goal:

Oversight of statutory changes related to the small group health insurance market.

Project Description:

The committee will monitor the implementation of changes to the small group health insurance market enacted through the passage of SHB 2460. This will include the development of health plans offering a limited scope of health care benefits, changes in the size of the small group market, and modified rate adjustments for small group health plans.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: AIDS Omnibus Bill Rule Revision

Project Goal:

Monitor the Department of Health's current HIV policy review and any resulting regulatory changes or legislative requests.

Project Description:

The AIDS Omnibus Act was passed by the Legislature in 1988 as a comprehensive public health approach for dealing with the spread of HIV/AIDS. For the past few years, the Department of Health, the Board of Health and the AIDSNET regions have been considering changes to the way that HIV/AIDS and other blood borne infections are addressed. The Department of Health has officially opened its HIV/AIDS regulations for public comment and proposed changes.

The committee will examine the concerns of the agencies and constituents involved in the HIV/AIDS policy review, monitor the Department of Health's revisions of its HIV/AIDS rules, and review any legislative proposals that may be considered.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Health Care Delivery System Review

Project Goal:

Develop a streamlined, coordinated, and simplified health care financing and delivery system for Washington State.

Project Description:

The committee will review proposals to increase the number of employees covered by employer-sponsored health care coverage. Options include offering limited scope benefit plans, employer-based fees to subsidize public-private partnerships, and waivers of federal Medicaid regulations.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Dental Issues

Project Goal:

Develop legislation that will increase access to oral health services.

Project Description:

Recent reports have highlighted the shortage of oral health care professionals in Washington State. Last year a legislative proposal was sent to the sunrise review process that would have made several significant changes to the regulation of oral health professionals.

The committee staff will meet with representatives of the various oral health professions and will report to the committee. The committee may prepare legislation to increase access to oral health care considering testimony and recommendations from the 2003 sunrise review report. In addition, the committee will monitor the Pierce County fluoridation case currently under consideration by the Washington State Supreme Court.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Health Care Disparities

Project Goal:

Monitor the proceedings of the joint select committee on health disparities.

Project Description:

Recent reports from the Institute of Medicine and the Washington State Board of Health indicate that members of ethnic and racial minority populations have poorer health outcomes than Caucasians. In the 2004 session, the Legislature passed SCR 8419 which created a joint select committee to examine racial, ethnic, and gender-based health disparities.

The committee will monitor the proceedings of the joint select committee on health disparities and review its recommendations regarding reducing health disparities between people of different genders, races, and ethnic heritages. Issues to be addressed by the committee include the effect of early childhood development programs, cultural and linguistic barriers, and increasing diversity in the health care workforce.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: November 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Health Care Provider Rate Setting Process

Project Goal:

Review the process used to set home care agency rates and recommend improvements.

Project Description:

The Legislature establishes rates for reimbursing vendors of long-term care services. Changes in the reimbursement of one category of vendors can impact the viability of other types of vendors.

The committee will review the way that rate-setting decisions are made with respect to home care agencies, including the various factors that must be considered in these decisions and the impact that changes to these rates have on other types of vendors.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson/Bernard Dean

Project Title: Health Professions Disciplinary Process Review

Project Goal:

Evaluate the effectiveness of the current system of disciplining health care professionals with respect to removing unqualified practitioners and protecting their due process rights.

Project Description:

In 2003 there were several high profile instances of health care professionals engaging in misconduct or malpractice. In addition, the full impact of a recent Supreme Court decision that raises the standard of proof in certain disciplinary cases is not yet known, however, there is a pending case that may provide more clarification as to the extent of the state's authority to discipline health care providers.

The effectiveness of the division of responsibilities between the Secretary of Health and the health professions boards and commissions and the disciplinary procedures they follow was the subject of several bills before the Health Care Committee in the 2004 session. These bills include: HB 2326, HB 2834, and HB 2879.

The committee will monitor the Department of Health's review of internal procedures of the health professions disciplinary system and its findings. The committee will also explore the due process issues surrounding the disciplinary system and review the disciplinary schemes used by other states.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake

Project Title: Long-term Care Financing Options

Project Goal:

Explore options for individuals to finance their long-term care needs.

Project Description:

While federal law establishes general requirements for some areas of individual long-term care financing, there are other ways that states can encourage people to fund their long-term care needs. In addition, the way in which different states apply the federal laws can impact the long-term care decisions that individuals make.

The committee will review the use of Medicaid qualifying trusts and explore options for individuals to finance their long-term care needs through home equity conversion mortgages, tax-deferred savings, and other incentives.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Medicaid Premiums and Co-Payments

Project Goal:

Review the impact of premiums and co-pays on the number of children covered through the Medicaid program.

Project Description:

The committee will monitor the effect that Medicaid premiums and co-pays have on program participants. This will include determining whether caseloads decline based on increased participant cost sharing requirements.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Prescription Drugs

Project Goal:

Review the implementation of state prescription drug assistance programs within the context of federal prescription drug legislation.

Project Description:

The passage of federal legislation relating to prescription drug coverage under the Medicare program will impact state efforts to assist individuals' purchases of affordable prescription drugs. The committee will monitor the implementation of the preferred drug list, and other assistance offered to individuals in the context of the recently enacted Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Dave Knutson

Project Title: Sunrise and Mandated Benefit Reviews

Project Goal:

Monitor the Department of Health's sunrise and mandated benefits review proceedings related to radiology assistants, and hearing aids and cochlear implants.

Project Description:

Upon request of the Legislature, the Department of Health conducts reviews of legislative proposals that require technical expertise in the health field. After the 2004 Session, sunrise reviews were requested for proposals related to vocational rehabilitation counselors and radiology assistants. Also, the Department was asked to conduct a mandated benefits review of a proposal to mandate insurance coverage of hearing aids and cochlear implants.

The committee will monitor the sunrise review process relating to radiology assistants (HB 2655), and hearing aids and cochlear implants (HB 2281 and HB 2890), and review the recommendations of the Department.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Chris Blake/Dave Knutson

**House of Representatives
Higher Education
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
April 28	All Day	Bothell	Full Committee	Campus Visit and Campus/Community Meeting: University of Washington Bothell	Work Session
April 29	All Day	Tacoma	Full Committee	Campus Visit and Campus/Community Meeting: University of Washington Tacoma	Work Session
June 3	All Day	TriCities	Full Committee	Campus Visit and Campus/Community Meeting: Washington State University TriCities	Work Session
June 10	All Day	Vancouver	Full Committee	Campus Visit and Campus/Community Meeting: Washington State University Vancouver	Work Session
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Final 2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education	Work Session
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Reports Due in Higher Education: Review of Findings and Recommendations	Work Session

Project Title: Campus Visits and Campus/Community Meetings

Project Goal:

Discuss the development of plans for the future evolution of each branch campus with administrators, faculty, students, and community representatives.

