

# SENATE COMMITTEE SERVICES

Summary of Select 2007 Interim Activities



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January 2008



TO: Washington State Senators and Other Interested Persons

FROM: Richard Rodger, Director (786-7401)  
Senate Committee Services

SUBJECT: Senate Committee Services Summary of Select 2007 Interim Activities

DATE: January 11, 2008

We are pleased to provide this Summary of Select 2007 Interim Activities for your reference during the 2008 Legislative Session. The report summarizes many of the activities undertaken by the Senate's Standing Committees under the work plan approved by the Facilities & Operations Committee.

Although we will be delivering hard copies of this document to your offices, I believe that you will find the electronic version of this document will be the most useful. The electronic version contains dozens of electronic hotlinks to the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for bills, task force websites, and interim and final reports related to the interim projects. We will continue to update the electronic version of this document during this legislative session as additional reports or documents may become available.

In addition to the items included in this report, Senate Committee Staff have also worked on numerous other projects, issues, and requests of each member of the Senate. Please feel free to contact individual staff if you need any additional information about any of those projects not included in this report.

We hope that you find this report of great use and look forward to your comments or suggestion on how we may improve upon it. If you have other requests or questions, or need assistance on any issue, please don't hesitate to call on us.

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# Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee

## 2007 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE: Bee Colony Collapse Disorder**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), a phenomenon involving die-off of a beehive or bee colony, varies in intensity in different parts of the country. CCD has potentially significant consequences as honey bees are essential for production of many food crops. According to news reports, the nation's bee population has declined by an estimated 25 percent in the past three years, and some losses have been reported in Washington. The causes of CCD are not yet well understood. Staff will continue to monitor developments, including proposed federal legislation boosting research funding and providing incentives for producers furnishing pollinator habitat.

**REFERENCES:** <http://www.ento.psu.edu/MAAREC/ColonyCollapseDisorder.html>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Sam Thompson

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7413

**TITLE: Weed Free Hay for Backcountry Use**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** To understand the U.S. Forest Service requirements for certified weed free forage for use in wilderness areas and on federal forest lands, a committee work session was held. The State Noxious Weed Control Board indicated a willingness by a number of county weed boards to enroll in training courses and to administer a certification program that meet federal requirements. Representatives of horse-owner organizations emphasized the need for a smooth transition to assure that volunteer backcountry trail maintenance programs are continued. The work session prompted discussions as to the need and content of possible state legislation to meet the additional federal requirements that take effect on January 1, 2009.

**REFERENCES:** <http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/FAQs/weed-free.htm>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Bob Lee

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7404

**TITLE: Agricultural Viability Studies**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The long-term viability of the agricultural sector is to be examined as a result of three separate but related studies commissioned by the 2007

Legislature:

- 1) SSB 5248 placed a three year moratorium on the requirement for local governments to update critical areas ordinances under the Growth Management Act. The Ruckelshaus Center, jointly staffed by Washington State University and the University of Washington, has taken steps to organize a work group to examine ways to fulfill the dual GMA goals of protecting agricultural lands and critical areas.
- 2) Pursuant to SSB 5108, the Farmland Preservation Task Force has been convened to examine issues relating to long-term preservation of the agricultural land base. With assistance from the State Conservation Commission, the Task Force has held an organizational meeting and has scheduled six meetings in 2008 to address its assigned issues.
- 3) The Future of Farming Study was funded in the budget and calls for the Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to develop a strategic plan for the state's agricultural industry. WSDA has hired staff to conduct a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis for various sectors of the agricultural industry.

It is anticipated that each of these multi-year studies will provide recommendations to the legislature for state policies that help assure the state's agricultural industry remains viable over the long term.

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5248](#), [SSB 5108](#), [SHB 1128](#)  
<http://ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu>  
[http://www.scc.wa.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=168&Itemid=321](http://www.scc.wa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=168&Itemid=321)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Bob Lee

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7404

# Senate Consumer Protection & Housing Committee

## 2007 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE: Homeowners' Association Act Committee (HOAAC)**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Concern regarding the increase of homeowner's associations led to the creation of the Homeowners' Association Act Committee (HOAAC). The HOAAC is charged with reviewing the Homeowner's Association Act (Act), the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act, and various issues concerning homeowners' associations and evaluating whether any changes should be made to the Act.

The HOAAC continued to meet twice a month and held their final meeting in August, 2007. The HOAAC Chair provided the Senate Consumer Protection & Housing Committee with an update during September's Legislative Assembly. The final report is pending. Legislation will be proposed based on the Committee's findings.

**REFERENCES:** [SCR 8423 \(2006\)](#)  
[Second Report for the Senate Consumer Protection & Housing Committee](#)  
[Final Report](#)  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/joint/committees/hoaa>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Alison Mendiola & Vanessa Firnhaber-Baker

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7483 or 786-7471

**TITLE: Physician's Relationships with Pharmaceutical Companies**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** According to recent media coverage, some drug makers regularly give gifts or make payments to doctors. This has raised concerns that physicians may experience a conflict of interest when prescribing medication to patients. A work session on this issue was held during November's Committee Assembly. Possible proposed legislation forthcoming.

**REFERENCES:** NA

**STAFF CONTACT:** Vanessa Firnhaber-Baker

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7471

**TITLE: Governor's Task Force for Homeowner Security**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** In September, the Governor established a Task Force for Homeowner Security with the goal of evaluating the instability in the national subprime mortgage market and ensuring that the impact of this national trend is minimized in Washington. The final meeting is mid-December and soon after the Task Force will announce its recommendations. Committee staff has been monitoring the work of the Task Force.

