



Washington State Senate 2020 Interim Committee Meeting Schedules and Work Plans

Compiled by Senate Committee Services on behalf of Committee Chairs, at the request of the Facilities & Operations Committee

April 2020

2020 Senate Interim Plans

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AGRICULTURE, WATER, NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
June 2 and 3	Full Committee/Tour	Walla Walla, Yakima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drones and farming • Ice Harbor lock and dam • Recreational trails • Health benefits of nature
November 30 and December 1 - Senate Assembly Days	Full Committee/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
September	Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Resource Mitigation/ Work session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
October	Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Resource Mitigation/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
November	Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Resource Mitigation/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
July	Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Supply/ Work Session	Skagit Station Community Room - Mt. Vernon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
October	Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Supply/ Work Session	Skagit Station Community Room - Mt. Vernon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

To view specific meeting dates and times, please visit:
<http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx>

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AGRICULTURE, WATER, NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Columbia River Salmon Policy

COMPLETION DATE: December 2020

STAFF: Jeff Olsen (360) 786-7428

REFERENCE(S): [ESSB 6168](#)

DESCRIPTION: The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission is continuing the review of the Columbia River Salmon policy during the summer of 2020, including fishery management, commercial and recreational fishing allocation, and the use of alternative gear. The 2020 supplemental operating budget contained a proviso directing the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to conduct a voluntary license buyback program in the Columbia River-Grays Harbor fishery and report back to the Legislature in December of 2020. The Governor vetoed the proviso and directed DFW to continue to work with Oregon and commercial gill net license holders on developing a buyback program.

Staff will monitor the review of the Columbia River Salmon policy and related fishery policy issues and will also provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.

Committee Tour

COMPLETION DATE: June 2 and 3, 2020

STAFF: Karen Epps (360) 786-7424 / Jeff Olsen (360) 786-7428

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: The committee will tour various localities in Central Washington, from Walla Walla to Yakima to discuss farming and recreation, including the use of drones in farming and the health benefits of nature. The committee may also consider farming and recreation more broadly. The committee extends an invitation to other senators with interest in this topic to participate in all or part of the tour. As requested by senators, legislation may be developed based on lessons learned from the tour.

Meat and Poultry Processing and Labeling

COMPLETION DATE: December 2020

STAFF: Karen Epps (360) 786-7424

REFERENCE(S): [ESSB 6168 \(2020\)](#); [SSB 6329 \(2020\)](#); [2SSB 6382 \(2020\)](#); [SHB 2696 \(2020\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: In 2020, the Legislature considered several bills related to meat and poultry processing and labeling. SSB 6329 and SHB 2696 dealt with the mislabeling of food if the label uses an identifiable meat term and does not indicate that the product does not contain meat. 2SSB 6382 would have directed the Washington State Department of Agriculture to work with the USDA to negotiate a cooperative agreement in order to operate a state inspection program. Additionally, a proviso in the 2020 supplemental operating budget, that was vetoed, directed WSDA to explore and negotiate a cooperative agreement to conduct a state inspection program and to work with stakeholders to develop labeling standards regarding country of origin for beef and other meat products.

Committee staff will summarize existing state and federal law related to meat and poultry processing and labelling, review meat and poultry processing and labelling provisions in other states and draft legislation as directed.

Task Forces and Work Group on Water Issues

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Karen Epps (360) 786-7424

REFERENCE(S): [ESSB 1102 \(2019\)](#); [ESSB 6091 \(2018\)](#); [ESSB 6095 \(2018\)](#); [ESSB 6168 \(2020\)](#); [RCW 90.94](#)

DESCRIPTION: Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Resource Mitigation. Legislation passed in 2018 established the Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Resource Mitigation (Mitigation Task Force). The Mitigation Task Force must review the treatment of surface water and groundwater appropriations as they relate to instream flows and fish habitat. The Mitigation Task Force is required to develop and recommend a mitigation sequencing process and scoring system to address such appropriations. The Mitigation Task Force submitted a November 15, 2019 report to the Legislature and may update that report by November 15, 2020, if a majority of members determine an update is necessary.

Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Supply. In 2018, the Legislature passed ESSB 6095, establishing the Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Supply (Water Supply Task Force). The Water Supply Task Force must review surface and groundwater needs and uses as they relate to agricultural uses, domestic potable water uses, and instream flows, and develop and recommend studies. The Water Supply Task Force must focus on water resource inventory areas (WRIAs) 3 and 4. WRIA 3 is located in the western portion of Skagit County and WRIA 4 is located in the eastern portions of Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish counties. The Water Supply Task Force approved two studies, Skagit Basin Supply and Demand Analysis and a Review of the Duke Engineering Estuary Study Report in December 2019. The studies are projected to be completed in June 2021 and January 2021, respectively.

Work Group on State Trust Water, Water Banking, and Water Transfers. A proviso in the 2020 supplemental operating budget directs the Department of Ecology (Ecology) to convene a work group of affected entities (Work Group) to study the design and use of the state water trust, water banking, and water transfers. The Work Group includes representatives from federally recognized Indian tribes; local governments including cities, counties, and special purpose districts; environmental advocacy organizations; the farming industry; business interests; and entities that have been directly involved with establishment water banks. Ecology must present its findings by December 1, 2020, including a summary of discussions and any recommendations on policy improvements, to the appropriate committees of the Legislature and to the Governor's office.

Committee staff will provide support to the task forces and monitor the work of the work group, assist as directed by members of the task forces, and draft legislation as requested.

Wildfire Prevention and Response

COMPLETION DATE: December 2020

STAFF: Jeff Olsen (360) 786-7428

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for forest fire prevention and response on both state-owned and private forestland in Washington. The 2018 supplemental operating budget directed the Commissioner of Public Lands to direct the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee to review, analyze, and make recommendations on wildfire prevention, response, and suppression activities in the state.

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee directed its staff to review DNR's wildfire prevention and preparedness activities and related expenditures, and to identify if evidence exists about how effectively they reduce the risk of wildfire.

Staff will monitor DNR's wildfire prevention and preparedness activities review and will also provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
TBD	Full Committee/ Work Session, Tour	Southwest Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be determined
November 30 and December 1 - Senate Assembly Days	Full Committee/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be determined

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group

COMPLETION DATE: December 30, 2026

STAFF: Kevin Black (360) 786-7747

REFERENCE(S): [2SHB 2737 \(2020\)](#);

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/behavioral-health-recovery/childrens-mental-health-workgroup-cmhwg>

DESCRIPTION: The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group, established in 2016, was renewed in law in the 2020 legislative session until 2026. The work group is staffed by the Health Care Authority. The work group maintains several subcommittees, and in 2020 is required to form a new subcommittee on school-based behavioral health and suicide prevention. Staff will monitor meetings of the work group and select subcommittees and provide support to the legislative membership of the work group.

Behavioral Health Recovery System Transformation Task Force

COMPLETION DATE: December 1, 2020

STAFF: Kevin Black (360) 786-7747

REFERENCE(S): [ESSB 1109 sec. 995 \(2019\)](#); <http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/BHRST/Pages/default.aspx>

DESCRIPTION: The Behavioral Health System Transformation Task Force, established in 2019, is a joint legislative-executive task force staffed by Senate Committee Services and the Office of Program Research to monitor specified aspects of and make recommendations concerning the state behavioral health system. A report is due December 1, 2020. Staff will assist members in developing agendas for meetings and provide support for the development of policy recommendations.

EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
November 30 and December 1 - Senate Assembly Days	Full Committee/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To be determined

To view specific meeting dates and times, please visit:
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EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Early Care and Education Responses to COVID-19

COMPLETION DATE: December 2020

STAFF: Ailey Kato (360) 786-7434

REFERENCE(S): [Proclamations by the Governor](#)

DESCRIPTION: On March 13, 2020, the Governor ordered all public and private K-12 schools in Washington State to close in response to COVID-19. On March 23, 2020, the Governor mandated a "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order, prohibiting employers from conducting business other than essential services and prohibiting people from congregating socially. Childcare is deemed an essential service under the order.

Committee staff will gather and summarize information regarding the early care and education system's response to COVID-19, including but not limited to:

- industry impact—closures and system resiliency;
- access to supplies and resources for meeting Department of Health recommendations; and
- access to needed supports and relief for providers and families.