Project Description:

Substitute House Bill 2707 enacted in 2004 requires each of the four remaining branch campuses to conduct a self-study with community input and recommend a plan for the future evolution of the campus. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will review the recommendations in the context of statewide higher education needs and present policy options to the Legislature for the 2005 Legislative Session. In preparation for these recommendations, the Higher Education Committee will visit each campus during the 2004 Interim. Each site visit will include a campus tour and review of the ten-year capital plan; an update on current programs and partnerships with community colleges; discussion of the future needs of the campus and possible campus evolution; and a community meeting that includes local community colleges, business and labor leaders, economic development councils, chambers of commerce, etc. Local legislators will be invited to attend the meetings.

Number & Type of Meetings: 4, Work Sessions including tour, presentations, and opportunity for public comment

Completion Date: June 2004

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain, Susan Howson, Charlie Gavigan

Project Title: Final 2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education

Project Goal:

Discuss the findings and recommendations of the Higher Education Coordinating Board's 2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education

Project Description:

Under Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2076 enacted in 2003, the HECB was required to submit a draft strategic master plan for higher education in December 2003, to be followed by a final plan in June. Also under the bill, a legislative work group met during the 2003 Interim to provide guidance and direction for the development of the plan. The HECB complied with its initial mandate, but there is ongoing discussion among legislators and members of the Board regarding expectations for the final plan. At the September Committee Assembly meeting, the Higher Education Committee will discuss the final plan and its implications for the ensuing biennial budget and upcoming legislative session.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1, Work Session and Public Hearing

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain

Project Title: Reports Due in Higher Education

Project Goal:

Review findings and recommendations from selected reports required from state education agencies or task forces.

Project Description:

Legislation and budget provisos from 2004 mandated a number of studies and reports in higher education, ranging from a Transition Math Project to align standards and improve instruction in mathematics; a study of barriers and incentives to expanding dual enrollment programs; policy alternatives and cost estimates for various enrollment growth scenarios; strategies, timelines, and benchmarks for reducing remediation; and recommendations for development of a women's history center or information network. When we have a better idea of the progress of some of these efforts, the Higher Education Committee will select one or two for a work session and discussion at the December Committee assembly meeting.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1, Work Session

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: ABE, ESL, and GED Programs

Project Goal:

Improve the Committee's understanding of the purpose, scope, and current issues pertaining to Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, and General Equivalent to the Diploma programs offered in community and technical colleges.

Project Description:

During 2003, Washington participated with the National Collaborative for Postsecondary Education in a comprehensive review to help establish a public agenda for higher education. One of the preliminary findings from the Collaborative's review was that ABE, ESL, and GED preparation need much more attention, even though these programs are not regularly identified as crucial to the future development of the state's higher education system. Indicators of the importance of this issue include: a growing number of young people do not have high school diplomas; the rate of enrollment growth in these programs in community and technical colleges is far greater than for other programs; research indicates these programs have limited success when offered in isolation rather than in combination with specific job and workforce training. However, these programs have not been comprehensively reviewed by the Higher Education Committee in recent years. Staff will gather and summarize data and information regarding the size, scope, cost, and current issues pertaining to ABE, ESL, and GED programs. A review of the research literature, practices in other states, and model programs in Washington will be conducted to identify possible policy options for improving these programs. Findings and options may be presented at a future work session of the committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: None scheduled.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester, Barbara McLain, Susan Howson

Project Title: Current Topics in Higher Education and Economic Development

Project Goal:

Study two areas where higher education and economic development intersect: supply and demand of degrees and workforce training and technology transfer.

Project Description:

The importance of higher education to economic development is frequently discussed and highlighted by the media, industry groups such as AeA and the Technology Alliance, the Governor's Competitiveness Council, and the Washington Roundtable. In order to make informed policy decisions, the Higher Education Committee needs a more in-depth understanding of two key issues in this relationship: supply and demand of degrees and workforce training, and technology transfer. Staff will work with state education agencies to analyze and summarize data regarding supply and demand for two- and four-year degrees and workforce training and retraining, including breaking down the data by major academic field. Staff will also summarize current state and institutional policies regarding technology transfer in Washington compared to other states and provide additional background for the committee regarding the process of turning academic research into a business. Findings may be presented at a future work session of the committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: None scheduled

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain

Project Title: Preparing Teachers to Teach Diverse Students

Project Goal:

Provide background information and review how teacher preparation programs prepare future teachers to teach diverse students.

Project Description:

Washington's student population is increasingly diverse. In 1981, minority students made up 12 percent of the school population. By 2001, this proportion had more than doubled to 27 percent. This is a concern to policy-makers because minority students have higher dropout rates and lower test scores than non-minority students. A question for the Higher Education Committee is: How are future teachers being prepared to teach an increasingly diverse student population? To answer this question, staff will conduct a literature review on teacher preparation pertaining to diverse students and gather information through interviews and possibly a survey about current practices of teacher preparation programs in Washington. Findings may be presented at a future work session of the committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: None scheduled

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester, OPR Summer Intern

Project Title: Tuition Policy

Project Goal:

Explore tuition policy options.

Project Description:

Staff of the Higher Education and Appropriations Committees will examine tuition-setting policies in other states; review the research literature on affordability of higher education; identify the data necessary and available to estimate the costs of various tuition policies; develop options for how policies might be structured; and outline possible advantages and disadvantages of policy alternatives. Staff will summarize findings in a report that may be presented at a future work session of the committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: None scheduled

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain, Susan Howson

Project Title: Tuition Waivers Review

Project Goal:

Review current policies and practices for granting tuition waivers at higher education institutions and develop options for a policy framework.

Project Description:

There are more than twenty different types of tuition waivers established in statute. Most have been in existence for some time, but several developments drive the need for a new review of waivers. The amount of tuition an institution may waive and still receive compensatory state funds is capped in statute. The 2003-05 operating budget directs institutions to limit the amount of tuition waived, temporarily reducing the statutory cap. In 2004, one higher education institution claimed its percentage cap was outdated and needed revision. Finally, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges recently completed a comprehensive study of waiver policy for the colleges. Before the next biennial budget, the Higher Education and Appropriations Committees should review the current use of tuition waivers and consider options for updating the state's policies. Staff will summarize current policies and practices; describe the fiscal implications of tuition waivers; and develop options for a policy framework for granting tuition waivers. Findings and options may be presented at a future work session of the committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: None scheduled

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain, Sydney Forrester, Susan Howson

**House of Representatives
Judiciary
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Hearsay Evidence.	Work Session
September 22	1:30-4:30	Olympia	Judiciary (Joint with Agriculture & Natural Resources)	Water Courts.	Work Session/ Public Hearing
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) Report on the Work of the Condominium Committee. (2) Water Courts.	Work Session/ Public Hearing

Project Title: Hearsay Evidence

Project Goal:

Examine the issue of creating a dependent person hearsay exception, especially in light of a recent United States Supreme Court decision restricting the admissibility of testimonial hearsay.