**REFERENCES:** <http://www.dfi.wa.gov/taskforce>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Alison Mendiola & Vanessa Firnhaber-Baker

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7483 or 786-7471

# Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee

## 2007 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Quality Rating & Improvement System

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Legislature provided \$5 million for the Department of Early Learning to develop a voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) that gives parents better information about the quality of child care and early education programs and expands the availability of high-quality early learning opportunities. QRIS will be piloted in various locations around the state beginning in fiscal year 2009.

Committee staff has reviewed and summarized the available relevant information regarding the different methods that states are using to improve information and quality of early child care and early education programs.

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5828](#), [SSB 1128 \(SEC. 614\)](#)  
[Quality Rating & Improvement System: Staff memo](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Kim Cushing / Paula Moore      **CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7421

**TITLE:** Joint Task Force on Basic Education Definition and Funding

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** In the 2007 legislative session, the Joint Task Force Basic Education Definition and Funding, comprised of legislators and others, was created to 1) review the definition of basic education and the current funding formulas, and 2) propose a new definition and options for a new funding structure. The task force met four times. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy produced a work plan and two reports for the task force. The final report is due by September 15, 2008.

**REFERENCES:** [E2SSB 5627](#)  
[Work Plan](#), [Initial Report to the Task Force](#), [School Employee Compensation and Student Outcomes](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Susan Mielke      **CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7422

**TITLE: Student Remediation Activities and Programs**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee (Committee) learned about many different models for student remediation through several site visits. The Committee visited the Spokane Educational Service District (ESD) 101 to learn about a remediation program run by the ESD that targets at-risk and out-of-school youth. Additionally, the Committee met with representatives of the East Valley, West Valley, and Central Valley school districts to hear about remediation in these districts, including schools that were on the Washington State Institute for Public Policy's "Beat the Odds" list of schools. The Committee also visited ESD 112 in Vancouver to hear about a dropout prevention/retrieval program run by the ESD in collaboration with the local skills center. Lastly, the committee received a report on how school districts spent funds provided by the Legislature to assist 11th and 12th grade students who were not successful in one or more subjects on the WASL.

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 6386 \(2006 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET\)](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Susan Mielke

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7422

**TITLE: Thrive by Five Demonstration Communities and Early Learning Improvement Efforts Linked to Thrive by Five**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** In 2006, the Legislature passed legislation that facilitated the creation of a private-public partnership focused on supporting improvements in early learning and assisting every child in the state to be prepared to succeed in school and in life. This was the beginning of Thrive by Five, which has created two demonstration communities to strengthen early learning. In 2007, the Legislature created demonstration projects for kindergarten through grade 3; two of them are in school districts with Thrive by Five early learning demonstration projects. Additionally, the Legislature funded a phase-in of full-day kindergarten, beginning in the state's highest poverty schools.

In October the committee visited White Center Heights Elementary School to learn about the White Center K-3 demonstration project and Early Learning Initiative. Staff from the Highline School District, Thrive by Five, and the Puget Sound ESD presented and answered questions.

**REFERENCES:** [2SHB 2964 \(2006\)](#), [E2SSB 5841 \(2007\)](#), [SSB 5828 \(2007\)](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Kim Cushing

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7421

**TITLE: Brain Research and Learning**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Early Learning & K-12 Education committee joined the House Committee on Early Learning and Children's Services on a visit to the University of Washington's Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences to learn about advances in research on brain development and how children learn. The scientists working at the institute, in collaboration with others around the world, have a focus on child learning and brain development from birth to five. They characterized those years as the "magical years of human development."

**REFERENCES:** [E2SSB 5828](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Susan Mielke

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7422

**TITLE: Examining Options to Augment the Current System of Statewide Student Assessments**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The legislature directed the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to conduct a three-pronged study to identify the following: 1) characteristics of the students who have failed to meet standard on any part of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning; 2) possible barriers to student success or possible causes of the lack of success; and 3) additional alternative assessment options that will augment the current assessment system. The committee held three work sessions to hear updates on the study.

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 6618 \(2006\)](#), [SSB 6023 \(2007\)](#)  
[Benefits and Costs of K-12](#); [Did Any Schools "Beat the Odds" on the WASL in Spring 2006?](#); [Educational Services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind Children in Washington State: Stakeholder Views](#); [Relating WASL Completion and Performance to High School Graduation](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Susan Mielke

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7422

**TITLE: Home Visitation Programs to Improve Educational Outcomes**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee received an overview of home visitation programs and held a roundtable discussion with home visitors and parents to learn more about the programs.

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5830](#)  
[Home Visitation Programs Matrix](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Susan Mielke

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7422

# Senate Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee

## 2007 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE: Microenterprise Development**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** 2007 legislation provided for state support for microenterprise development organizations, self-employment of unemployed workers, and entrepreneurial training through the Federal Workforce Investment Act. Committee staff consulted with agency staff implementing the legislation and reviewed options for coordination of programs. A work session on implementation of the legislation was held during September's Legislative Assembly.

**REFERENCES:** [SB 5613](#), [2SSB 5652](#), [SSB 5653](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jack Brummel

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7428

**TITLE: Export Assistance**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Ninety percent of the companies provided with export assistance by the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development are in the Puget Sound or Spokane regions. Rural areas are far more dependent upon manufacturing than agriculture for jobs - yet, they have little experience with non-agricultural export assistance. A work session on the importance of exporting and the "export gap" between rural and urban areas was held in Walla Walla in August. The committee may revisit legislation considered in 2007.

