

# Senate Committee Services

## 2015 Interim Work Plan and Meeting Schedule *(As of July 24, 2015)*



---

July 2015

[ THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK ]

## Table of Contents

Senate Accountability & Reform Committee .....	4
Senate Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development Committee .....	6
Senate Commerce & Labor Committee .....	8
Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee.....	9
Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee .....	12
Senate Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee.....	14
Senate Government Operations & Security Committee.....	16
Senate Health Care Committee .....	20
Senate Higher Education Committee .....	25
Senate Human Services, Mental Health & Housing Committee .....	27
Senate Law & Justice Committee .....	30
Senate Natural Resources & Parks Committee .....	33
Senate Trade & Economic Development Committee .....	35
Senate Transportation Committee.....	37
Senate Ways & Means Committee .....	39
Additional Electronic Resources .....	45

# Senate Accountability & Reform Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2015 Interim

**PROJECT:** Root Causes of Poverty

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Sam Thompson/Tim Ford  
786-7413/786-7423

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** The committee will conduct a joint work session with the Human Services, Mental Health & Housing Committee to examine root causes of poverty in Washington and the effectiveness of state-administered programs in addressing root causes of poverty. Committee staff will draft legislation, as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Modernizing State Financial and Administrative Systems

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Sam Thompson  
786-7413

**REFERENCES:** [3ESSB 5034 \(2013\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** A provision in the 2013–15 operating budget authorized planning to modernize state enterprise financial and administrative systems led by the Department of Enterprise Services, the Office of Financial Management, and the Office of the Chief Information Officer. Plans were required to incorporate Lean management principles and assess readiness of state government for transformation of business processes and replacement of core financial systems. A 2014 report to the Legislature recommended an incremental approach, with a procurement business process and system implemented first and a finance business process and enterprise resource planning (ERP) application second. Committee staff will monitor consideration and implementation of proposals and draft legislation as requested.

---

## Committee Meeting Schedule – 2015 Interim

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7435*

Date TBA	Full Committee	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
Time TBA	Work Session		
Date TBA	Full Committee	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
Time TBA	Work Session		

Date TBA Time TBA	Full Committee, Jt. w/ Human Services, Mental Health & Housing  Work Session	Olympia, WA	Root causes of poverty.
<hr/>			
November 19-20 Legislative Assembly	Full Committee  Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
<hr/>			

# Senate Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2015 Interim

**PROJECT:** Water Rights and Resource Allocation

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Bonnie Kim  
786-7316

**REFERENCES:** [RCW 90.22.030](#), [ESB 5407 \(2015\)](#), [SB 5491 \(2015\)](#), [SSB 5965 \(2015\)](#), [SHB 1793 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Several 2015 legislative proposals considered ways to address interruptible domestic groundwater sources and the use of permit exempt wells when the Department of Ecology (Ecology) has established a minimum instream flow in a basin. Those proposals included identifying human domestic use as an overriding consideration of public interest, requiring Ecology to reengage in rulemaking with a priority set for domestic use, and requiring Ecology to investigate mitigation options for affected landowners. Senate committee staff will research relevant state and federal water laws, monitor Ecology's progress in resolving issues related to interruptible water resources, and provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Gypsy Moth Infestation

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Diane Smith  
786-7410

**REFERENCES:** [RCW 17.24.171](#), [Proclamation of State Emergency 15-06](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Gypsy moth is devastating to agricultural and landscape plantings. It is now endemic to parts of the Eastern United States. The ability for Washington to prevent infestation here is considered possible with vigilance and eradication of any infestations that are beginning. This is the case in the Yaacolt area. The Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency (15-06) authorizes the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to use emergency measures to eradicate the moth. The effectiveness and side effects of the methodologies that WSDA will use for eradication are of interest. Staff will update the committee members and draft legislation if directed.

---

**PROJECT:** Burrowing Shrimp

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Diane Smith  
786-7410

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Burrowing shrimp are a lethal threat to shellfish beds. These shrimp have been the subject of chemical controls since the 1960s, with the earlier chemical, carbaryl, being removed from use as of 2012. While a lengthy public process resulted in the Department of Ecology's (DOE) approval of the use of Imidacloprid for control of burrowing shrimp in commercial shellfish beds, controversy remains. Staff will follow-up with DOE and other involved parties. Staff will update the committee members and draft legislation if directed.

---

**PROJECT:** Summer Bee Die-Off and Colony Collapse Disorder

**COMPLETION DATE:** December, 2015

**STAFF:** Diane Smith/Bonnie Kim  
786-7410/786-7316

**REFERENCES:** [2SHB 1654 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Pollination provided by bees is an indispensable link in agricultural production. Bees have died off over the summer, in addition to what has become expected to some extent, over the winter's colony collapse cycle. On the theory that insecticide use contributes to bee die-off, late in 2014, Thurston County banned use of neonicotinoid insecticides on property the county manages and owns. Other countries have done likewise. What scientific basis underlies understanding of die-off? Is there a role for legislation? Staff will update committee members and draft legislation if directed.

---

### **Committee Meeting Schedule – 2015 Interim**

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7411*

2 interim meetings Date/Time TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
Date TBA Time TBA	Full Committee Tour/Briefing	Skagit County, WA	Water law CLE/Tour of Skagit County.
November 19-20 Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.

# Senate Commerce & Labor Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2015 Interim

[INFORMATION TO FOLLOW AT THE CONCLUSION OF SESSION.]

### Committee Meeting Schedule – 2015 Interim

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7426*

Date TBA	Full Committee	Eastern WA	Agenda items to be announced.
Time TBA	Work Session	(specific location TBA)	

---

Date TBA	Full Committee	Eastern WA	Agenda items to be announced.
Time TBA	Work Session	(specific location TBA)	

---

# Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2015 Interim

### Other Projects:

**PROJECT:** Joint Select Committee on Article IX Litigation

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Susan Mielke/Lorrell Noahr/Steve Jones  
786-7422/786-7708/786-7440

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 2261 \(2009\)](#), [SHB 2776 \(2010\)](#), [HCR 4410 \(2012\)](#)  
[Joint Select Committee on Article IX Litigation website](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Washington State Supreme Court issued its decision in *McCleary v. State*, on January 5, 2012. The Court found that the State failed to meet its paramount constitutional duty to fully fund a program of basic education. The Court retained jurisdiction to monitor the Legislature's compliance with its constitutional duty. The Legislature created the Joint Select Committee on Article IX Litigation to facilitate communication with the Washington Supreme Court on school funding. In July 2012 the Court directed the Joint Select Committee to report annually following enactment of each operating budget, summarizing the legislative actions taken to implement educational funding reforms and achieve compliance with Article IX of the state Constitution. To date, the Legislature has filed three progress reports with the Supreme Court. (August 29, 2013; September 17, 2012; and April 29, 2014).

Committee staff will provide support to the Joint Select Committee and assist with the report as directed by members of the Joint Select Committee.

---

**PROJECT:** Education Accountability System Oversight Committee

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Susan Mielke  
786-7422

**REFERENCES:** [E2SSB 5329 \(2013\)](#)  
[Education Accountability System Oversight Committee website](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Education Accountability System Oversight Committee (Oversight Committee) was established in the 2013 legislative session to provide ongoing monitoring of the outcomes of the comprehensive system of recognition, support, and intervention for schools and school districts; make recommendations for changes to accountability system, if necessary; and report biennially to the Education Committees of the Legislature. The Committee is composed of four members of the Senate, four members of the House of Representatives, two members appointed by the Governor; and one non-legislative member of the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee. The Committee met once during the 2014 interim but did not submit a report.

Committee staff will provide support to the Oversight Committee, including at meetings and assisting in drafting the report, as necessary.

**PROJECT:** Quality Education Council

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Susan Mielke  
786-7422

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 2261 \(2009\)](#)  
QEC website: <http://www.k12.wa.us/QEC/>

**DESCRIPTION:** The Quality Education Council (QEC) was created in statute in 2009 to recommend and inform the ongoing implementation by the Legislature of an evolving program of basic education and funding for it; and develop goals and priorities for a 10-year period for the educational system. The Council is composed of eight legislators, four educational agency representatives (Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Board of Education, Professional Educator Standards Board, and Department of Early Learning), and a representative from the Office of the Governor. The Council is staffed by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and by the state entities with representatives on the Council. Senate Committee Services (SCS) and the House of Representatives Office of Program Research (OPR) may provide additional staff support. Currently a member from the Senate and a member from the House serve as co-chairs and have requested SCS and OPR staff to actively be involved in supporting the QEC.