Project Description:

Hearsay is an out-of-court statement and is generally inadmissible in court as evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted. This general rule of inadmissibility is based on the fact that the trier of fact is not able to determine the credibility of a hearsay declarant since the usual procedures, such as cross-examination, were not available when the statement was made. In the criminal context, the rule against admitting hearsay statements also protects an accused person's constitutional right to confront witnesses. Exceptions to the hearsay rule exist both in court rules and statutes. Generally, the exceptions allow the admission of hearsay if there is sufficient indicia of reliability of the statements and the declarant is unavailable to testify as a witness. The Legislature created a statutory exception to the hearsay rule for statements made by a child under the age of 10 describing sexual or physical abuse. (RCW 9A.44.120)

Over the past several years, the Judiciary Committee has heard a number of bills creating a hearsay exception for statements made by vulnerable or dependent persons. (See HB 2943 from 2004). These bills have been based on the child hearsay exception statute, but none have passed the Legislature, in part due to difficulty in defining the persons and circumstances that should be covered by a dependent person hearsay exception.

In March, 2004, the United States Supreme Court addressed the issue of the admissibility of hearsay evidence in criminal proceedings (*Crawford v. Washington*). The Court ruled that the traditional "reliability" test for the admission of testimonial hearsay evidence violates a defendant's constitutional right of confrontation. The holding in the *Crawford* case calls into question the ability of the Legislature to establish a hearsay exception for dependent persons, and the continued viability of the current child hearsay exception.

The Judiciary Committee will have a work session to examine the issue of establishing a dependent person hearsay exception in light of the *Crawford* holding. In addition, the Committee will examine the impact of the *Crawford* holding on the current child hearsay statute.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Trudes Hutcheson

Project Title: Water Courts

Project Goal:

Study whether the state should create a specialized water court system and review legislative proposals regarding establishment of this system.

Project Description:

The Committee, as a joint project with the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, will study whether the state should create a specialized water court system for general adjudications and resolution of water rights disputes. The Committee will review the January 2004 report of the Water Disputes Task Force, which recommended the creation of a water court, and legislation introduced during the 2004 session to create the new court system (i.e., HB 3140, HJR 4219, SB 6674, SJR 8224, and SSJR 8225). The Committee also will monitor the activities and review the recommendations of the Board for Judicial Administration's ad hoc committee, which is being created to develop a formal judicial branch position on the creation of a water court system.

Number & Type of Meetings: 2 work sessions/public hearings

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Edie Adams and staff to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Project Title: Condominium Committee

Project Goal:

Monitor and report on the work of the Condominium Committee.

Project Description:

In the 2004 session, the Legislature passed 2ESSB 5536 relating to condominium law. One section of this bill created a seven-member committee to study two issues relating to condominium law: (1) the required use of independent third-party inspections of residential condominiums for problems of water penetration; and (2) the use of arbitration or other forms of alternative dispute resolution to resolve disputes involving breaches of implied or express warranties. The chair of the committee is to be appointed by the Governor, and the other six members are to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate. All members of the committee must have experience and expertise in condominium law or condominium construction. The committee is to deliver its findings and conclusions and any proposed legislation to the judiciary committees of the House and Senate by December 31, 2004.

The Judiciary Committee will monitor the work of the Condominium Committee and will receive an update at the December Committee Assembly meeting on the findings of the Condominium Committee and any proposed legislation to address the issues of water penetration and alternative dispute resolution.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Bill Perry, Edie Adams

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Alternative Dispute Resolution Processes

Project Goal:

Study and report on the various forms of emerging alternative dispute resolution practices.

Project Description:

There are emerging alternatives to the current adversarial system that attempt to provide a more collaborative, client-involved, and preventative approach to dispute resolution. These new alternative methods of practicing law are often termed "transformational law" or "comprehensive law." Committee staff will study and report to the Committee on the various forms of alternative dispute resolution practices being advocated or used in Washington and other states, and evaluate to what extent there may be a legislative role in advancing the use of new forms of alternative dispute resolution.

Number & Type of Meetings: None.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Trudes Hutcheson

**House of Representatives
Juvenile Justice and Family Law
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Examination of the quality of representation in juvenile court matters.	Work Session
December 1	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee Joint with Education	Drop-out Prevention	Work Session
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) Juvenile Mental Health. (2) Issues in domestic relations: third party visitation, surrogate parentage, and child support.	Work Session

Project Title: Innovation in Juvenile Justice

Project Goal:

Explore innovative juvenile justice programs.

Project Description:

The Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group has worked with judges and juvenile court administrators to submit a grant application to the Annie E. Casey Foundation for the purpose of implementing the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). The Annie E. Casey Foundation funded the JDAI in Multnomah County, Oregon and the evaluation of this program showed a reduction in the disproportionate minority confinement and that the program did not put the community at risk. The committee will look at Multnomah County and other jurisdictions that are using innovative juvenile justice programs and explore the possible use of such programs in Washington to enhance public safety while offering creative and effective rehabilitation for juveniles.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two Meetings: Site visit during summer and possible report by staff or work session during September committee assembly

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Sonja Hallum

Project Title: Innovation in Juvenile Justice

Project Goal:

Explore innovative juvenile justice programs.

Project Description:

The Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group has worked with judges and juvenile court administrators to submit a grant application to the Annie E. Casey Foundation for the purpose of implementing the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). The Annie E. Casey Foundation funded the JDAI in Multnomah County, Oregon and the evaluation of this program showed a reduction in the disproportionate minority confinement and that the program did not put the community at risk. The committee will look at Multnomah County and other jurisdictions that are using innovative juvenile justice programs and explore the possible use of such programs in Washington to enhance public safety while offering creative and effective rehabilitation for juveniles.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two Meetings: Possible report by staff or work session during September committee assembly

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Sonja Hallum

Project Title: Examination of the quality of representation in juvenile court.

Project Goal:

Examine the quality of representation by public defenders in juvenile court and alternatives for improvements in the system.

Project Description:

In October 2003, the American Bar Association Juvenile Justice Center, in collaboration with several other agencies including the Washington Defender Association, issued an assessment of the access to counsel and the quality of representation in juvenile offender matters in Washington. The study revealed significant deficiencies in the quality of representation in juvenile court resulting in many children failing to receive effective legal representation. A series of articles in the Seattle Post Intelligencer has examined the issue and found very high caseloads for public defenders in many counties for juvenile court matters. The high caseloads in one county have led to the license suspension of one public defender and the filing of a class-action lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union and Columbia Legal Services for the reform of the county's public defense system.

The committee will examine the current public defense systems in the juvenile courts and the quality of legal representation provided within the systems. The committee will hear from various groups regarding the problems in representation and the recommendations for improvement of the public defense system in Washington juvenile courts.

Number & Type of Meetings: September 2004

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff Assigned: Sonja Hallum/Trudes Hutcheson

Project Title: Drop-out Prevention

Project Goal:

Educate the committee on the issue of drop-out prevention and potential solutions.

Project Description:

The committee will explore reasons for the high drop-out rates in the state. The study will include an examination of (a) drop-out rate by demographic group; (b) the reasons students drop-out of school; (c) effective drop-out prevention and retrieval programs; and (d) interactions between schools and the justice system.

Number & Type of Meetings: Joint work session with the Education Committee on December 1, 2004.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Sonja Hallum/Trudes Hutcheson/Suzi Morrissey/Sydney Forrester

Project Title: Juvenile Mental Health

Project Goal:

A review of the juvenile mental health system in Washington and the potential areas of improvement.