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5829](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jack Brummel

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7428

**TITLE: Commercialization of Technology**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Commercialization is technology transfer, product development, production process design, technical skills development and other activities leading to market entry and competitiveness of innovative technologies, processes, and products. The committee held work sessions on innovation partnerships during the September and November Committee Assemblies. The Economic Development Commission was tasked with developing a plan for increasing commercialization activities in the state by supporting research teams and attracting star academic researchers to our research institutions. The committee Chair and staff conducted site visits to programs in San Diego, California, Salt Lake City, Utah, and Atlanta, Georgia to inform the planning process. The plan is now expected on January 10, 2008. The committee may revisit legislation considered in 2007.

**REFERENCES:** [SHB 1091](#), [SSB 5387](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jack Brummel

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7428

# Senate Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee

## 2007 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE: Financial Literacy Public-Private Partnership**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Financial Literacy Public-Private Partnership (FLPPP) was created by legislation enacted in 2004. With funding for fiscal years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009, the FLPPP is focusing on mechanisms for distributing financial literacy materials into the K-12 school system. It is leveraging existing financial literacy materials, created by the Department of Financial Institutions and private financial institutions for use in K-12 curricula. The definition of financial literacy adopted by the FLPPP is as follows: "Financial literacy is defined as the achievement of skills and knowledge necessary to make informed judgments and effective decisions regarding earning, spending and the management of money and credit."

The FLPPP's link to its interim report issued on June 29, 2007, includes details of its plans leading to the final report due by June 30, 2009.

**REFERENCES:** [HB 1980](#)  
[Interim Report](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Diane Smith

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7410

**TITLE: NAIC's Role in Washington Law**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Office of Insurance Commissioner submitted its report at the November 2007 Committee Assembly committee meeting as required by the 2007 session's market analysis bill. This report explains the role played by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners in Washington law as demonstrated by the extent that Washington insurance law delegates legislative authority to this Association.

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 5717](#)  
[Market Analysis Report](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Diane Smith

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7410

**TITLE: Washington State Task Force for Homeowner Security**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Governor established a task force in the last week of September 2007, as the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee meeting was being held. On the Committee's agenda was the same issue of sub-prime lending and unprecedented mortgage defaults throughout the United States. While the continued escalation in home prices in Washington has largely forestalled the large mortgage default rate seen elsewhere, the problem does exist here.

The legislation for 2008 suggested by the Task Force is not yet public. The context for it can be appreciated by reference to the final Task Force report, below.

**REFERENCES:** [Washington State Task Force for Homeowner Security](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Diane Smith

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7410

# Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee

## 2007 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE: Grave and Cemetery Protection**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Funding was provided in the operating budget to fund a study about the issues surrounding the discovery of human remains, both Indian and non-Indian. From the input gathered from forty-one interactions with stakeholders and affected communities, seven common themes, twenty-one issues, and twenty-three proposed solutions were identified and described. Two groups of recommended solutions were drawn from the proposed solutions: solutions to be addressed during 2008 legislative session and solutions that require further discussion and collaboration. Legislation will be proposed based on the recommendations.

**REFERENCES:** [SB 5938](#)  
[Report of Findings and Recommendations for the Protection of Washington State's Graves and Cemeteries](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Sharon Swanson

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7447

**TITLE: Public Records Exemptions Accountability**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Public Records Exemptions Accountability Committee or "Sunshine Committee" was created by Substitute House Bill 5435 in 2007. The Legislature created the Committee to review all public disclosure exemptions, and make recommendations to the Legislature as to whether each exemption should be continued without modification, modified, scheduled for sunset review at a future date, or terminated. The committee met five times and has an additional meeting scheduled for January, 2008. Possible proposed legislation is forthcoming.

**REFERENCES:** [SHB 5435](#)  
<http://www.atg.wa.gov/opengovernment/sunshine.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Sharon Swanson

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7447

**TITLE: Ruckelshaus Study of Critical Areas and Agriculture Land**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Legislation passed in 2007 requiring the Ruckelshaus Center to examine the interactions between agricultural activities and the environmental regulation of critical areas, and to work with participating stakeholders to identify innovative approaches that will advance both environmental protection and agricultural viability goals. The center has released the first of three reports required by the legislation. The final report and recommendations are due in 2009. Committee staff will continue to monitor the work of the center.

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5248](#)  
[Preserving Agricultural Viability and Protecting Critical Areas-Progress Report No. 1](#)  
<http://ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Sharon Swanson

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7447

# Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee

## 2007 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE: Registered Counselors**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Committee staff monitored meetings of the Registered Counselor Work Group throughout the interim. The report of the Registered Counselor Work Group is currently available and can be reviewed at either the link, or the website, referenced below. The report contains recommendations addressing credentialing, scope of practice, and continuing education requirements for individuals who are registered counselors in a variety of settings.

**REFERENCES:** [SHB1128, HB 1993](#)  
[Report of the Registered Counselor Work Group November 2007](#)  
[www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Edith Rice

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7444

**TITLE: Comprehensive School Health**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Health problems such as obesity, diabetes and asthma are increasingly being diagnosed in children. Recent legislation created a task force to consider how schools can impact childhood health, including environmental issues, school nutrition, physical activity, and the role education plays in developing lifelong health habits in children. The taskforce met to decide on priorities for their work and report due in October, 2008. Areas of focus are school nursing, funding issues, and exploring health-related practices in schools that reduce absenteeism and improve academic achievement.