Committee staff will actively support the QEC as directed by the co-chairs.

---

**PROJECT:** Early Learning Advisory Council

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Ailey Kato  
786-7434

**REFERENCES:** [E2SSB 5828 \(2007\)](#)  
Early Learning Advisory Council website:  
<http://www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac/Default.aspx>

**DESCRIPTION:** In 2007 the Legislature created the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC). ELAC was established to advise the Department of Early Learning (DEL) on statewide early learning issues that would build a comprehensive system of quality early learning programs and services for Washington's children and families by assessing needs and the availability of services, aligning resources, developing plans for data collection and professional development of early childhood educators, and establishing key performance measures. ELAC includes parents, child care providers, health and safety experts, legislators, representatives of Tribal Nations, independent schools, K-12 and higher education, and others who are interested in creating a statewide early learning system. ELAC meets quarterly, and it is staffed by DEL.

Committee staff will provide research and support to the legislators serving on ELAC, monitor and provide updates on progress, and draft legislation as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Equal Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Ailey Kato  
786-7434

**REFERENCES:** [2SSB 5973 \(2009\)](#)  
[Equal Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee website](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC) was created in 2009 to continue to address the achievement gap in Washington. EOGOAC must recommend specific policies and strategies in a number of areas. It also may seek input and advice from other state and local agencies and organizations. EOGOAC is composed of six legislators, representatives of the Office of the Education Ombuds and Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and five members

representing the state ethnic commissions and federally recognized tribes. EOGOAC has monthly meetings, and it is staffed by OSPI.

Committee staff will provide research and support to the legislators serving on EOGOAC, monitor and provide updates on progress, and draft legislation as requested.

---

**PROJECT:**                    **Listening Tour**

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Susan Mielke/Lorrell Noahr  
786-7422/786-7708

**REFERENCES:**            [SB 6103 \(2015\)](#), [SB 6104 \(2015\)](#), [SB 6109 \(2015\)](#), [SB 6130 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** In 2012 the Washington State Supreme Court issued its decision in *McCleary v. State*. The Court found that the State had not complied with its constitutional duty to make ample provision for the education of all children in Washington. The Court noted that the State's constitutional duty is a shared responsibility among all three branches of government as well as school districts and the citizenry of the State. The Court also provided that the State cannot discharge its constitutional funding obligations by relying on local excess levies, as they are neither dependable nor regular funding sources.

Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee members will conduct a statewide listening tour designed to hear directly from parents, teachers, taxpayers, community members, and others about their concerns and ideas for meeting the State's constitutional mandate to fund education without reliance on local levies. The listening tour meetings will be held at Educational Service Districts in order to facilitate regional input across the State.

Committee staff will provide support and assistance as directed by the Committee members and draft legislation as requested

---

### **Committee Meeting Schedule – 2015 Interim**

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7420*

November 19-20	Full Committee	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
Legislative Assembly	Work Session		

# Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2015 Interim

**PROJECT:** Chemical Policy

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Jan Odano  
786-7486

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Congress has been attempting to update and revise the Toxic Substances Control Act since 2010. In addition, several states have or are considering legislation to prohibit or restrict the use of certain chemicals. There are concerns about the impacts of individual states chemical regulation policies and coordination of these policies between states. Senate Committee staff will research and review other states' statutes and legislative proposals for consistency with Washington State legislation and track federal chemical proposals for impacts on state policies.

---

**PROJECT:** Electricity Fuel Mix Report

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** William Bridges  
786-7416

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Each retail electric utility in the state must disclose its actual or imputed annual fuel mix used to generate electricity. The disclosure must provide the percentage attributable to each of the following generation sources: coal, hydroelectric, natural gas, nuclear, or other. If a source categorized as "other" totals more than 2 percent of a utility's total mix, it must identify the component sources, which may include the following: biomass, geothermal, landfill gas, oil, solar, waste incineration, or wind. Utilities may separately report a subcategory of natural gas generation to identify high efficiency cogeneration.

Utilities that do not declare their actual sources must report the fuel mix of the Northwest power pool, called the "net system power mix." In 2013 the net system power mix contained about 44 percent coal and 34 percent hydropower, among other resources.

The Department of Commerce (Commerce) compiles fuel mix data from all retail electric utilities in the state, calculates the net system power mix, and publishes an annual fuel mix report.

Several utilities have expressed concerns about how the fuel mix report is calculated. For example, renewable electricity from which renewable energy credits have been separated is assigned the net system power mix, which means wind power could be treated as 44 percent coal.

In order to gain a better understanding of how the fuel mix report is compiled and used, the committee will hold a work session on this topic during the interim. Committee staff will plan the meeting and assist in the preparation of any draft legislation as directed.

---

**PROJECT:** Legislative Joint Select Task Force on Nuclear Energy

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 1, 2017

**STAFF:** William Bridges  
786-7416

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 6052 \(2015\)](#)  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/NEJSTF/Pages/default.aspx>

**DESCRIPTION:** The 2013-15 supplemental operating budget, ESSB 6002 (2014), created the Joint Select Task Force on Nuclear Energy to study the generation of nuclear energy in the region. Appointments to the eight-member taskforce task force were completed in May 2014, and the first meeting of the task force was on July 9, 2014, in Olympia, Washington. The second meeting of the task force was on September 25, 2014, in Pasco, Washington. The task force toured the NuScale Power facilities in Corvallis, Oregon on November 7, 2014. The final meeting of the task force will be held on December 3, 2014, in Olympia, Washington.

A final report was issued on December 15, 2014, that recommended the legislature continue the Joint Select Task Force on Nuclear Energy, and that the chair and vice chair of the task force work with task force members during the session to draft a new budget proviso. If renewed, the task force will have a heightened focus on issues specified in the report, such as the life cycle cost of small modular reactors (SMRs), and the potential of manufacturing SMRs in the state using existing assets (e.g. companies, sites, and work-force resources).

If the task force is renewed, Senate committee staff will help plan the meetings and assist in the preparation of any findings and recommendations.

---

### Committee Meeting Schedule – 2015 Interim

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7406*

September Time TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Location to be announced.	Telecom issues.
October Time TBA	Full Committee Jt. w/House Environment Committee Work Session	Location to be announced.	International transport of oil.
October Time TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Walla Walla, WA	I-937 and visit of remedial cleanup sites.
November 19-20 Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
<b>Other Meetings:</b>			
September Time TBA	Energy Supply, Jt. Committee Work Session	Spokane, WA	Colstrip.

---

# Senate Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2015 Interim

**PROJECT:** Washington Deed of Trust Act

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 1, 2015

**STAFF:** Shani Bauer  
786-7468

**REFERENCES:** [SB 5968 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** In the midst of the financial crisis, the Legislature instituted protections for homeowners subject to foreclosure in 2009 and again in 2011 as part of the Foreclosure Fairness Act. Now that the immediate crisis has passed, a review of the Deed of Trust Act is needed to ensure that it remains a safe and workable system for lenders, loan servicing companies, trustees, and borrowers. The Department of Commerce has been tasked by budget proviso with convening a workgroup of interested stakeholders to review and make recommendations for changes to the Washington Deed of Trust Act. Recommendations are to be provided to the Legislature and Governor no later than December 1, 2015. Staff will monitor the work and recommendations of the workgroup.

---

**PROJECT:** Landlord Tenant Act

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Shani Bauer  
786-7468

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** The committee heard a number of landlord tenant issues during the 2015 legislative session, including eviction records, portable screening reports, tenant late fees, and tenants at will. Further, the Uniform Law Commission continues to work on updates to the Uniform Landlord Tenant Act. Staff will monitor the work of the Uniform Law Commission, research emerging trends in areas of interest to the committee, and monitor any stakeholder activity.