Project Description:

This is a continuation of the committee's work in the area of juvenile mental health. The committee will be taking a broader look at the issue of juvenile mental health, including an analysis of the current juvenile mental health system and the need for changes in the system or statutes. The committee may review current statutes pertaining to juvenile mental health, research on issues pertaining to juvenile mental health treatment, current practices across the state and nation, model approaches in other states, and other areas relating to juvenile mental health. The committee will also look at juvenile mental health as compared to behavioral health issues.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session during December Committee Assembly days

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Sonja Hallum

Project Title: Monitor developments in domestic relations: third party visitation, surrogate parentage, and child support.

Project Goal:

Brief the committee members on the on-going local and national developments in domestic relations issues of third party visitation, surrogate parentage, and child support.

Project Description:

There have been numerous state and nationwide developments in various areas of domestic relations, such as surrogate parentage, custody, and child support. For the past several years, the committee has heard numerous bills on third party visitation (sometimes called grandparent visitation rights). Recently, the state appellate court ruled that one of Washington's third party visitation statutes as it pertains to cases where the parents are already divorced was not unconstitutional. Many practitioners across the state have assumed that Washington's third party visitation statutes are unconstitutional based on language in a U.S. Supreme Court case. The committee will monitor in what way, if any, this new appellate court case changes third party visitation cases and the need for third party legislation.

Legal issues surrounding surrogate parenting and surrogate parentage contracts have arisen in various states. The committee will examine Washington's statutes on surrogate parentage and evaluate whether changes to those statutes are appropriate.

The federal government is proposing various changes to the child support laws. Those changes potentially impact state laws regarding child support, TANF, and paternity. The committee will monitor any proposed changes and evaluate whether legislation is appropriate.

During the December committee assembly, the committee may be briefed on the recent developments in the state and around the nation regarding these domestic relations issues.

Number & Type of Meetings: Possible staff briefing during December committee assembly

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Trudes Hutcheson/Sonja Hallum

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Review/monitor the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) adolescent work group.

Project Goal:

Monitor the adolescent work group to keep informed of the work of the group and how it might interact with the work of the committee in the area of juvenile mental health.

Project Description:

The Department of Social and Health Services will be forming a work group to address the issue of adolescent mental health. Rep. Dickerson and staff will attend the DSHS adolescent work group meetings and monitor the activities of the work group. The committee may hold a work session to inform members of the developments of the work group depending on the outcomes of the work group over the interim.

Number & Type of Meetings: Possible work session dependent upon the outcome of the work group

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Sonja Hallum

**House of Representatives
Local Government
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
June 17	TBA	Ocean Shores	Full Committee	Growth Management Act Updates (Meeting in conjunction with Association of Washington Cities 2004 Annual Conference)	Work Session
July 20	TBA	Friday Harbor	Full Committee	Accessory Dwelling Units & the Growth Management Act	Work Session
August 3-4	TBA	1) Dayton; and 2) Walla Walla	Full Committee	1) Local Government Finance; and 2) Growth Management Act Updates	Work Sessions
September 21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Examining Housing Costs	Work Session
December 2	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Status Updates: 1) Blue Ribbon Commission on Land Use and Local Government Finance; and 2) Growth Management Act Working Group	Work Session

Project Title: Growth Management Act Updates

Project Goal:

The goal of this project is to examine Growth Management Act update requirements and related policy considerations.

Project Description:

Nine western Washington counties and the cities within those counties are required by December 1, 2004, to review and, if needed, revise their comprehensive land use plans and development regulations to ensure compliance with the Growth Management Act (GMA). During the 2004 interim, the Committee will examine the GMA update requirements and related policy considerations, including modified review and revision proposals specified in SSB 6592, legislation that was considered but not enacted in 2004. As part of this examination, the Committee will hold two work sessions regarding this issue, one each in western and eastern Washington. The western Washington work session will be held at the annual Association of Washington Cities conference in June. Complementing and contrasting the Committee's 2003 interim meetings in northeastern Washington, the 2004 eastern Washington work session will be held in August in Walla Walla.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Sessions on 6/17/04 and 8/4/04.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno

Project Title: Accessory Dwelling Units and Land Use Planning Under the Growth Management Act

Project Goal:

The goal of this project is to examine issues relating to the regulation of accessory dwelling units under the Growth Management Act.

Project Description:

Accommodating the housing provisions of the Growth Management Act (the GMA) while simultaneously satisfying the other goals and mandates of the GMA will continue to require careful consideration of planning objectives and practices. A 2003 decision by the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board, later affirmed by the Thurston County Superior Court, invalidated a San Juan County ordinance regulating the location of "accessory dwelling units" (ADUs) adjacent to single family residences. This decision affected the citizens of San Juan Island and highlighted issues relating to the requirements of the GMA and its impacts on the development and preservation of affordable housing. The Committee will examine legislative responses to accommodating ADUs, including HB 3028, legislation that was considered but not enacted in 2004. The project will include a work session in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island in order to explore relevant background and policy considerations.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Session on 7/20/04.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno & Thamas Osborn

Project Title: Local Government Finance Issues

Project Goal:

The goal of this project is to examine the causes of, and potential solutions to, various fiscal problems currently being faced by cities and counties.

Project Description:

As the result of the downturn in the national economy as well as decreasing state and local tax revenues, cities and counties are finding it difficult to maintain their financial viability while continuing to provide adequate services to the public. During the 2004 session, the Legislature considered, but did not pass, HJR 4215, which was designed to address this issue at the county level by proposing a constitutional amendment granting two or more counties the authority to merge or consolidate any function or structure. The stated purpose of the amendment was to promote "efficiency, cost savings, and improved service" by granting broad authority to counties to engage in cooperative endeavors.

This project will examine the causes of, and potential solutions to, various fiscal problems currently being faced by cities and counties. The project will include an examination of the ways in which cities and counties might merge or consolidate certain functions and/or government structures in order to reduce costs and to more efficiently provide services to the public. The Committee's 2003 interim activities included a work session in Spokane regarding local government finance issues. During the 2004 interim, the Committee will again hold a work session on this issue in eastern Washington, this time in the southeastern city of Dayton.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Session on 8/3/04.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Thamas Osborn & Ethan Moreno

Project Title: Issues Related to Affordable Housing

Project Goal:

The goal of this project is to examine a variety of topics related to the availability of affordable housing.

Project Description:

Although the current rate of home ownership in the United States is at a record high, the availability of affordable housing continues to be a problem for low and moderate income persons in this state. This project will examine a variety of topics related to the availability of affordable housing, including financing issues, construction costs, technical construction issues, size, design, regulatory requirements, and market factors. The project will include a work session examining housing costs.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Session on 9/21/04.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Thamas Osborn

**House of Representatives
State Government
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
April 21	3-5 PM	Olympia	Full Committee	General Contractor/Construction Manager method of Alternative Public Works Contracting.	Work Session
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Update on progress of building mapping information system.	Work Session
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Implementation of the new primary	Work Session
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Civil Service Reform -collective bargaining -contracting out -job reclassification	Work Session

Project Title: General Construction/Contract Manager (GCCM) Method of Alternative Public Works Contracting

Project Goal:

Discussion of the pros and cons of the GCCM method of alternative public works contracting and, based on the discussion, provide input for a performance audit of the general contractor/construction manager contracting alternative.