**REFERENCES:** [2SSB 5093](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Rhoda Donkin

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7465

**TITLE: Access to Dental Care**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Dental disease is considered the most preventable public health epidemic. There is ongoing concern that inadequate access to treatment and prevention services in this state is contributing to costly and painful dental disease especially among low-income families and seniors. Stakeholders representing the oral health community met twice during the interim and discussed measures to address this problem. The HLTC Committee held a work session on the topic and a list of recommendations is being developed.

**REFERENCES:** NA

**STAFF CONTACT:** Mich'l Needham/ Rhoda Donkin      **CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7442

## Senate Higher Education Committee

### 2007 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Education of Students in High Demand Fields

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Committee on the Education of Students in High Demand Fields held two work sessions over the interim, one in Pullman and the second in Olympia. This committee was established to study the issues surrounding the increased need for students in mathematics, science, engineering, and nursing. A final report summarizing the discussions held at the meetings along with the recommendations of the committee will be presented during the 2008 legislative session.

**REFERENCES:** [SB 5731](#)  
[Report of the Joint Committee on the Education of Students in High Demand Fields](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Aldo Melchiori

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7439

**TITLE:** Campus Security

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Higher education institutions around the country are struggling to properly respond to campus safety issues. At this point, most Washington campuses have response plans in progress. Institutions are requesting funding to conduct further campus mapping, increase instant communication systems, and conduct more training exercises.

It has been more difficult to identify what can be done to *prevent* violence on campus. The prevention discussions are currently focused on three areas: (1) mental health services; (2) better communication between faculty, staff, and security; and (3) firearms on campus. Institutions are reassessing their communications avenues and clarifying their ability to communicate internally without violating federal and state privacy laws.

All campuses have firearms policies at the present time, ranging from complete bans to safe storage rules. A number of legislative ideas in regard to firearms are also being considered. The work of committee staff in this area is ongoing and it will likely continue to develop in the foreseeable future.

**REFERENCES:** NA

**STAFF CONTACT:** Aldo Melchiori

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7439

**TITLE: Financial Aid and Tuition**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Each year, new legislation is proposed that modifies tuition policy by changing tuition, creating grant or scholarship programs, or modifying tuition waivers. There has been no comprehensive source for legislators or staff to find all the provisions and an explanation of how they have developed. Three volumes of reference material were compiled summarizing Washington tuition policy. This document will be updated each year. In addition, a short analysis of significant tuition policies adopted by the current Global Challenge States was completed. It is designed to be a resource during session when drafting legislation and bill reports, for use to brief legislators with questions about tuition and financial aid policy, and for responding to constituent inquiries.

**REFERENCES:** NA

**STAFF CONTACT:** Aldo Melchiori

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7439

# Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee

## 2007 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Marital Dissolution Task Force

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Second Substitute Senate Bill 5470 requested that the Supreme Court convene a task force to establish statewide protocols in certain areas in dissolution matters. These areas include developing a clear and concise dispute mediation process, consistent standards for parenting evaluators, development of a curriculum for training evaluators on sexual assault, and domestic violence issues in dissolution cases. The task force was also asked to look at several other issue areas including venue, and the establishment of a point of first contact program.

The task force met twice during the 2007 interim and has created four subcommittees to work on the specifics of a number of the issues. The task force is to issue a preliminary report on September 1, 2008 with a final report being due December 1, 2008.

**REFERENCES:** [2SSB 5470](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jennifer Strus/Kevin Black

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7316

**TITLE:** Department of Corrections' Implementation of Legislation Aimed at Reducing Offender Recidivism

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** This legislation required the Department of Corrections to perform a number of actions aimed at reducing offender recidivism. Committee staff monitored DOC's progress in the implementation of this bill and continues to receive periodic implementation updates. Staff continues to monitor the Statewide Advisory Committee on Work Release Siting as well as the Transitional Housing Pilot Program being awarded by the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 6157](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Shani Bauer

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7468

**TITLE: Community Custody and Community Supervision**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Committee staff provided staff support to the Joint Legislative Task Force on Community Custody and Community Supervision in coordination with the Office of Financial Management and the House Office of Program Research. The task force made a number of recommendations which will be included in the task force's final report

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 6157](#)  
[Final Report](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Shani Bauer

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7468

## Senate Judiciary Committee

### 2007 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE: Gang-Related Crime Evaluation Work Group**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs convened a work group, including legislators, to evaluate gang-related crime in Washington State. The work group held several work sessions throughout the state, each of which included a public hearing. The work group is currently finalizing a report to the legislature that addresses the following topics: legislative measures to combat gang-related crime, the creation of a statewide gang information database, possible reforms to the juvenile justice system for gang-related juvenile offenses, best practices for prevention and intervention of youth gang membership, and civil anti-gang injunctions. This report is due January 1, 2008.

**REFERENCES:** [SB 5987](#)  
[Final Report](#)  
<http://www1.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/GRC/>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Dawn Noel

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7472

**TITLE: Small Employer Work Group**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Employers with less than eight employees are currently exempt from the Washington Law Against Discrimination (WLAD). The work group examined the possibility of removing this exemption. In conjunction, the work group considered different administrative complaint processing models for workplace discrimination disputes, and whether to require complainants to exhaust administrative remedies prior to bringing a lawsuit. Additionally, the work group considered expanding current resources to help small employers better understand the WLAD. The resources considered included a consultation program and an expanded educational outreach effort. The work group met in several work sessions, but ultimately did not reach agreement.