---

**PROJECT:** Washington Small Business Marketplace

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Susan Jones  
786-7404

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 5826 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Under ESSB 5826 (C 296 L 15), the Department of Commerce must contract with a private sector entity to implement the Washington Small Business Marketplace (Marketplace) that (1) connects eligible employers with qualifying plans; (2) establishes a protocol for approving financial services firms; (3) develops a website and marketing materials; and (4) promotes tax credits and retirement savings benefits. Proposed rules for the Marketplace are required by December 31 of the year prior to implementation. SCS staff will closely monitor the progress of implementation of the Marketplace and any proposed rules.

---

## **Committee Meeting Schedule – 2015 Interim**

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7409*

November 19 -20	Full Committee	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
Legislative Assembly	Work Session		

---

## **Senate Government Operations & Security Committee Work Plan Summary – 2015 Interim**

**PROJECT:**                   **The Impact of Indian Tribes in Washington and the Government to Government Relationship between Tribes and the State**

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Sam Thompson/Karen Epps  
786-7413/786-7424

**REFERENCES:**           [SB 5811 \(2015\)](#), [ESHB 1287 \(2014\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Washington has 29 federally recognized Indian tribes with a combined population of 61,000 enrolled members. Tribes exercise significant independent sovereign authority. This is particularly the case in "Indian country," a term defined in Federal law to include reservations and certain off reservation land held in trust by the U.S. government for tribes and tribal members. ESHB 1287, passed in 2014, exempted non-trust tribal property used for commercial activities from state and local property tax, and instead required payment in lieu of tax, but the King County Superior Court ruled that the payment in lieu of tax violated the state's constitution. Committee staff will review the impacts of tribes on Washington and will monitor the litigation. Additionally, committee staff will plan and coordinate a Committee meeting and tour on this topic. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

---

**PROJECT:**                   **Growth Management Act and Its Impacts on Housing**

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Karen Epps  
786-7424

**REFERENCES:**           [SSB 5604 \(2015\)](#), [EHB 1123 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Growth Management Act (GMA), enacted in 1990 and 1991, is the comprehensive land use planning framework for counties and cities in Washington. GMA establishes land use designation and environmental protection requirements for all Washington counties and cities, and a significantly wider array of planning duties for the 28 counties and the cities within them that fully plan under GMA. The GMA establishes 14 planning goals used for guiding the development and adoption of comprehensive plans and development regulations. Examples include the following:

- urban growth - encouraging development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner;
- reduce sprawl - reducing the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development; and
- housing - encouraging the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population, promoting a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encouraging preservation of existing housing stock.

Committee staff will review GMA's impacts on urban growth, sprawl, and housing availability in urban and rural communities. Committee staff will plan and coordinate a work session on the GMA and its impacts on housing and draft legislation as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Volunteer Firefighters

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Sam Brown  
786-7470

**REFERENCES:** [SHB 1382 \(2015\)](#), [SSB 5455 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Roughly two-thirds of Washington's firefighters are volunteers, rather than professional firefighters. In 2015 the Legislature passed SHB 1382, clarifying that fire agencies with high proportions of volunteer firefighters receive top priority for training at the Washington State Fire Training Academy. However, there is concern about the impacts of career and financial demands on the willingness of volunteer firefighters to continue to serve. Property tax incentives and the use of fire benefit charges have been suggested as ways to encourage Washingtonians to volunteer to serve as firefighters. Committee staff will work with stakeholders to examine any possible legislative proposals aimed at retaining and expanding the volunteer firefighter workforce, and draft any legislation as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Individual Emergency Preparedness

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Sam Brown  
786-7470

**REFERENCES:** [HB 1389 \(2015\)](#), [SB 5181 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The importance of preparing for disasters is universal. There are actions that should be taken before, during and after a disaster, including assembling a disaster supplies kit and developing a family emergency plan. A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items households may need in an emergency. A family emergency plan should address how to get to a safe place; how to contact one another; and how to get back together. Local government emergency management programs have plans in place to notify their community about a disaster. Local programs, such as the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program, educate people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and train them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Committee staff will plan and coordinate a Committee meeting on individual emergency preparedness. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** State Emergency Preparedness - Readiness for Responding to Natural Disasters and Other Threats

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Sam Brown/Karen Epps  
786-7470/786-7424

**REFERENCES:** [HB 1389 \(2015\)](#), [SB 5181 \(2015\)](#), [HB 1047 \(2015\)](#), [SB 5020 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Military Department administers the state's comprehensive emergency management program. The Military Department's Emergency Management Division (EMD) notifies and alerts state agencies and local governments of impending emergencies and disasters. During state emergencies, EMD manages the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on Camp Murray and coordinates the response to ensure help is provided to those who need it quickly and effectively. The EOC is the central location for information gathering, disaster analysis, and response coordination. Committee staff will plan and coordinate a Committee meeting on emergency preparedness and a tour of facilities at Camp Murray. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Sam Brown/Karen Epps  
786-7470/786-7424

**REFERENCES:** [RCW 73.04.150](#), [Committee Webpage](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Joint Committee for Veterans' and Military Affairs (JCVMA) is a bi-partisan committee formed for the purpose of studying and exploring veterans' and military issues. The JCVMA is comprised of 16 members from the House of Representative and the Senate empowered to study and make recommendations to the Legislature on veterans' issues, active military forces issues, and National Guard and Reserve component issues. Committee staff will work with House staff and schedule public hearings, work sessions, and tours for the JCVMA. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Public Records Exemptions Accountability Committee (Sunshine Committee)

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Sam Brown  
786-7470

**REFERENCES:** [RCW 42.56.140](#), [Committee Webpage](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Sunshine Committee is a 13-member committee created in 2007 to review all public records exemptions. The Sunshine Committee makes annual recommendations to the Legislature on whether to maintain, modify, or terminate each exemption. The Sunshine Committee will hold meetings in May, August, and October of 2015. Committee staff will review the work of the Sunshine Committee from previous years, its progress since its inception, and monitor the Sunshine Committee meetings during the interim. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

---

### Committee Meeting Schedule – 2015 Interim

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7447*

Date TBA Time TBA	Full Committee Tour/Briefing	Location to be announced.	The Impacts of Indian Tribes in Washington.
Date TBA Time TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Location to be announced.	1. Growth Management Act. 2. Additional agenda items to be announced.
Date TBA Time TBA	Full Committee Work Session/ Possible Tour	Location to be announced.	1. Volunteer Firefighters and Individual Emergency Preparedness. 2. Additional agenda items to be announced.

---

Date TBA Time TBA	Full Committee (possibly Joint with House General Government & Information Technology)  Work Session/Tour	Seattle, WA & Camp Murray	Emergency Preparedness – readiness for responding to natural disasters and other threats.
----------------------	---	------------------------------	---

November 19-20 Legislative Assembly	Full Committee  Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
--	------------------------------------	-------------	-------------------------------

**Other Meetings:**

Date TBA Time TBA	Veteran’s & Military Affairs, Jt. Committee	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
----------------------	--	------------------------------	-------------------------------

Date TBA Time TBA	Veteran’s & Military Affairs, Jt. Committee	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
----------------------	--	------------------------------	-------------------------------

Date TBA Time TBA	Veteran’s & Military Affairs, Jt. Committee	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
----------------------	--	------------------------------	-------------------------------

Date TBA Time TBA	Veteran’s & Military Affairs, Jt. Committee	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
----------------------	--	------------------------------	-------------------------------

May 19 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Public Records Exemptions Accountability Committee	Olympia, WA	Agenda available on the committee webpage: <a href="http://www.atg.wa.gov/sunshine-committee">http://www.atg.wa.gov/sunshine- committee.</a>
------------------------------------	---	-------------	--

August 18 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Public Records Exemptions Accountability Committee	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
---------------------------------------	---	-------------	-------------------------------

October 20 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Public Records Exemptions Accountability Committee	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
--	---	-------------	-------------------------------

# Senate Health Care Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2015 Interim

### Other Projects:

**PROJECT:** Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Mich'I Needham/Kathy Buchli/Evan Klein  
786-7442/786-7488/786-7483

**REFERENCES:** [E2SHB 2572 - SEC. 3 \(2014\)](#)  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/HCOJSC/Pages/default.aspx>

**DESCRIPTION:** Several agencies and entities have a role in implementing health care policy in Washington, including the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, the Department of Health, the Department of Social and Health Services, the Health Care Authority, and the Health Benefit Exchange. The Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight will provide oversight between these agencies and organizations. This oversight will include monitoring of each entity's activities to ensure they are not duplicating their efforts and are working towards a goal of increased quality of service.