Project Description:

Legislation enacted in 1994 authorizes several state agencies and local governments to use alternative contracting procedures to award certain public works contracts. One of these alternative procedures is the GCCM procedure. The GCCM procedure is a multi-step competitive process to award a contract to a single firm to provide services during the design phase, as well as to act as both the construction manager and general contractor during the construction phase. Under this procedure, the contractor guarantees the project budget.

Alternative public works procedures were authorized for use until 2001, and in 2000, extended until 2007. At the time the legislation was enacted, a temporary independent oversight committee was created to review alternative bidding procedures and recommend changes in contracting laws to the Legislature. The oversight committee was disbanded in 2001.

The purpose of the work session is to have a discussion on the pros and cons of GCCM contracting and to provide suggestions for audit questions to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) in their upcoming performance audit of GCCM contracting. This will allow JLARC to design the study in a way that will provide the Committee with the needed analytical framework in which to base future policy decisions.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session

Completion Date: May 2004

Staff Assigned: Katie Blinn and Marsha Reilly

Project Title: Building Mapping Information System

Project Goal:

Update the committee on the progress of the building mapping information system for emergency management purposes.

Project Description:

In 2001, HB 1838 was introduced and required the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) to determine the feasibility and cost of mapping all K-12 schools within the state. The bill included the creation of a centralized database for school building layouts and provided for information sharing between the schools and emergency response teams. The bill did not pass the Legislature; however, \$450,000 was provided in the operating budget in the public safety and education account solely for grants to be distributed by WASPC to implement school mapping, or electronic pre-incident plans, for K-12 schools.

In 2003, ESHB 1218 was passed and authorized the WASPC to create and operate a statewide first responder building mapping information system. The ultimate goal is to have mapping information for all state and local government owned buildings entered into a data base that is available to all state, local, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies, along with the Military Department and fire departments. The mapping of buildings is contingent upon funding provided by WASPC through federal funds and grants. No state funding was provided for this purpose. However, the capital budget allocated \$4,800,000 to the Criminal Justice Training Commission solely for the WASPC "to conduct a school mapping and security project."

Concerns have been raised about the database system employed by WASPC and on the progress of the mapping project outlined under HB 1218. While the funding allocated thus far has been for school mapping, there are presumed overlaps in the projects in terms of the database and mapping system. The work session will provide the committee with an update on the progress of the projects, information on the development of the database and mapping system, and clarification of funding issues.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff Assigned: Katie Blinn and Marsha Reilly

Project Title: Implementation of the New Primary.

Project Goal:

Provide the committee with an update on the new primary.

Project Description:

In July 2000, the three major political parties in Washington sued the Washington Secretary of State, seeking a permanent injunction prohibiting the Secretary of State from conducting any future partisan primaries under the blanket system. In September 2003, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Washington's blanket primary unconstitutional.

The final version of ESB 6453, following a partial veto by the Governor, creates a new primary in which voters must temporarily affiliate with one of the major political parties and then only vote for candidates of that party. There may be litigation prior to the September 2004 primary over the final injunction for the blanket primary, the Governor's partial veto of ESB 6453, and the possibility of a referendum on the new system. There is also a possibility that another form of primary election will be the subject of an initiative.

The purpose of the work session is to brief the committee on the outcome of any litigation or ballot measures, and to review the public's response to the new system.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Katie Blinn and Marsha Reilly

Project Title: Civil Service Reform

Project Goal:

Provide the Committee with an update on the new job classification system, contracting out, and collective bargaining.

Project Description:

In 2002, the Civil Service Reform Act (SHB 1268) was enacted. The major components of the act call for: 1) restructuring the state civil service system, 2) allowing agencies and institutions of higher education to contract out for services, including services traditionally and historically provided by state employees, and 3) expanding collective bargaining for state employees to include wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. The restructuring of the state civil service system included a review of the current classification system and adoption of new classifications by March 15, 2004, with the new classification system implemented by January 1, 2005. Effective July 1, 2004, the Public Employment Relations Commission will begin the administration of collective bargaining.

The work session will consist of an overview of the new job classification system, an update of contracting out, and a report of progress to date on collective bargaining. The State Government Committee will coordinate its review of the Act with the review of the new collective bargaining system being conducted by the Commerce & Labor Committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Katie Blinn and Marsha Reilly

Project Title: Alternative Public Works Contracting

Project Goal:

Building consensus among stakeholders on legislation submitted during the 2004 session.

Project Description:

During the 2004 legislative session, three bills were introduced by subcontractor groups. House Bill 2521 requires that the general contractor submit a bond to cover the subcontractor's retainage requirement. House Bill 2522 prohibits rejection of public works bids except for good cause. House Bill 2523 requires the names of subcontractors to be publicly read at the bid opening. Representatives Haigh and Armstrong and representatives from general contractor groups, subcontractor groups, and public owners will meet and discuss conflicts regarding this legislation. Based on the outcome of these discussions, committee staff will rewrite legislation for submission next session.

Number & Type of Meetings: 2 stakeholder meetings

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Katie Blinn and Marsha Reilly

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Agency Rulemaking

Project Goal:

Brief the committee on background, history and mechanics of agency rulemaking.

Project Description:

Agency rulemaking is a complicated process, particularly the process for adopting "significant legislative rules". During the last biennium, 25 bills relating to agency rulemaking were introduced and assigned to the State Government Committee. These bills generally focused on changing the rule adoption process for significant legislative rules. The purpose of this project is to give State Government Committee members a better understanding of the rule adoption process. Committee staff will prepare educational materials on agency rulemaking for committee members and will work with the Office of Regulatory Assistance to set up a work session for early next year.

Number & Type of Meetings: 0

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Marsha Reilly

Project Title: Public Disclosure Reporting

Project Goal:

Review dollar limits of the Fair Campaign Practices Act.

Project Description:

The Fair Campaign Practices Act was enacted following passage of Initiative 134 in 1992. The initiative imposed campaign contribution limits on elections for state office, further regulated independent expenditures, restricted the use of public funds for political purposes, and required public officials to report gifts received in excess of \$50. Many of the dollar limitations set forth in the initiative are subject to an "inflation factor" and therefore have increased at the rate of inflation. Committee staff will research which dollar figures in the Act are subject to inflation, and which ones are static and when and how often the static dollar limits have been changed since the initiative was passed. Staff will summarize findings in a report to the Committee and the Committee will determine if any of these dollar limitations need to be raised.

Number & Type of Meetings: 0

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Katie Blinn

**House of Representatives
Technology, Telecommunications, and Energy
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Renewable energy and energy efficiency - Update on renewable energy portfolio initiatives. 2. Implementation of carbon dioxide emissions legislation update. 3. Regulatory structures in the new economy. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establishing performance benchmarks for regulatory agencies - Utilities and Transportation Commission. 	Work Session
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overlapping electric utility service - Briefing on the status of current issues. 2. Regulatory structures in the new economy - Developing government regulatory structures that encourage investment and protect consumers. 	Work Session

Project Title: Technology sectors.

Project Goal:

Educate committee members on business activity and research in the technology economic sectors including energy, telecommunications, and biotechnology.