**REFERENCES:** N/A

**STAFF CONTACT:** Dawn Noel

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7472

**TITLE: Tribal Law Enforcement**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Tribal Law Enforcement work group studied the proposal of authorizing commissioned tribal police officers to be recognized and authorized to act as general authority Washington peace officers. The authority would be coextensive with the exterior boundaries of the reservation. Numerous work sessions were held throughout the interim and legislation was produced which will be introduced in the '08 session.

**REFERENCES:** [SB 5867](#), [HB 2013](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Lidia Mori

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7755

**TITLE: Eminent Domain**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** After the 2007 legislative session, the Washington State Attorney General's Office initiated a task force to study the issue of eminent domain. The efforts of the task force have been monitored and the subject of eminent domain was the focus of a September 28, 2007, Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. The development of legislation is in progress.

**REFERENCES:** [HB 2016](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Lidia Mori

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7755

**TITLE: Sentencing Guidelines Commission**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Sentencing Guidelines Commission (SGC) is tasked with evaluating and observing adult and juvenile sentencing policies and practices. It also recommends changes to the Legislature and the Governor. The SGC meets monthly and a bill addressing the simplification of supervision has been drafted. In addition, a bill pertaining to revising felony sentencing ranges is under consideration, as well as a proposal that responds to the Governor's request regarding sex offender sentencing and supervision. Committee staff has been monitoring the SGC meetings and efforts.

**REFERENCES:** [SB 6497](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Lidia Mori

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7755

# Senate Labor Commerce, Research & Development Committee

## 2007 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Joint Legislative Task Force on Family Leave Insurance

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** E2SSB 5659 created a joint legislative task force to make recommendations to the Legislature about administering and funding the family leave insurance program.

The task force, and a subcommittee, met numerous times during the interim. The task force held its final meeting on December 14, 2007, and recommended that the Employment Security Department administer the Family Leave Insurance Program. The task force further recommended that the program should be initially funded through the state general fund. The final report containing the task force's deliberations and recommendations is referenced below.

**REFERENCES:** [E2SSB 5659](#)  
[Final Report](#)  
[Minority Report](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Ingrid Mungia

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7423

**TITLE:** Regulation of the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Industry

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** During the 2007 legislative session, extensive work was done on SHB 1876 by a coalition of stakeholders, assisted by the Department of Labor & Industries.

During the interim the Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee held a hearing jointly with the House Commerce and Labor Committee to discuss the coalition's progress towards a compromise bill for the 2008 session.

**REFERENCES:** [SHB 1876](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Kathy Buchli/Mac Nicholson

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7488

**TITLE: Joint Legislative Task Force on the Underground Economy in the Washington State Construction Industry**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** SB 5926 created a joint legislative task force to formulate a state policy to establish cohesion and transparency between state agencies as a means to increase oversight and regulation of the underground economy practices in the construction industry.

The task force met six times during the interim and, at its final meeting of 2007, developed a list of legislative, budgetary, and agency action items for 2008. The task force focused on suggestions involving enforcement issues, penalties, methods of education and outreach, and ways to improve data-sharing and detection. The task force recommended that its existence be extended to the end of 2009 so it can continue working on identified issues that were deemed not ready for action in 2008. The recommendations made by the task force are included in the final report referenced below.

**REFERENCES:** [SB 5926](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Kathy Buchli

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7488

# Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee

## 2007 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE: Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plan**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Monitored aquatic invasive species issues in Washington, including the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) efforts to develop a state plan to rapidly respond to the introduction of aquatic invasive species.

DFW has been participating in the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative, a cooperative effort between state, provincial, and federal agencies to prevent the westward spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic nuisance species in North America. A subgroup of the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative is the Columbia River Basin Team (CRB), which includes state, federal, tribal, and university level aquatic nuisance species managers and researchers. The CRB Team has prepared a draft rapid response plan, which can be found below.

The issues facing DFW in developing a rapid response plan, as directed by E2SSB 5923, include finding an effective chemical that is acceptable to the Department of Ecology and under the Clean Water Act standards.

**REFERENCES:** [E2SSB 5923](#)  
<http://www.100thmeridian.org/ColumbiaRT.asp>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Curt Gavigan

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7437

**TITLE: Ocean Policy**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Reviewed state agency efforts to implement the recommendations of the Washington State Ocean Policy Work Group (OPWG), which was created by the Legislature in 2005.

The Legislature provided funding for the Governor's Office to establish the OPWG, which reviewed issues facing Washington's ocean and coastal resources. The OPWG submitted its final report in December 2006. The report summarized the status of Washington's ocean and coastal resources and made recommendations for further state action. The report can be found below.

State agencies have taken steps to implement the OPWG recommendations. For example, in response to the OPWG's recommendation regarding governance over ocean issues, a group of

state agencies formed the State Ocean Caucus (SOC) to address, and improve state coordination involving, ocean issues. Further information about the SOC can be found below. In 2007 the Legislature addressed several ocean policy issues by creating a rockfish research program and authorizing local Marine Resource Committees on the coast.

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5213](#), [HB 1476](#)  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/ocean/index.html>  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/ocean/oceangroup.html>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Curt Gavigan

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7437

**TITLE:** Working Forests

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Monitored issues and attended events relating to Washington's working forest lands.