---

**PROJECT:** Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 15, 2015

**STAFF:** Kevin Black/Sandy Stith/Travis Sugarman  
786-7747/786-7710/786-7446

**REFERENCES:** [2SSB 6312 \(2014\)](#), [2SSB 5732 \(2013\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** 2SSB 6312 established a task force to conduct a two year, system-wide review of adult behavioral health, engage stakeholders, and make recommendations to ensure the successful integration of health care, mental health, and chemical dependency into a managed health care system.

The task force is charged with making recommendations on the following topics related to behavioral health purchasing and service delivery:

1. Provide guidance for creation of common regional service areas for medical and behavioral health purchasing.
2. Oversee integration of chemical dependency purchasing with managed care contracts.
3. Provide recommendations for full integration of behavioral health and medical services in Washington by 2020 or by 2016 in 'early adopter' regions.
4. Review performance measures for client outcomes developed by DSHS/HCA steering committee pursuant to 2SSB 5732 (2013) and ESHB 1519 (2013).
5. Review of public safety practices concerning persons with behavioral health disorders and forensic involvement.
6. Recommend whether a statewide behavioral health ombudsman should be created.
7. Review the crisis mental health system.

The task force produced a preliminary report in December 2014, and is charged with delivering a final report on December 15, 2015. The task force consists of eleven voting members including four legislative members; three executive branch members; three county members; and one tribal member.

The task force anticipates holding four all-day meetings, split between Olympia and Burien, which includes a working lunch meeting for task force members and staff. Staff support for the task force will be jointly provided with the House of Representatives. Senate Health Care Committee staff will monitor and provide staff support as needed.

---

**PROJECT:** Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Aging and Disability

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2016

**STAFF:** Kathy Buchli  
786-7488

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 6052 - SEC. 206 \(2015\)](#)  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/ADJLEC/Pages/default.aspx>  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/ADJLEC/Documents/JLEC%20Final%20Report.pdf>

**DESCRIPTION:** The Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Aging and Disability Issues (Committee) was established in the 2013-15 operating budget. The Committee was charged with the responsibility to identify strategic actions to prepare for the aging of Washington's population by:

1. Establishing a profile of Washington's older population and population with disabilities and a projection of those populations through 2030;
2. Establishing an inventory of services and supports from health care and long-term services and supports;
3. Identifying budget and policy options to effectively use public resources to reduce the growth rate in-state expenditures compared to current policies;
4. Identifying strategies to better serve the health care needs of the aging population and people with disabilities and promote healthy living;
5. Identifying options for financing mechanisms for long-term care services and supports to promote additional private responsibility to meet needs for services;
6. Identifying options to promote financial security in retirement, support people staying in the workforce, and expand the availability of workplace retirement savings plans; and
7. Identifying options to help communities adapt to the aging demographic in planning for housing, land-use, and transportation.

The Committee was comprised of four members of the Senate, four members of the House of Representatives, and four members of the Executive Branch.

ESSB 6052, sec. 206 (2015) continues the Joint Legislative Executive Committee (JLEC) on Aging and Disability and adds the following members: a member from the Disability Rights Washington; a member from the Long-Term Care Ombuds; the Insurance Commissioner or his or her designee; and other agency directors or designees as necessary.

ESSB 6052 also modifies the duties of the JLEC to include requirements to:

1. Identify strategies to promote palliative care planning;
2. Identify implementation strategies for the Bree collaborative palliative care and related guidelines;
3. Review the regulation of continuing care retirement communities and ways to protect those who reside in them;
4. Identify the needs for high quality public and private guardianship services and information about assisted-decision making options;
5. Identify options for promoting client safety and protecting vulnerable adults from physical abuse and financial exploitation; and
6. Identify other policy options and recommendation to help communities plan for housing, land use, and transportation needs of the aging population.

An addendum to the interim report must be completed by December 10, 2015. And a final report must be completed by December 10, 2016.

The addendum report must include the following:

1. A description of the oversight role for Residential Care Services, the Long-Term Care Ombuds, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and Disability Rights Washington;
2. An overview of the process for reviewing and responding to findings by residential care services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services from both the provider and agency perspective;
3. A description of the process for notifying the Governor and the Legislature when problems with quality of care, client safety, or staff arise in community or institutional settings;
4. A compilation of findings since fiscal year 2010 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Residential Care Services, at Residential Habilitation Centers, nursing facilities, supported living, assisted living, group homes, companion homes, adult family homes, and all other community-based providers;
5. An annotated and detailed list of all responses to findings by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Residential Care Services, specific to audits of the nursing facility at Lakeland Village since fiscal year 2010;
6. A review of the regulation of continuing care retirement communities and ways to protect those who reside in them;
7. An identification of the needs for high quality public and private guardianship services;
8. Options for promoting client safety and protecting vulnerable adults from abuse and financial exploitation; and
9. A description of the method in place to ascertain the outcome of responses to findings.

### **Committee Meeting Schedule – 2015 Interim**

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7456*

November	Full Committee	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
Time TBA	Work Session		

November 19-20	Full Committee	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
Legislative Assembly	Work Session		

**Other Meetings:**

September	Aging and Disability, Joint Legislative Executive Committee	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
Time TBA	Work Session		

October	Aging and Disability, Joint Legislative Executive Committee	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
Time TBA	Work Session		

November Time TBA	Aging and Disability, Joint Legislative Executive Committee  Work Session	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
June 5 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force  Work Session	House Hearing Rm A J.L. O'Brien Building Olympia, WA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Staff review of task force mandates and 2014 preliminary report.</li> <li>2. Update from stakeholder work groups and recommendations for 2015.</li> <li>3. Task force discussion of 2015 work plan.</li> <li>4. Early adopter update: agency and counties.</li> <li>5. Staff report on behavioral health policy legislation.</li> <li>6. Update on Trueblood and In re D.W. lawsuits.</li> <li>7. Update on behavioral health research projects.</li> <li>8. Public comment</li> </ol>
1 additional interim meeting	Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force  Work Session	Location to be announced. Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
2 additional interim meetings	Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force  Work Session	Location to be announced. Burien, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
July 22 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Health Care Oversight, Jt. Sel. Committee  Work Session	Olympia, WA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update on the global Medicaid waiver - Health Care Authority and Department of Social and Health Services.</li> <li>2. Discussion of interim work plan.</li> </ol>
October Time TBA	Health Care Oversight, Jt. Sel. Committee  Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.

December  
Time TBA

Health Care Oversight, Olympia, WA  
Jt. Sel. Committee  
Work Session

Agenda items to be announced.

---

# Senate Higher Education Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2015 Interim

### Other Projects:

**PROJECT:** Joint Higher Education Committee

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Kim Cushing/Evan Klein  
786-7421/786-7483

**REFERENCES:** [E2SHB 2483 \(2012\)](#)  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/HIEJC/Pages/default.aspx>

**DESCRIPTION:** In 2012 the Legislature established the Joint Higher Education Committee (Committee) to review the work of the Student Achievement Council (Council) and provide legislative feedback; engage with the Council and the higher education community to create greater communication, coordination, and alignment between the higher education system and expectations of the Legislature; and provide recommendations for higher education policy, including proposed legislation, to the higher education and fiscal committees of the Legislature. The Committee consists of four senators (two from each caucus) and four representatives (two from each caucus).

The Committee must meet twice annually and is staffed by Senate Committee Services (SCS) and the House of Representatives Office of Program Research. SCS staff will provide research and support to the senators and draft legislation as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Task Force on Campus Sexual Violence Prevention

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 31, 2015

**STAFF:** Evan Klein  
786-7483

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5719 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** During the 2015 legislative session, the Legislature established the Task Force on Campus Sexual Violence Prevention to develop best practices and recommendations for improving campus sexual violence policies at Washington institutions of higher education. The task force must develop best practices for promoting awareness of campus sexual violence, recommendations for improving institutional campus sexual violence policies, and recommendations for improving collaboration between institutions of higher education and law enforcement. The task force must report its goals and recommendations to the Legislature and the institutions of higher education by December 31.

The 12-member task force will include representatives from the higher education sector, Title IX coordinators from the four-year institutions, law enforcement, and the nonprofit community. Staff will attend task force meetings and provide reports back to legislators. Staff will draft legislation as directed.