Project Description:

During the 2003-04 legislative sessions, bills were passed to encourage development of renewable energy and energy efficiency businesses and research in Washington. The committee has held a number of work sessions over the past two years on energy technology and businesses that produce renewable energy products. The committee has an on-going interest in legislative activity that positions Washington as a leader in energy technology. The committee has also toured bio-tech companies and telecommunications companies to see and hear firsthand how this technology is developed and used commercially. The committee will tour a number of businesses in the energy, telecommunications and technology sectors in Spokane, the Tri-Cities, and Vancouver, Washington to continue its education on recent developments and emerging technologies.

Number & Type of Meetings: 3 tours - Spokane, Vancouver, and the Tri-Cities.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson

Project Title: Electrical transmission corridor siting.

Project Goal:

Develop legislation to facilitate the siting of transmission corridors.

Project Description:

Electrical transmission facilities have been identified as a critical component for the Pacific Northwest to continue to meet the regional demand for electricity. The lack of development of electrical transmission since the late 1980s and the recent pressure to upgrade existing facilities and build new transmission lines has identified new obstacles to the timely siting of these facilities. During the 2004 legislative session, the committee considered a bill to allow the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) to site electrical transmission facilities if requested by an entity seeking to site and build transmission facilities. Placing this activity under the discretionary jurisdiction of EFSEC includes EFSEC's authority to preempt local regulations that apply to the siting and construction process. Federal preemption of the electrical transmission siting process may be established as part of federal energy legislation currently before Congress. The Pacific Northwest Economic Region has created a subcommittee to look at issues involved in siting electrical transmission within the Pacific Northwest including neighboring Canadian provinces. The committee seeks to better understand the issues involved in providing this critical component of the electricity system.

Number & Type of Meetings: Tour in Vancouver as part of briefing with the Bonneville Power Administration

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson

Project Title: Regional energy issues.

Project Goal:

Update the committee on issues relating to the Bonneville Power Administration.

Project Description:

The Bonneville Power Administration plays a key role in any energy policy developed by individual states in the Pacific Northwest. As a federal agency, it has encouraged use of conservation to reduce the demand for electricity. As a marketer of electricity produced by federally-owned dams on the Columbia River System, its ability to obtain low-cost power has affected the operation or closure of the state's electricity-intensive industries. Rates set in the up-coming rate period for wholesale power will affect the state's economy if the Pacific Northwest loses its economic advantage based on low-cost electricity. The committee will examine and monitor a number of issues concerning BPA.

Number & Type of Meetings: Tours in Vancouver and Spokane

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson

Project Title: Renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Project Goal:

Monitor development of legislative proposals to encourage renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Project Description:

Several bills have been introduced and considered by the committee dealing with renewable energy and energy efficiency. Some issues have spanned the past 4 sessions. One recurring issue is whether Washington should adopt a standard or guideline requiring Washington utilities to include a percentage of renewable energy in their mix of energy resources. The committee has held work sessions on the potential and actual development of renewable energy resources in the state and issues that may present barriers to future development. The committee will tour recently completed renewable energy projects. The committee will also receive a briefing from interests working on potential legislative proposals for the 2005 session.

Number & Type of Meetings: September work session

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson

Project Title: Renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Project Goal:

Monitor development of legislative proposals to encourage renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Project Description:

Several bills have been introduced and considered by the committee dealing with renewable energy and energy efficiency. Some issues have spanned the past 4 sessions. One recurring issue is whether Washington should adopt a standard or guideline requiring Washington utilities to include a percentage of renewable energy in their mix of energy resources. The committee has held work sessions on the potential and actual development of renewable energy resources in the state and issues that may present barriers to future development. The committee will tour recently completed renewable energy projects. The committee will also receive a briefing from interests working on potential legislative proposals for the 2005 session.

Number & Type of Meetings: September work session and July tour in the Tri-Cities

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson

Project Title: Hydrogen pilot project.

Project Goal:

Identify pilot project opportunities for demonstrating and encouraging the use of hydrogen/alternative fuels in conjunction with the 2010 Olympic Games.

Project Description:

Work with stakeholders and the House Transportation Committee to identify pilot projects and funding areas for legacy infrastructure in conjunction with the hydrogen highway and the 2010 Olympic Games.

Number & Type of Meetings: Tour in the Tri-Cities.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson

Project Title: Hanford area economic investment fund.

Project Goal:

Project Description:

During the 2004 legislative session, the committee considered HB 2612 dealing with the Hanford Area Economic Investment Fund. The committee will include a briefing during its tour to the Tri-Cities on activity that is supported by the fund.

Number & Type of Meetings: Part of the tour in the Tri-Cities

Completion Date: July 2004

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson, Kiki Keizer

Project Title: Implementing carbon dioxide emissions legislation.

Project Goal:

Monitor the development of rules to implement carbon dioxide emissions legislation and evaluate the need for additional baseline information.

Project Description:

Electrical generation plants that use fossil fuels, such as natural gas and coal, contribute to emissions of greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide. The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) has included mitigation requirements for carbon dioxide emissions as part of the requirement for siting large electrical generation facilities. Small generation facilities must obtain an order of approval from the Department of Ecology (DOE) or a local air pollution control authority. Both the EFSEC and the DOE have been developing rules for the mitigation of CO2 emissions. The 2004 Legislature passed SHB 3141 setting in statute a regulatory framework for mitigation of CO2 emissions from electrical generation plants. The requirements apply to both large and small generation plants that are built after July 1, 2004 or to existing plants that increase CO2 emissions by 15 percent or more. The committee will be updated on implementation of this legislation including development of rules by the regulating agencies. Additional information will be developed to serve as baseline information on the emissions resulting from existing generation plants.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session (Briefing held in conjunction with other issues in September)

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson; Staff from the Energy Policy Division of the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development; the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council; and the Department of Ecology.

Project Title: Regulatory structures in the new economy.

Project Goal:

Educate members on alternative regulatory structures and adopt benchmark's.

Project Description:

Today's economy is increasingly characterized by a global market for investment capital in the technology sectors including energy and telecommunications. The committee will explore regulatory structures consistent with a global economy that encourage investment while protecting consumers. The committee will study benchmarks to better evaluate the performance of utility regulators.

Number & Type of Meetings: 2 work session briefings

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson; Kiki Keizer

Project Title: Overlapping electric utility service.

Project Goal:

Project Description:

During the 2003 legislative session, the committee considered HB 2130 dealing with duplication of transmission lines. The committee will conduct a work session on current outstanding issues that may require legislative action.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 work session in December

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson

Project Title: Breaking down barriers to distributed generation by creating uniform interconnection standards.

Project Goal:

Develop legislation to allow greater application of distributed generation through standardized interconnection standards and the use of net metering.

Project Description:

Washington allows a limited use of net metering to encourage the development of alternative energy sources for electrical generation. National organizations have proposed model rules to further standardize the interconnection to a large electrical grid for small scale generation. Interconnection of small scale generation raises technical, contractual, metering, and rate issues. The committee seeks a better understanding of the issues involved with interconnection by meeting with experts from utilities, academia, government agencies, and organizations promoting use of alternative energy sources.