Based on legislative direction, the University of Washington, College of Forest Resources and Washington State Department of Natural Resources prepared a 2007 report entitled: *The Future of Washington Forests*. This report documents a new model for public policy development and makes recommendations about protecting the working forest land base for multiple benefits and for strengthening Washington's forest industry. The report can be found below.

As a part of The Future of Washington Forests project, attended and tracked the 4th Northwest Environmental Forum in November 2007. This forum titled: *Retaining Working Forest Lands and Enhancing Biodiversity* brought together stakeholders and leaders in natural resources issues to provide policy proposals and recommendations. The major findings and proposals can be found below.

Attended the 2007 Society of American Foresters National Convention on *Sustaining America's Forests*. Subjects covered included: Urban and Community Forestry, Healthy Forests and Watershed, Forest Recreation, Forest Ecology, and Sustainable Forestry.

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5216](#)  
[www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/agency/wffstudy/fwffinalreport.html](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/agency/wffstudy/fwffinalreport.html)  
<http://www.nwenvironmentalforum.org>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Sherry McNamara

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7402

**TITLE: Granted Lands Management**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Researched and analyzed issues relating to management of the lands Washington received from the federal government at statehood.

Washington received approximately 3.2 million acres from the United States when it joined the Union in 1889. The Legislature serves as the trustee of the granted lands and has delegated land management duties to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Both the Legislature and DNR must comply with the terms of the 1889 Enabling Act and Washington's Constitution. DNR's management of the granted lands must, in turn, comply with legislative direction. Based on interpretations of the Enabling Act and Constitution, several Washington cases have established that the granted lands are held by the state in trust for, and that the Legislature has fiduciary obligations towards, the institutions for whose benefit the lands were granted (trust beneficiaries).

Although court cases provide a helpful framework for anticipating how courts will evaluate future legislative actions involving the granted lands, Washington courts have not revisited the law on trust land management in recent years.

**REFERENCES:** [HB 1045](#), [SB 6088](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Curt Gavigan

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7437

## **Senate Transportation Committee**

### **2007 Summary of Select Interim Activities**

**TITLE: Freight Investment Study**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Freight Investment Study includes an evaluation of existing fees paid by the freight industry as well as identification of other potential revenue sources to finance additional state highway and rail freight congestion relief investments. An examination of other states' and countries' freight funding programs and their impact on competitiveness is also part of the study as is an analysis of the elasticity of demand at Washington's container ports. Finally, the study is charged with examining and recommending options for the structuring of a future freight project recommendation body.

The study is being directed by the Freight Investment Policy Group which includes fourteen members of the Legislature, one Transportation Commissioner and a representative from the Governor's Policy Office. A Freight Investment Stakeholder Group, comprised of nearly 30 industry representatives, is also participating in the study process. Findings are to be presented to the Joint Transportation Committee prior to the 2009 legislative session. Cambridge Systematics, Inc. is acting as lead consultant for the Freight Investment Study.

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5207](#)  
[http://www1.leg.wa.gov/JTC/CurrentStudies/  
Freight Investment Policy Group](http://www1.leg.wa.gov/JTC/CurrentStudies/FreightInvestmentPolicyGroup)  
[Freight Investment Stakeholder Group](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** David Ward

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7341

**TITLE: 2008 Citizen's Guide to the Transportation Budget**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The 2008 Citizen's Guide to the Transportation Budget is currently being updated by Senate Transportation staff along with staff from the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee for the 2008 session. The guide is published on an annual basis for use by legislators, legislative staff, and the general public to answer basic questions about the Washington State biennial transportation budget. It is anticipated that the guide will be published by the start of the 2008 session and available to the committee and the public in booklet form as well as online.

**STAFF CONTACT:** Natalie Zukowski

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7300

**TITLE: Transportation Capital Budget System**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Transportation Executive Information System (TEIS) is the budget and revenue system that Legislative staff use to track projects, create transportation expenditure plans, and develop financial funding plans for transportation budgets. The 2007 budget moved funding for TEIS from Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) to the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP), with the intent of LEAP creating a transportation budgeting tool in the legislative environment. Legislative staff assisted LEAP in establishing business rules, managing the transition, and developing and rigorously testing the new system. User and data sharing agreements were signed between LEAP, DOT, and the Office of Financial Management.

The new system is expected to provide a more stable platform for the development of capital transportation budgets and financial plans, and provide easier access for more users in the Legislature. Standardized reports have been developed for quicker access to frequently requested data. Additional work will continue on improving access to this data via the internet.

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 1094, Sec. 107](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Hayley Gamble

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7452

**TITLE: JTC Washington State Ferries System Review - Phase 2**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Per ESHB 1094, the JTC Washington State Ferries (WSF) system review will report to the transportation committees: 1) the findings of a customer survey, 2) a review of the ridership demand forecast, and 3) proposed vehicle level of service standards, operating strategies, pricing policies, terminal design standards, and a long-range capital plan.

The study team oversaw the work of a contractor who conducted an independent analysis of the terminal life-cycle cost model, vessel preservation, system-wide capital projects, eagle harbor maintenance facility, and operating costs other than labor and fuel.

Study outcomes will include recommendations regarding the efficient timing and sizing of future vessel acquisitions, capital financing strategies for consideration in the 2009 legislative session, and the capital cost allocation plan methodology developed by WSF. A draft status report of the review is available. The study will continue through the 2008 interim.