---

**PROJECT:** Task Force on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 31, 2015

**STAFF:** Kim Cushing  
786-7421

**REFERENCES:** [SHB 1138 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** During the 2015 session, the Legislature directed Forefront at the University of Washington to convene the Task Force on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. Membership of the task force includes appointees from agencies, organizations, and institutions of higher education. The task force, along with public and private institutions of higher education, must collect data related to mental health services, suicide prevention and response, and deaths by suicide. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by November 1, 2016.

Committee staff will attend task force meetings, provide updates to the committee, and draft legislation as directed.

---

### Committee Meeting Schedule – 2015 Interim

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7415*

October 14-15	Full Committee Tour/Briefing	Washington State University, Pullman and Spokane, WA	University campus tour: main campus and River Point Campus.
November 19-20	Full Committee Legislative Assembly Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
<b>Other Meetings:</b>			
Fall Time TBA	Higher Education, Jt. Committee Work Session	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.

---

# Senate Human Services, Mental Health & Housing Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2015 Interim

**PROJECT:** Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 15, 2015

**STAFF:** Kevin Black/Sandy Stith/Travis Sugarman  
786-7747/786-7710/786-7446

**REFERENCES:** [2SSB 6312 \(2014\)](#), [2SSB 5732 \(2013\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** 2SSB 6312 established a task force to conduct a two year, system-wide review of adult behavioral health, engage stakeholders, and make recommendations to ensure the successful integration of health care, mental health, and chemical dependency into a managed health care system.

The task force is charged with making recommendations on the following topics related to behavioral health purchasing and service delivery:

1. Provide guidance for creation of common regional service areas for medical and behavioral health purchasing.
2. Oversee integration of chemical dependency purchasing with managed care contracts.
3. Provide recommendations for full integration of behavioral health and medical services in Washington by 2020 or by 2016 in 'early adopter' regions.
4. Review performance measures for client outcomes developed by DSHS/HCA steering committee pursuant to 2SSB 5732 (2013) and ESHB 1519 (2013).
5. Review of public safety practices concerning persons with behavioral health disorders and forensic involvement.
6. Recommend whether a statewide behavioral health ombudsman should be created.
7. Review the crisis mental health system.

The task force produced a preliminary report in December 2014, and is charged with delivering a final report on December 15, 2015. The task force consists of eleven voting members including four legislative members; three executive branch members; three county members; and one tribal member.

The task force anticipates holding four all-day meetings, split between Olympia and Burien, which includes a working lunch meeting for task force members and staff. Staff support for the task force will be jointly provided with the House of Representatives. Senate staff from the Human Services, Mental Health, and Housing and Senate Ways and Means Committees will provide staff support for this task force.

---

**PROJECT:** Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Task Force

**COMPLETION DATE:** On-going

**STAFF:** Alison Mendiola/Breann Boggs  
786-7444/786-7433

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 5921 \(2011\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** ESSB 5921 (2011) created the Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Task Force to oversee the partner agencies' implementation of the redesign of the WorkFirst program and operation of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to assure that the programs are achieving desired outcomes for their clients. The task force also has responsibility for determining evidence-based outcome measures and developing accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients. The task force must make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature in a variety of areas as well. Human Services, Mental Health & Housing, Ways and Means, House OPR staff and executive agency staff will provide support to the task force.

---

**PROJECT:** Root Causes of Poverty

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Alison Mendiola/Lindsay Erickson  
786-7444/786-7465

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** The committee will conduct a joint work session with the Accountability and Reform Committee to examine root causes of poverty in Washington and the effectiveness of state-administered programs in addressing root causes of poverty. Committee staff will draft legislation, as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Foster Care Recruitment and Retention

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Alison Mendiola/Lindsay Erickson  
786-7444/786-7465

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** The committee will conduct at least one work session to explore the issues relating to foster care recruitment and retention including a discussion of any existing barriers and suggestions for improving the current process. Committee staff will draft legislation, as requested.

---

### Committee Meeting Schedule – 2015 Interim

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7414*

Date TBA Time TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia, WA	Foster care family recruitment and retention.
November 19-20 Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
Date TBA Time TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.

---

Date TBA Time TBA	Full Committee, Jt. w/ Gov't & Accountability & Reform  Work Session	Olympia, WA	Root causes of poverty.
----------------------	--	-------------	-------------------------

---

**Other Meetings:**

June 5 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force  Work Session	House Hearing Rm A J.L. O'Brien Building Olympia, WA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Staff review of task force mandates and 2014 preliminary report.</li> <li>2. Update from stakeholder work groups and recommendations for 2015.</li> <li>3. Task force discussion of 2015 work plan.</li> <li>4. Early adopter update: agency and counties.</li> <li>5. Staff report on behavioral health policy legislation.</li> <li>6. Update on Trueblood and In re D.W. lawsuits.</li> <li>7. Update on behavioral health research projects.</li> <li>8. Public comment.</li> </ol>
------------------------------------	---	--	---

---

July 24 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force  Work Session	Navos Mental Health and Wellness Center Revelle Hall Burien, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
-------------------------------------	---	--	-------------------------------

---

Oct. 16	Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force  Work Session	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
---------	---	------------------------------	-------------------------------

---

Nov. 16	Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force  Work Session	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
---------	---	------------------------------	-------------------------------

---

Dec. 4 (tentative)	Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force  Work Session	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
--------------------	---	------------------------------	-------------------------------

---

# Senate Law & Justice Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2015 Interim

**PROJECT:** Collaborative Law

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Tim Ford  
786-7423

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Collaborative participants agree to work together outside of court. Instead of working to uncover evidence, collaborative participants agree to provide each other with all relevant information. Instead of focusing on what is wrong with the other person, collaborative professionals and participants work as a team to resolve the issues. While collaborative practice can be used in a wide variety of areas such as probate and employment law, it is most often used in divorce and family law issues. Staff will survey the use of collaborative law in the 50 states. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Mental Health Sentencing Alternatives

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Melissa Burke-Cain  
786-7755

**REFERENCES:** [SB 5925 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** While law enforcement, criminal justice and correctional officials increasingly recognize the need to work closely with mental health, substance abuse, and social service practitioners to address the special needs of people with mental illnesses and co-occurring disorders, obtaining the necessary resources remains a challenge. Modeled after drug courts and developed in response to the overrepresentation of people with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system, mental health courts divert select defendants with mental illnesses into judicially supervised, community-based treatment. Ten Washington counties have Mental Health Courts. SB 5925 was introduced in 2015. The bill provided that if a defendant is charged with a non-felony offense, and the issue of competency to stand trial was raised by the court or a party, the prosecutor may dismiss the charges without prejudice and refer the defendant for assessment by a mental health professional, chemical dependency professional, or developmental disabilities professional to determine the appropriate service needs of the defendant. Staff will survey the counties with Mental Health Courts, the Department of Corrections and each of the other counties to determine how offenders with mental health issues are addressed. Staff will also survey other states to determine how they are addressing issues surrounding offenders with mental health issues. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Human Trafficking Training and Reporting Act Monitoring

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Melissa Burke-Cain  
786-7755

**REFERENCES:** [SB 5933 \(2015\)](#), [SB 5884 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** SB 5933 was enacted in 2015 and directed that the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA) at the Department of Commerce to establish a statewide coordinated training program for criminal justice personnel on Washington's human trafficking laws. The OCVA provides a biennial report to legislative policy committees working on human trafficking issues about the training and its effectiveness. Additionally, SB 5884 created the Washington State clearinghouse on human trafficking as an information portal to share and coordinate statewide efforts to combat the trafficking of persons. The state task force against the trafficking of persons was also extended for two years. Staff will monitor the work of the Department of Commerce and the

task force and work with legislators and interested parties to identify remaining issues and options to address them. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Eminent Domain

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Tim Ford  
786-7423

**REFERENCES:** [SB 5188 \(2015\)](#), [SB 5189 \(2015\)](#), [SB 5363 \(2015\)](#), [SB 5809 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Eminent domain is the sovereign power of the state to take private property for public uses. A condemnation is the judicial proceeding used for the exercise of eminent domain. The state Constitution limits this power, "Private property shall not be taken for private use . . . No private property shall be taken or damaged for public or private use without just compensation having first been made . . ." Washington state Constitution, Article I, section 16.