Number & Type of Meetings: 4 to 5 meetings of the chair and the ranking minority member of the committee and appropriate experts on the topic of interconnection and net metering.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: The use of performance contracting and contract financing to produce energy savings that may be used to encourage retention of businesses and jobs in Washington.

Project Goal:

Develop legislation to implement a program of energy conservation allowing saved electricity to be redirected to high-use energy industries.

Project Description:

During the 2004 legislative session, the committee considered SHB 3155 that requested recommendations from the Department of General Administration on capturing energy conservation within state and local government and using the saved energy to provide low-cost electricity to customers that use five megawatts or more of electricity. This bill initiated discussion of this concept. The committee seeks further development of this concept. Members and staff will explore the energy conservation that may be obtained in operation and construction of buildings of state and local governments and the possibility of converting that saved electricity into low-cost electricity for qualifying customers.

Number & Type of Meetings: None scheduled

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Pam Madson

**House of Representatives
Trade and Economic Development
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
June 16	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Joint Meeting with Commerce & Labor: Offshore Outsourcing	Work Session
July	Half Day	Greater Seattle Area	Full Committee	Roundtable on Economic Development for a Diverse and Prosperous Washington. Joint with local chambers of commerce and the economic development councils.	Work Session
Early August	Half Day	Yakima or Spokane	Full Committee	Roundtable on Economic Development for a Diverse and Prosperous Washington. Held jointly with the local chambers of commerce and economic development councils.	Work Session
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Discussion Regarding the Priorities of Government and Economic Development Programs.	Work Session
September 22	All Day	Olympia	Full Committee	Economic Development Programs for a Diverse and Prosperous Washington: 1. Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development briefing on 2005-07 Budget and Priorities. 2. Staff Presentation of Washington economic development strategies and programs, funding history, and alternative economic development strategies. 3. Joint Legislative Audit and Review briefing on Implementation of Performance Measures at the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development. 4. Committee discussion of Priorities of Government and Economic Development.	Work Session

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Trade Policy Update: 1. Staff presentation on trade negotiations and agreements. 2. Report from the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy. 3. Role of State Trade Representative discussion. 4. Role of the Committee in shaping Washington's response to trade issues. 5. Possible Trade Related Legislation. Priorities of Government and Economic Development Update.	Work Session

Project Title: Offshore Outsourcing

Project Goal:

To examine "offshore outsourcing" of work performed under state contracts, international trade agreements applicable to this practice, and legislative and other alternatives for addressing this practice.

Project Description:

"Offshore outsourcing" is a term sometimes used to describe the practice of contracting with individuals or companies in foreign countries to perform certain work.

Offshore outsourcing of work performed under state contracts was the subject of nearly a half a dozen bills introduced in Washington during the 2004 legislative session, none of which passed the Legislature. Some bills would have required studies of such outsourcing, while other would have prohibited such outsourcing. (See EHCR 4419, House version of ESHB 2459, HB 2405, HB 2768, and SHB 3187). According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, similar legislation was introduced in 26 other states in 2004.

During the 2004 interim, the House Trade & Economic Development and the House Commerce & Labor Committees will examine:

- Work performed under certain state contracts at locations outside the United States, including personal services contracts, purchased services contracts, and public works contracts, and any subcontracts under such contracts;
- Efforts, if any, to measure work performed under certain state contracts, and any subcontracts under such contracts, at locations outside the United States;
- The extent to which state contracts performed at locations outside the United States involve solicitation or disclosure of personal information;
- The applicability of international trade agreements to state procurement policies;
- The extent to which the process of making commitments under international trade agreements and the exceptions in such agreements are adequate to protect legislative authority over state procurement, including domestic preferences; and
- The economic benefits of awarding state contracts to Washington companies.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Tracey Taylor/Jill Reinmuth/Chris Cordes

Project Title: Economic Development for a Diverse and Prosperous Washington

Project Goal:

To understand the current economic development needs for Washington and to develop priorities to promote a healthy economy.

Project Description:

This project will educate the committee on economic development programs, tools and needs of Washington state in preparation for the 2005 session and building upon the committee's small business forums from last interim.

The committee will review the state programs assisting businesses, including reviewing the programs and funding levels at the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development. The committee will also review alternative economic development strategies, including what is being done at the local level in Washington and what is being implemented in other states. The work of Washington's Economic Development Commission and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee will be monitored.

In addition, two roundtables, to be held in conjunction with the local chambers of commerce and economic development councils, will be held. One will take place in Eastern Washington and one will take place in the Greater Seattle Area. Among the issues that may be covered at each roundtable:

- Strategies to diversify local and regional economies. This may include reviewing efforts to promote and attract light manufacturing, to build a NASCAR-ready racetrack, to grow the state's biotech cluster and to review the work of business incubators.
- Working with state government.
- Access to capital, including the creation of a more robust venture capital pool for small businesses.
- Balancing the needs of rural and urban Washington. This may include identifying the different economic needs of rural and urban communities and developing strategies for implementing state programs.

The Committee will apply its knowledge by reviewing the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development programs and funding levels and applying the Priorities of Government in formulating their 2005 legislative agenda to address the diverse needs of Washington's communities.

Number & Type of Meetings: 5

Completion Date: December 31, 2004

Staff Assigned: Tracey Taylor

Project Title: International Trade Developments

Project Goal:

Stay current with trade policy issues and developments.

Project Description:

International trade negotiations and agreements are playing a larger role in a state's policymaking. Washington is one of the most trade dependent states in the nation; therefore, the effects of these agreements are often seen by our legislature first. Whether it is the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) after a decade or the newly negotiated U.S.-Australia Trade Agreement, there is a constant stream of information and analysis. The Committee will continue to remain current in trade developments by holding a work session on trade negotiations and agreements in December. The work session will include a staff update on trade negotiations and agreements, a discussion about the role of the state trade representative, a discussion regarding the Committee's role in shaping Washington's response to trade issues and possible legislation.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1

Completion Date: December 31, 2004

Staff Assigned: Tracey Taylor

**House of Representatives
Transportation
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
June 24	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Seattle	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 20 - Year Transportation Policy plan for Washington. 2. Briefing on Washington State Ferries' system plan. 3. Briefing on Deep-Water Ports and Marine Navigation. 4. Tour: Port terminal operations; Colman dock development plans; Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall replacement. 	Work Session/ Tour
August 26	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Yakima or Tricities	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing on Public Transportation plan for Washington. 2. Work Session: Freight rail and freight mobility. 3. Tour: Public transportation facility; short-line rail facility; truck-to-barge loading facility; freight mobility project. 	Work Session/ Tour
September 20	1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing on Highway System plan: Safety projects on state highways. 2. Work Session: Local transportation financing. 	Work Session
December 2	1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Olympia	Full Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Washington Transportation plan wrap-up: -Briefing on Bicycle/pedestrian plan -Briefing on Aviation plan 2. Reports on interim studies. 3. Status of initiatives and referenda; November revenue forecast update; federal transportation funding update. 	Work Session

Project Title: Washington Transportation Plan Development

Project Goal:

Inform members about the content and development of the 20-year Washington Transportation Plan (WTP), which forms the basis for all multimodal state transportation planning and budget decisions

Project Description:

The Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) is the state's blueprint for long-term transportation programs and investments. States are required by law to develop a statewide transportation plan that covers a period of a least 20 years (state RCW 47.01 and federal Title 23 Ch 1 Sec 450.214 CFR). In Washington, the state Transportation Commission is charged with developing and updating the WTP.