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 1094](#), [ESHB 2358](#)  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JTC/CurrentStudies/>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Janice Baumgardt

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7319

**TITLE: Real ID and Enhanced Driver's License**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** In 2007, the Legislature passed SSB 5087, which prohibits agencies from spending state funds to implement the federal Real ID Act of 2005 (Real ID) unless the federal government funds implementation costs and addresses privacy concerns. Several other states passed or introduced similar legislation.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is developing rules for the implementation of Real ID. If approved by the Office of Management and Budget, the rules could become final as early as mid-January 2008.

DHS representatives have indicated that recent revisions to the proposed rules should make implementation much easier and less expensive for states.

In 2007 the Legislature also passed ESHB 1289, which authorizes the Department of Licensing (DOL) to create a voluntary, enhanced driver's license (EDL) that meets the identification requirements of the federal Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative for land and sea border crossings. In addition to standard licensing requirements, EDL applicants must furnish proof of United States citizenship. DOL will begin issuing EDLs January 21, 2008.

Staff from the Senate Transportation Committee spoke about Real ID and the Washington EDL at the 2007 Fall Forum of the National Conference of State Legislators.

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5087](#), [ESHB 1289](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Dory Nicpon

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7321

**TITLE: Statewide Tolling Policies**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Discussions at the state level have occurred in recent years concerning the use of tolls to both help finance pending state transportation projects and to help better manage traffic congestion levels on various state transportation facilities. Per direction from both Senate and House Transportation Committee Chairs, Senate and House committee staff prepared draft legislation for introduction in the 2008 legislative session. The draft legislation clarifies in statute that the imposition of tolls on any state transportation facility must first be authorized by the Legislature, and spells out general statewide tolling policies for future Legislatures to consider when deciding whether to authorize tolls on specific state transportation facilities. However, the legislation does not actually authorize tolls on any specific facility. That decision will be left to future Legislatures in upcoming legislative sessions and will be based on current tolling work being conducted by Transportation Commission, Puget Sound Regional Council and WSDOT on project specific proposals such are SR 520 and I-5 across the Columbia River. Further, the legislation specifically does not apply to ferry fares, which are addressed separately in statute.

**REFERENCES:** NA

**STAFF CONTACT:** Kelly Simpson

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7403

# Senate Water, Energy, & Telecommunications Committee

## 2007 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE: Wood Smoke Reduction**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Department of Ecology convened a work group to study the impacts of wood smoke from wood burning stoves. The work group confirmed the legislature's findings that wood smoke emissions are a serious problem. High levels of fine particulate pollution is a serious health risk that impact children, the elderly and those with impaired health. This pollution is at excessively high levels in 14 communities and the main source is wood smoke.

The work group is recommending several strategies to reduce the impact of wood smoke. These strategies are categorized in four approaches: update statutes that allow air quality agencies to call curtailments during adverse weather conditions; increase financial incentives to help people replace older, high polluting wood burning stoves with newer, cleaner burning stoves; fund an education and public information program about the importance of curtailments, replacing old wood stoves, burning properly and providing agency support for program implementation and compliance activities; and broaden existing authority for agencies to establish a ban or phase-out deadlines on the use of uncertified wood burning stoves in communities where the curtailments and replacement programs are insufficient to prevent violations of federal air quality standards.

The final report should be available soon. Proposed legislation is forthcoming.

**REFERENCES:** [SHB 2261](#)  
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/outdoor\\_woodsmoke/Woodsmokeworkgroup/woodsmokeworkgroup.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/outdoor_woodsmoke/Woodsmokeworkgroup/woodsmokeworkgroup.htm)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jan Odano

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7486

**TITLE: Reclaimed Water**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** ESSB 6117 required 9 reports from several subtask forces on issues affecting the implementation of reclaimed water. Because of the complexity and number of issues that needed to be addressed in the report, some of the subtask forces will continue through 2008 to complete specific legislative assignments. The report includes status and informational reports of the activities undertaken by the subtask forces.

The funding task force reports presents a strategy for long-term funding support for reclaimed water projects. The removing barriers subtask force will develop recommendations to harmonize new reclaimed water planning requirements with other state laws. An advisory

committee prepared a status report on recommendations to address water right impairment issues related to reclaimed water. The final report is expected in 2008.

Ecology received \$5.4 million in capital funding for reclaimed water projects that benefit Puget Sound. Ecology received 23 applications with a combined grant request of \$17.5 million. Total project costs were \$100 million. Evaluators are selecting the highest priority construction projects and feasibility studies for proposed funding.

The Reclaimed Water Rules Advisory Committee will continue to meet monthly throughout 2008. The focus for 2008 is developing technical standards and implementing a streamlined administrative process for permitting and engineering review.

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 6117](#)  
[2007 Legislative Report: Implementation of Reclaimed Water Use](#)  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/reclaim/index.html>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jan Odano

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7486

**TITLE:** Puget Sound Partnership

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Puget Sound Partnership Committee staff monitored operations of the Partnership, a new, cabinet-level state government agency charged with restoring the health of Puget Sound by 2020, as it came to life. The agency began work in June, after the Governor finalized appointments to the seven-member Leadership Council. In August, the Governor appointed an executive director who has, in turn, hired two-dozen staff members. In October and November, the Leadership Council finalized appointments to a 27-member advisory board (made up of officials and citizens from several Puget Sound jurisdictions) and a nine-member science panel (including scientists from diverse environmental and social disciplines), which are now functioning.