There are more than 300 statutory sections in the Revised Code of Washington dealing with eminent domain powers. Some of the statutes confer eminent domain powers on entities including but not limited to state agencies, counties, cities, school districts, corporations, mosquito control districts, railroads, electrical utilities, telecommunications, gas, oil, and pipeline companies. Additionally, the Community Renewal Law allows the condemnation of blighted property for economic development. Under the Community Renewal Law a municipality is encouraged to redevelop blighted property by private enterprise and may transfer condemned property to private enterprise for that purpose. Staff will study select uses of eminent domain to identify concerns, issues, and options to address them. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Certificate of Restoration of Opportunity

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Lindsay Ericson  
786-7465

**REFERENCES:** [HB 1553 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Under current law, any state, county, city, or other municipal entity is prohibited from disqualifying a person from employment, or any occupation, trade, vocation, or business for which a state or local license, permit, certificate, or registration is required solely because of a prior conviction of a felony. However, the state, county, city, or other municipal entity may consider the fact of any prior conviction. HB 1553 (2015) would have provided that if a person obtained a certificate of restoration of opportunity (CROP), no state, county, or municipal department, board, officer, or agency authorized to assess the qualifications of any applicant for a license, certificate of authority, qualification to engage in the practice of a profession or business, or for admission to an examination to qualify for such a license or certificate may disqualify a qualified applicant, solely based on the applicant's criminal history, if the applicant met all other statutory and regulatory requirements. Staff will work with legislators and interested parties to identify remaining issues and options to address them. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Uniform Power of Attorney Act

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Melissa Burke-Cain  
786-7755

**REFERENCES:** [SB 5635 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** SB 5635 was introduced in 2015 as request legislation proposed by the Washington Uniform Law Commission. The Act attempted to provide for a simpler way for people to deal with their property by providing a power of attorney in case of future incapacity. While chiefly a set of default rules, the Act also contained safeguards for the protection of an incapacitated principal. Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii,

Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin have adopted the Act. Staff will work with legislators and interested parties to identify remaining issues and options to address them. Legislation will be drafted as requested

---

**PROJECT:** Property Offenses

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Lindsay Erickson  
786-7465

**REFERENCES:** [SB 5503 \(2015\)](#), [SB 5755 \(2015\)](#), [HB 1885 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The frequency of property crimes in Washington remains an issue. SB 5503 (2015) attempted to address the issue by providing a special allegation and sentence enhancement to get career property offenders off the street. Other legislation proposed the creation of a new felony property offense sentencing grid with reduced standard ranges and imposing 12 months of community custody for a felony property offense when the offender has an offender score of two or more. Staff will survey other states to determine how they address the issue of career property offenders. Staff will work with legislators and interested parties to identify remaining issues and options to address them. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

---

### Committee Meeting Schedule – 2015 Interim

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7455*

September 24 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Full Committee Work Session	University of Washington - School of Law, Room 138	Agenda items to be announced.
October 22 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Full Committee Work Session	Walla Walla University, Alumni Board Room	Agenda items to be announced.
November 19 - 20 Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
November 30 Time TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Federal Way, WA	Agenda items to be announced.

# Senate Natural Resources & Parks Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2015 Interim

**PROJECT:** Wildland Fire Prevention and Suppression Efforts

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Bonnie Kim  
786-7316

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 2093 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** In 2015 the Legislature passed ESHB 2093 which created a local wildland fire liaison position to represent landowners during Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fire suppression activities; advise the Commissioner of Public Lands on local fire protection resources; and chair a newly created Wildland Fire Advisory Committee. The bill also directed DNR to compile an annual master list of qualified fire suppression contractors with valid incident qualifications and enter into preemptive agreements with landowners with firefighting capability to assist in wildland fire suppression efforts. Senate committee staff will monitor the implementation of ESHB 2093 and the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee, and provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Wolf Conservation and Management

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Curt Gavigan  
786-7437

**REFERENCES:** [SHB 2107 \(2015\)](#), [SB 5960 \(2015\)](#), [SB 5963 \(2015\)](#), [SB 5938 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Gray wolves are currently endangered under federal law in approximately the western two-thirds of the state, with the species having been federally delisted in the eastern one-third in 2011. Wolves are classified under state law as an endangered species throughout the state. In 2015 the Legislature considered a number of bills dealing with wolf conservation and management including: Creating a process to change the current Wolf Conservation and Management Plan; establishing criteria for the lethal management of wolves; and partially delisting wolves under state law. Senate committee staff will monitor continuing agency and stakeholder dialog on these issues, and provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** State Lands Management and Funding

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Curt Gavigan  
786-7437

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5405 \(2015\)](#), [SB 5750 \(2015\)](#), [SB 5769 \(2015\)](#), [SB 5872 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** State agencies manage a significant number of acres in Washington consisting of a number of different use categories including federally granted trust lands, fish and wildlife habitat lands, and recreation and park lands. In 2015 the Legislature considered a number of bills dealing with state land management on issues such as: payments in lieu of property taxes for state lands; noxious weed control on state lands; and the potential transfer of some federal lands to state management. Senate committee staff will monitor continuing agency and stakeholder dialog on these issues, and provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.

---

## **Committee Meeting Schedule – 2015 Interim**

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7419*

November 19-20 Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
--	--------------------------------	-------------	-------------------------------

---

Up to 3 additional interim meetings/tours Date/Time TBA	Full Committee Public Hearing and/or Tours/Briefings	Locations to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
---	--	-------------------------------	-------------------------------

---

# Senate Trade & Economic Development Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2015 Interim

**PROJECT:** Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council Permitting Process Review

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Jeff Olsen  
786-7428

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Before an energy facility can be sited in Washington, the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council must review and approve the project. The process for reviewing and certifying a project involves several steps including application submittal, application review, initial public hearings, environmental impact statement, adjudicative proceedings and permit review, and recommendations to the Governor. At the end of the process, the Governor has 60 days to consider the recommendations and either approve the recommendation, reject the application, or direct the Council to reconsider certain aspects of the project. Approval for certain projects may take from several months to several years. The Committee will hold a work session on the permitting process and review other permitting processes, such as Projects of Statewide Significance, to look for opportunities to improve or streamline processes.

---

**PROJECT:** Business and Occupation Tax Reform

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Jeff Olsen  
786-7428

**REFERENCES:** [SB 5043](#), [SB 5112](#), [SB 5230](#), [SB 5339](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Business and Occupation tax is levied on businesses based on their gross business income. During the 2014 session, legislation providing tax relief for new businesses was discussed, along with potential reforms to the Business and Occupation tax. Staff will continue to work with stakeholders to evaluate reform options to the Business and Occupation tax to promote business investments, create jobs, new business creation, and business and job retention. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

---

**PROJECT:** Export of Agricultural Products

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Jeff Olsen  
786-7428

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Washington is one of the most trade dependent states, and trade in agricultural products is the state's second largest export category. Access to markets is a critical link in trade, and the Committee will review the export of Washington agricultural goods, including the modes of export and the destinations, to evaluate ways to improve the export of Washington products.

---

## Committee Meeting Schedule – 2015 Interim

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7408*

November 19-20 Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia, WA	1. Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council Review. 2. Business and Occupation Tax Reform
--	--------------------------------	-------------	---

---

### Other Meetings:

At least 4 meetings Date/Time TBA	Maritime and Manufacturing Joint Legislative Task Force  Public Hearing/Work Session	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
--------------------------------------	---	------------------------------	-------------------------------

---

Date TBA Time TBA	Full Committee Work Session/Tour	Eastern Washington, TBA	Export of Agricultural Products.
----------------------	-------------------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------------

---

# Senate Transportation Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2015 Interim

**PROJECT:** 2015 Legislative Budget Notes

**COMPLETION DATE:** Fall 2015

**STAFF:** David Ward  
786-7341

**REFERENCES:** [http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/index\\_lbns.asp](http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/index_lbns.asp)

**DESCRIPTION:** Legislative fiscal staff in the Senate and House will work together with the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee staff to publish the Legislative Budget Notes (LBN) in the fall of 2015. The LBN 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 documents.

---

**PROJECT:** 2015 Transportation Studies

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Transportation Committee Staff  
786-7300

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will monitor and assist with transportation-related studies enacted in the 2015-2017 transportation budget and other transportation legislation, where applicable.