Since the WTP forms the basis for all state transportation programs and investments, it is critical that legislators understand both the development process and the actual content of the WTP. Most transportation policy and budget recommendations considered by the legislature are derived from the WTP, either directly or indirectly.

The WTP consists of several components, primarily broken down by transportation mode: highway system; Washington state ferries; aviation; passenger rail; public transportation; bicycle and pedestrian transportation; transportation demand management; freight rail; and marine ports and navigation. Each of these modal components have their own plan, which must be integrated into the overall WTP.

This interim, the House Transportation Committee (HTC) will review the WTP development process. Next, HTC will hold a series of meetings centered around each of the modal plans. The meetings will consist of presentations by OPR staff and agency personnel; work sessions with testimony from affected stakeholders; and for two meetings, a tour of facilities and transportation modes.

Number & Type of Meetings: Four work sessions

Completion Date: December 2, 2004

Staff Assigned: All HTC staff

Project Title: Washington State Ferries long-range plan

Project Goal:

Brief members and provide information on the WSF's long-range plan, both operating and capital.

Project Description:

The first in a series of four meetings on the Washington Transportation Plan will include an overview and briefing on the long-range plan for the Washington State Ferry system. This briefing will cover both operating and capital needs of the ferry system.

After presentations and a work session, the Committee will tour Colman dock, where major terminal improvements are planned. This tour will also include the Alaskan Way Viaduct project, which is integral to ferry terminal planning and transportation in the region.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1 meeting (which will include other topics), which will include a work session and tour of nearby transportation facilities.

Completion Date: June 24, 2004

Staff Assigned: Jill Satran; Jay Alexander

Project Title: Marine Ports and Navigation overview

Project Goal:

Brief members and provide information on the various elements of Washington's marine navigation system, with particular emphasis on the ports' role in freight mobility.

Project Description:

Marine ports and navigation are a component of the state's multimodal transportation system, and therefore must be accounted for in the development of the 20-year Washington Transportation Plan (WTP).

An overview of marine ports and navigation will be presented at two separate meetings. The first of these meetings (June, 2004) will cover deep-water navigation and ports, which are primarily located in the Puget Sound region. There will be presentations by staff and industry experts on the role deep-water ports and navigation play in the freight transportation system. The Committee will also learn about the state's interest in planning marine transportation over the next 20 years. This meeting will conclude with a tour of marine port facilities in Seattle.

The second meeting (August, 2004) will be held in eastern Washington and will cover other elements of the state's transportation system (freight mobility and public transportation). At this meeting, an overview of the inland waterways will be presented. The meeting will conclude with a tour of the freight mobility system in eastern Washington.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two meetings, to include work sessions and tours.

Completion Date: June 2004

Staff Assigned: Jeff Doyle

Project Title: Public Transportation systems, services and facilities review

Project Goal:

Members will review the statewide 20-year policy plan for public transportation systems, services and facilities in the state.

Project Description:

Public transportation services are primarily delivered by local and regional agencies in Washington. However, historically the state has maintained a role in providing funding and technical assistance to support public transportation.

The Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) contains a public transportation component, which outlines the needs of the system over a 20-year planning horizon.

In August, 2004, the House Transportation Committee will hold a meeting in eastern Washington. One of the primary topics of the meeting will be a review of the WTP's public transportation component. The Committee will be briefed on the current system needs for public transportation. Stakeholders will be invited to participate. The meeting may conclude with a tour of a nearby transit facility, if time allows.

*This meeting is scheduled to coincide with the 2004 Public Transportation Conference, August 23-25 in Yakima. This should help those members wishing to attend both the HTC meeting and the Public Transportation conference.

Number & Type of Meetings: One HTC work Session

Completion Date: August 2004

Staff Assigned: Gene Baxstrom

Project Title: Freight Rail & Freight Mobility System overview

Project Goal:

An overview and information will be provided to members on the freight transportation systems in Washington.

Project Description:

The movement of freight within and through Washington depends on a viable multimodal transportation system. The primary modes for freight transportation in the state are freight trains (via rail); trucks (via roadways); steamships (via deep-draft ports); and barges (via river ports). Competition among the modes for freight transportation results in competitive pricing, which in turn benefits shippers, producers and consumers.

State transportation policies and programs can impact this competitive balance, and therefore impact the state's economy. The House Transportation Committee will be briefed on the economics of the state's freight transportation system. Next, the Committee will review the freight mobility components of the statewide 20-year Washington Transportation Plan, followed by testimony from stakeholders in that system. Finally, the Committee will tour select freight transportation facilities during its scheduled June meeting in Seattle and during its scheduled August meeting in eastern Washington.

Number & Type of Meetings: Two meetings that will include briefings, work sessions and a tour of select facilities.

Completion Date: August 2004

Staff Assigned: Jeff Doyle

Project Title: Highway System Plan review

Project Goal:

Inform members about the state's 20-year plan for state highways, and more specifically, the 6-year highway system plan.

Project Description:

The state owns and operates more than 7,000 centerline miles of state highways. There are more than 3,000 bridges, 34 tunnels, 43 rest areas and 97,000 acres of roadside land. The highway system is likely the most valuable asset owned and operated by the state of Washington.

The Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) contains a highway system plan, which lays out the direction and needs of the state highway system. The House Transportation Committee will be briefed on the contents of the current 20-year plan, with particular emphasis on the 6-year planning horizon, since the 6-year plan guides most of the state's investment decisions.

The Committee will specifically consider what changes, if any, it wishes to make in the current planning, project selection and funding for the state highway system. This meeting will be held during the September, 2004 interim committee assembly in Olympia.

Number & Type of Meetings: One committee work session.

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff Assigned: Gary Lebow, Jay Alexander, Jerry Long

Project Title: Bicycle and Pedestrian transportation programs and facilities review.

Project Goal:

Brief members and provide information on the state's bicycle and pedestrian plan.

Project Description:

The Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) contains a bicycle and pedestrian plan for the state. This plan primarily consists of ways in which highways and streets can be designed to accommodate this mode of travel.

There are state grant programs targeted to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety. The Committee will review the WTP's bicycle and pedestrian plan and state-sponsored programs intended to benefit these modes of travel. A work session will be held during the December, 2004 committee assembly to conduct this review.

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Jill Satran; Gene Baxstrom

Project Title: Aviation plan review

Project Goal:

Members are provided an overview and information on public use airports in the state.

Project Description:

The Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) provides a 20-year policy plan for all modes of travel. The WTP has a plan for aviation in the state of Washington.

Members will be briefed and provided information on the aviation system in Washington, with particular attention paid to public-use airports in the state. The primary emphasis will be on the general aviation airports, including 16 state-owned airports. The committee will also review the results of the 2003 aviation study. This project will not address major commercial airports that provide regularly-scheduled passenger service (such as Sea-Tac International airport)

Number & Type of Meetings: One work session

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Jerry Long