The Partnership's first major goal is completing an initial "Action Agenda" (cleanup action plan) by September 2008. The Governor has requested \$2.2 million in the 2008 supplemental operating budget to increase public and stakeholder engagement and enhance scientific analysis while the Partnership develops the Action Agenda. Committee staff will continue to monitor the Partnership's work, provide support as appropriate, and assist in drafting any legislation, as directed.

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 5372](#)  
<http://www.psp.wa.gov/>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Sam Thompson

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7413

## Senate Ways & Means Committee

### 2007 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** 2008 Citizen's Guide to the Budget

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The 2008 Citizen's Guide to the Budget is currently being updated by Senate Ways and Means staff along with staff from the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee for the 2008 session. The guide is published on an annual basis for use by legislators, legislative staff, and the general public to answer basic questions about the Washington State biennial budget. It is anticipated that the guide will be published by the start of the 2008 session and available with the committee as well as online.

**REFERENCES:** NA

**STAFF CONTACT:** Maria Hovde

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7710

**TITLE:** Study Committee on Public Infrastructure and Funding Structures

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Study Committee was established by the 2007-09 Capital Budget. The committee reviewed and made recommendation regarding three types of public infrastructure: basic infrastructure, community development infrastructure, and economic development infrastructure. Recommendations for basic infrastructure include eliminating the legislative approval of public works assistance account loans to speed up construction projects, appropriating the public works assistance account in the biennial capital budget by specific categories of infrastructure and within specific state policy goals and priorities, and other minor changes.

Recommendations for community development infrastructure include expanding the community services facility competitive grant program to include multipurpose community centers, suggested definitions of distressed communities which would receive a high priority for funding, and provisions for technical assistance grants for distressed communities. Recommendations for economic development infrastructure include elimination of the Job Development Fund statute at the end of the current biennium, clarification that the state policy goal for economic development projects is on creation and retention of good jobs, and recommendation that the legislature identify permanent funding for Community Economic Revitalization Board. Several follow-on studies are also recommended.

**REFERENCES:** [Final Report](#)  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/PIPFS/>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Brian Sims

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7431

**TITLE: Analysis of 2008 Supplemental Operating and Capital Budget Requests**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** In the fall, state agencies began submitting supplemental budget requests for the 2008 biennium to the Office of Financial Management. State law provides that a copy of each agency budget request be provided concurrently to the legislative fiscal committees. Once received, Ways and Means committee staff analyzed these supplemental budget requests which provide valuable information in developing the Senate's version of the 2008 supplemental operating and capital budgets.

**REFERENCES:** NA

**STAFF CONTACT:** Ways and Means

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7715

**TITLE: Legislative Budget Notes**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Legislative fiscal staff in the Senate and House worked together with the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee staff to publish the Legislative Budget Notes (LBN) in September 2007. The LBNs is a publication that represents the official record of legislative action on the omnibus operating, transportation, and capital budgets. It is used by legislators, legislative staff, state agencies, and the general public to determine the legislative intent behind the hundreds of policy changes embedded in the three major budget documents.

**REFERENCES:** [2007 Legislative Budget Notes](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Ways and Means

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7715

**TITLE: Joint Task Force on Basic Education Definition and Funding**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** In the 2007 legislative session, the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Definition and Funding, comprised of legislators and others, was created to 1) review the definition of basic education and the current funding formulas, and 2) propose a new definition and options for a new funding structure. The task force met four times. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy produced a work plan and two reports for the task force. The final report is due by September 15, 2008.

**REFERENCES:** [E2SSB 5627 Work Plan, Initial Report to the Task Force, School Employee Compensation and Student Outcomes](#)  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Bryon Moore

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7726

**TITLE: Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The 2008 Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance is currently being updated by Senate Ways and Means staff along with staff from the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee (LEAP) for the 2008 session. The guide is published on an annual basis for use by members, legislative staff, and the general public to answer frequently asked questions about K-12 finance. It is anticipated that the guide will be published by the start of the 2008 session and available with the committee as well as online.

**REFERENCES:** NA

**STAFF CONTACT:** Bryon Moore

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7726

**TITLE: Joint Task Force on School Construction**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** In the 2007 legislative session, the Joint Task Force on School Construction, comprised of legislators and others, was created to conduct a comprehensive review and evaluation of school construction funding and spending issues. The task force met four times. The task force will present their recommendations from phase I of their effort in the 2008 session. Based on their proposed amendment to the capital budget language establishing the task force, the final report will be submitted by December 1, 2008.

**REFERENCES:** <http://leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/K12SCF>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Bryon Moore

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7726

**TITLE: Joint Legislative Task Force on Long-Term Care Residential Facility Payment Systems**

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Beginning in September, the task force met four times to discuss improving Medicaid payment systems for nursing homes, adult family homes, and boarding homes/assisted living. The meetings included stakeholder testimony, presentations by the Department of Social and Health Services and Legislative staff, and a presentation of a national consultant's suggestions to simplify Washington's nursing home payment system. The final meeting was in mid-December, and the task force's final report is currently pending approval. Legislation and budget actions may be proposed, depending on the final report.

**REFERENCES:** [Final Report](#)  
<http://leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/LTCRFPS/>  
[Minority Report](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Chelsea Buchanan

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7446

## **Additional Electronic Resources**

[Senate Website](#)

[Senate Committee Services Website](#)

[2007 Interim Work Plan and Meeting Schedules](#)

[2007 Bills Passed During the 2007 Legislative Session](#)

[TVW Archives](#)