---

**PROJECT:** Study of Washington State Patrol Trooper Recruitment and Retention

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 14, 2015

**STAFF:** Amanda Cecil  
786-7429

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 1299 - SEC. 204\(1\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will participate in a study that is being overseen by the Joint Transportation Committee, of trooper recruitment and retention issues, in order to identify potential barriers to effective recruitment of cadets, and the retention of troopers of various levels of tenure. The study will provide recommendations on how best to attract and retain the highest quality trooper workforce.

---

**PROJECT:** Study of Weigh Station Planning, Placement, and Operations

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 14, 2015

**STAFF:** Amanda Cecil  
786-7429

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 1299 - SEC. 204\(2\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will participate in a study that is being overseen by the Joint Transportation Committee, of weigh station planning, placement, and operations by the Washington State Patrol and the Washington State Department of Transportation. The goal is to evaluate the system's efficiency in managing operations and capital assets, and its effectiveness in achieving road preservation, traffic safety, and freight mobility goals.

---

**PROJECT: Study on Minority and Women-Owned Business Contracting in the Transportation Sector**

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Clint McCarthy  
786-7319

**REFERENCES:** [2ESSB 5988, SEC. 201\(2\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Joint Transportation Committee has been directed to study the issues surrounding minority and women-owned business contracting related to the transportation sector. The study will be focused on identifying best practices adopted in other states that encourage participation by minority and women owned businesses. Once the study has been concluded, the Joint Transportation Committee may form a legislative task force to help inform the Legislature of any best practices identified in other states. Committee staff will monitor the progress of the study and draft related legislation as directed.

---

**PROJECT: Design Build Contracting Review Study**

**COMPLETION DATE:**

**STAFF:** Kim Johnson  
786-7472

**REFERENCES:** [2ESSB 5997-SEC. 3 \(2015\)](#), [2ESSB 5988-SEC. 201 \(2015\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Legislature directed the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) to conduct a design-build contracting review study to examine the Washington State Department of Transportation's implementation and use of design-build contracting. The JTC must convene an expert panel comprised of certain stakeholders to assist in the study. The panel must report to the Legislature and the Governor by December 1, 2016. Staff will monitor the study's progress and will draft any legislation as requested.

---

**PROJECT: Study of Road-Rail Conflicts in Cities**

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015/2016

**STAFF:** Hayley Gamble  
786-7452

**REFERENCES:** [2ESHB 1299, SEC. 204\(3\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The 2015-17 Omnibus Transportation Budget funded a Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) study of road-rail conflicts in cities, with a goal of recommending a corridor-based process to prioritize projects addressing the impacts of increased rail traffic. The study must also consider "the critical role of freight movement to the Washington economy and the state's competitiveness in world trade." As such, the JTC study must use the results of a study to be conducted in 2015 by the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB) of freight infrastructure needs, including an update of long-term marine cargo forecast. The FMSIB study is due December 1, 2015. A final JTC report is due on December 1, 2016. Committee Staff will work with JTC and FMSIB Staff and other stakeholders on both reports, and draft any relevant legislation if required.

---

**Committee Meeting Schedule – 2015 Interim**

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7300*

November 19-20	Full Committee	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
Legislative Assembly	Work Session		

---

# Senate Ways & Means Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2015 Interim

**PROJECT:** 2016 Citizen's Guide to the State Budget

**COMPLETION DATE:** January 2016

**STAFF:** Kellee Keegan  
786-7716

**REFERENCES:** <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/WM/>

**DESCRIPTION:** The Senate Ways & Means Committee and Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee will publish an updated version of the Citizen's Guide to the Budget for the 2016 legislative session. The guide is published on an annual basis for use by members, legislative staff, and the general public to answer basic questions about the Washington State biennial budget. The guide will be published at the start of the 2016 legislative session and will be available with the committee, as well as online.

---

**PROJECT:** 2016 Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance

**COMPLETION DATE:** January 2016

**STAFF:** Lorrell Noahr  
786-7708

**REFERENCES:** <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/WM/>

**DESCRIPTION:** The Ways & Means and Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee will update the Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance. This document serves as a resource for members, legislative staff, and the general public. The document focuses on frequently asked questions regarding K-12 finance.

---

**PROJECT:** Local Government Distributions

**COMPLETION DATE:** October 31, 2015

**STAFF:** Julie Murray  
786-7711

**REFERENCES:** <http://fiscal.wa.gov/TaxDistributions.aspx>

**DESCRIPTION:** In the 2014 interim, staff developed a reference guide to the over \$750 million dollars in state distributions to local governments, primarily cities, and counties. This information is available at the [fiscal.wa.gov](http://fiscal.wa.gov) website. The reference guide is intended for use by members, legislative staff, local governments, and the public of state shared revenues, distributions, grants and loan programs that benefit local governments. Staff will continue working with the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program to develop even more complete information on the variety of difference form of assistance to local governments, better search capabilities, and mapping tools.

---

**PROJECT:** 2016 Legislative Guide to Washington State Property Taxes

**COMPLETION DATE:** January 2016

**STAFF:** Dean Carlson/Juliana Roe  
786-7305/786-7438

**REFERENCES:** <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/WM/>

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will update the Legislative Guide to Washington State Property Taxes to reflect recent changes. The guide serves as a resource for members, legislative staff, and the general public. It is anticipated that the guide will be published the second week of session and will be available with the committee, as well as online.

---

**PROJECT:** 2016 Legislative Guide to Washington State Taxes

**COMPLETION DATE:** January 2016

**STAFF:** Dean Carlson/Juliana Roe  
786-7305/786-7438

**REFERENCES:** <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/WM/>

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will create a Legislative Guide to Washington State Taxes. The guide will serve as an overview of Washington's full tax structure for members, legislative staff, and the general public. The guide will be published at the start of the 2016 legislative session and will be available with the committee, as well as online.

---

**PROJECT:** 2015 Legislative Budget Notes

**COMPLETION DATE:** Fall 2015

**STAFF:** Ways and Means Committee Staff  
786-7715

**REFERENCES:** [http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/index\\_lbns.asp](http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/index_lbns.asp)

**DESCRIPTION:** Legislative fiscal staff in the Senate and House will work together with the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee staff to publish the Legislative Budget Notes (LBN) in the summer of 2015. The LBN 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 documents.

---

**PROJECT:** Caseload Forecast Council Technical (Staff) Workgroups

**COMPLETION DATE:** On-going

**STAFF:** Ways and Means Committee Staff  
786-7715

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Staff will monitor changes and trends and provide input regarding caseload forecasts for entitlement programs for the public schools, medical assistance, long-term care, developmental disabilities, foster care, adoption support, general assistance, corrections, and juvenile rehabilitation. The caseload forecasts are used to develop the majority of the budgets for these programs. The workgroups meet periodically and include staff from the Senate Ways & Means Committee, House Appropriations Committee, Caseload Forecast Council, Office of Financial Management, the Department of Social and Health Services, and other caseload-driven agencies.

---

**PROJECT:** Joint Select Committee on Article IX Litigation

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Susan Mielke/Lorrell Noahr/Steve Jones  
786-7422/786-7708/786-7440

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 2261 \(2009\)](#), [SHB 2776 \(2010\)](#)  
<http://leg.wa.gov/jointcommittees/AIXLJSC/Pages/default.aspx>

**DESCRIPTION:** The Washington State Supreme Court issued its decision in *McCleary v. State*, on January 5, 2012. The Court found that the State failed to meet its paramount constitutional duty to fully fund a program of basic education. The Court retained jurisdiction to monitor the Legislature's compliance with its constitutional duty. The Legislature created the Joint Select Committee on Article IX Litigation (HCR 4410, 2012) to facilitate communication with the Washington Supreme Court on school funding. In July 2012 the Court directed the Joint Select Committee to report annually following enactment of each operating budget, summarizing the legislative actions taken to implement educational funding reforms and achieve compliance with Article IX of the state Constitution. To date, the Legislature has filed three progress reports with the Supreme Court. (August 29, 2013; September 17, 2012; and April 29, 2014). Committee staff will provide support to the Joint Select Committee and assist with the report as directed by members of the Joint Select Committee.

---

**PROJECT:** 4 Year Balanced Budget & Outlook

**COMPLETION DATE:** On-going  
Jones

**STAFF:** Richard Ramsey/Dean Carlson/Steve  
786-7715

**REFERENCES:** [CHAPTER 43.88 RCW](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Beginning with the 2013-2015 biennium, SSB 6636 (C 8 L 12) requires that budgets at time of passage be projected to be balanced for current and following biennia based on a maintenance level projection. Each November, the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (ERFC) must submit a budget outlook document for state revenues and expenditures for the General Fund and related funds for the current biennium and the next ensuing biennium. The ERFC must also prepare a budget outlook document for the Governor's proposed budget and for the budget enacted by the Legislature. To assist the council in the preparation of the state budget outlooks, a State Budget Outlook Workgroup is created, consisting of one staff person from the Office of Financial Management, the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee, the Office of the State Treasurer, the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council, the Caseload Forecast Council, the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee. Staff will participate in the workgroup and provide other kinds of technical assistance

---

**PROJECT:** Quality Education Council

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Susan Mielke/Lorrell Noahr  
786-7422/786-7708

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 2261 \(2009\)](#), QEC website: <http://www.k12.wa.us/QEC/default.aspx>.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Quality Education Council (QEC) was created in statute in 2009 to recommend and inform the ongoing implementation by the Legislature of an evolving program of basic education and funding for it; and develop goals and priorities for a 10-year period for the educational system. The Council is composed of eight legislators, four educational agency representatives (Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Board of Education, Professional Educator Standards Board, and Department of Early Learning), and a representative from the Office of the Governor. The QEC is staffed by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and by the state entities with representatives on the QEC. Senate Committee Services (SCS) and the House of Representatives Office of Program Research (OPR) may provide additional staff support. Currently a member from the Senate and a member from the House serve as co-

chairs and have requested SCS and OPR staff to actively be involved in supporting the QEC. Committee staff will actively support the QEC as directed by the co-chairs.

---

**PROJECT:**                    **Education Accountability System Oversight Committee**

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Susan Mielke/Lorrell Noahr  
786-7422/786-7708

**REFERENCES:**            [E2SSB 5329 \(2013\)](#)  
[Education Accountability System Oversight Committee website](#)

**DESCRIPTION:**        The Education Accountability System Oversight Committee (Oversight Committee) was established in the 2013 legislative session to provide ongoing monitoring of the outcomes of the comprehensive system of recognition, support, and intervention for schools and school districts; make recommendations for changes to accountability system, if necessary; and report biennially to the Education Committees of the Legislature. The Committee is composed of four members of the Senate, four members of the House of Representatives, two members appointed by the Governor; and one non-legislative member of the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee.

Staff will provide support to the Oversight Committee, including at meetings and assisting in drafting the report, as necessary.

---

**PROJECT:**                    **Early Learning Advisory Council**

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Ailey Kato/Breann Boggs  
786-7434/786-7433

**REFERENCES:**            [E2SSB 5828 \(2007\)](#), [RCW 43.215.090](#)  
Early Learning Advisory Council website:  
<http://www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac/>.

**DESCRIPTION:** In 2007 the Legislature created the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC). ELAC was established to advise the Department of Early Learning (DEL) on statewide early learning issues that would build a comprehensive system of quality early learning programs and services for Washington's children and families by assessing needs and the availability of services, aligning resources, developing plans for data collection and professional development of early childhood educators, and establishing key performance measures. ELAC includes parents, child care providers, health and safety experts, legislators, representatives of Tribal Nations, independent schools, K-12 and higher education, and others who are interested in creating a statewide early learning system. ELAC meets quarterly, and it is staffed by DEL. Committee staff will provide research and support to the legislators serving on ELAC, monitor and provide updates on progress, and draft legislation as requested.

---

**PROJECT:**                    **Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Task Force**

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Alison Mendiola/Breann Boggs  
786-7444/786-7433

**REFERENCES:**            [ESSB 5921 \(2011\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** ESSB 5921 (2011) created the Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Task Force to oversee the partner agencies' implementation of the redesign of the WorkFirst program and operation of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to assure that the programs are achieving desired outcomes for their clients. The task force also has responsibility for determining evidence-based outcome measures and developing accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients. The task force must make

recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature in a variety of areas as well. Human Services, Mental Health & Housing, Ways and Means, House Office of Program Research staff, and executive agency staff will provide support to the task force.

---

**PROJECT:**                   **Joint Higher Education Committee**

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2015

**STAFF:** Michael Bezanson  
786-7449

**REFERENCES:**           [E2SHB 2483 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** In 2012 the Legislature established the Joint Higher Education Committee (Committee) to review the work of the Student Achievement Council (Council) and provide legislative feedback; engage with the Council and the higher education community to create greater communication, coordination, and alignment between the higher education system and expectations of the Legislature; and provide recommendations for higher education policy, including proposed legislation, to the higher education and fiscal committees of the Legislature. The Committee consists of four senators (two from each caucus) and four representatives (two from each caucus).

The Committee must meet twice annually and is staffed by Senate Committee Services (SCS) and the House of Representatives Office of Program Research. SCS staff will provide research and support to the senators and draft legislation as requested.

---

**PROJECT:**                   **Legislative Advisory Committee to the Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) Committee**

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Michael Bezanson  
786-7449

**REFERENCES:**           [3ESHB 2127 \(2012\)](#), [RCW 28B.95.170](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Legislative Advisory Committee is required by law to meet at least once annually to provide advice to the GET committee and the State Actuary regarding administration of the GET Program including, but not limited to, pricing guidelines; the tuition unit price; and the unit payout value. The Legislative Advisory Committee has not met in 2015. The Legislative Advisory Committee has not scheduled a meeting at this time but will likely convene based on enacted tuition policy changes.

---

**PROJECT:**                   **Review of Long-term Economic Assumptions for State Pension Plans**

**COMPLETION DATE:** October 31, 2015

**STAFF:** Pete Cutler  
786-7474

**REFERENCES:**           [RCW 41.45.030](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** In the odd-numbered years the Pension Funding Council PFC reviews the state actuary's recommendations regarding the long-term economic assumptions used in the studies that determine the contribution rates for the state retirement systems. The PFC membership includes the chair and ranking minority member of the Senate and House operating budget committees and the directors of the Department of Retirement Systems and the Office of Financial Management. A PFC workgroup, which includes one staff member selected by the chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, provides support to the PFC.

---

**PROJECT: School Construction Assistance**

**COMPLETION DATE:** January 2016

**STAFF:** Brian Sims/Lorrell Noahr  
786-7431/786-7708

**REFERENCES:** NA  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/WM>

**DESCRIPTION:** Monitor studies regarding school construction assistance and develop options for improving the funding formulas for K-3 class-size reduction, skills centers, and assistance to modernize old schools and build new schools to accommodate enrollment growth.

---

**PROJECT: Tuition Calculation Technical Workgroup**

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 1, 2015

**STAFF:** Michael Bezanson  
786-7449

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 6052 Sec. 601 \(5\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will work with the Office of Program Research, all public higher education institutions, the Education Data Resource Center, Office of Financial Management, and the Legislative Evaluation & Accountability Program Committee to create a single tuition calculation and forecast methodology. The methodology will be the official tuition calculation used for budget, allotment, fiscal notes, and other budget modeling purposes moving forward.

---

**PROJECT: Four-Year Prioritized Capital Project List Technical Workgroup**

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 15, 2015

**STAFF:** Michael Bezanson  
786-7449

**REFERENCES:** [2EHB 1115 Sec. 7040](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will work with staff from the Office of Program Research, Office of Financial Management, four-year public higher education institutions, and the Council of Presidents to report options and alternatives that aim to better align the current four-year process to budget decisions.

---

### **Committee Meeting Schedule – 2015 Interim**

*For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7715*

[INFORMATION TO FOLLOW AT THE CONCLUSION OF SESSION.]

## **Additional Electronic Resources**

Senate Website: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate>

Senate Committee Services Website:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/SENATE/COMMITTEES/Pages/default.aspx>

Bills Passed During the 2015 Regular Legislative Sessions:

<http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/Documents/Reports/BillsPassed/2015%20Bills%20Passed%20Regular%20First%20Second%20Third%20Special%20Sessions.pdf>

TVW Archives: <http://www.tvw.org/archives>