Information gathering may include the use of virtual outreach opportunities between stakeholders, members, and staff. As requested by senators, staff may develop legislation based on information received regarding the early care and education responses to COVID-19.

K-12 Education Responses to COVID-19

COMPLETION DATE: December 2020

STAFF: Ailey Kato (360) 786-7434 / Alex Fairfortune (360) 786-7416 / Ben Omdal (360) 786-7442

REFERENCE(S): [Proclamations by the Governor](#); [EHB 2965, Sec. 10 and 11 \(2020\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: On March 13, 2020, the Governor ordered all public and private K-12 schools in Washington State to close in response to COVID-19. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's guidance stated, "Although schools are closed and are not providing traditional in-person instruction, education must continue."

Committee staff will gather and summarize information regarding the K-12 education system's response to COVID-19, including but not limited to:

- access to broadband technology and devices;
- equity considerations regarding students with disabilities, English learners, and language access;
- professional development for teachers and administrators regarding continuous learning during school closures; and
- legal issues related to educational information, technology, and privacy.

Information gathering may include the use of virtual outreach opportunities between stakeholders, members, and staff. As requested by senators, staff may develop legislation based on information received regarding the K-12 education responses to COVID-19.

Task Force on Improving Institutional Education Programs and Outcomes

COMPLETION DATE: December 2020

STAFF: Alex Fairfortune (360) 786-7416 / Kayla Hammer (360) 786-7305 / Ailey Kato (360) 786-7434

REFERENCE(S): [ESHB 2116, Sec. 2 \(2020\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: In 2020, the Legislature passed ESHB 2116, establishing the Task Force on Improving Institutional Education Programs and Outcomes (Task Force). The Task Force must examine goals and strategies for improving the coordination and delivery of education services to youth involved with the juvenile justice system and assess the level and adequacy of basic and special education funding for institutional facilities, among other topics. The Task Force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by December 15, 2020.

Committee staff will provide support to the task force and assist with the report as directed, and draft legislation as requested.

EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Early Learning and K-12 Education Legislatively Created Councils, Committees, Task Forces, Work Groups, and Advisory Groups with Legislative Members

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Ailey Kato (360) 786-7434 / Alex Fairfortune (360) 786-7416 / Ben Omdal (360) 786-7442

REFERENCE(S): [ESB 6620, Sec. 3 \(2016\)](#); [2SHB 1344, Sec. 4 \(2019\)](#); [2SHB 2737, Sec. 1 \(2020\)](#); [E2SSB 5828, Sec. 3 \(2007\)](#); [2SSB 5973, Sec. 2 \(2009\)](#); [SHB 2455, Sec. 2 \(2004\)](#); [SSB 5248 \(2009\)](#); [E2SHB 1599, Sec. 301 \(2019\)](#); [2E2SHB 1661, Sec. 1010 \(2017\)](#); [E2SHB 1139, Sec. 402 \(2019\)](#); [SSB 6428, Sec. 15 and 17 \(1992\)](#); [ESHB 2116, Sec. 2 \(2020\)](#); [E2SHB 1600, Sec. 3 \(2018\)](#); [SHB 2711, Sec. 2 \(2020\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: The Legislature has created a number of councils, committees, task forces, work groups, and advisory groups with legislators as members. Committee staff will provide direct staff support to the groups as directed by the authorizing legislation and will provide research and support to the individual legislators serving on the following legislatively created groups:

- Annual School Safety Summit
- Child Care Collaborative Task Force
- Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group
- Early Learning Advisory Council
- Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee
- Financial Education Public-Private Partnership
- Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- Mastery-Based Learning Work Group
- Oversight Board for Children, Youth, and Families
- Professional Educator Collaborative
- State Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families
- Task Force on Improving Institutional Education Programs and Outcomes
- Work-Integrated Learning Advisory Committee and Subcommittee
- Work Group to Address the Needs of Students in Foster Care, Experiencing Homelessness, or Both

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
November 30 and December 1 - Senate Assembly Days	Full Committee/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To be determined

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ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Broadband in Washington

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Angela Kleis (360) 786-7469

REFERENCE(S): [2SSB 5511, Sec. 6](#)

DESCRIPTION: The Legislature established the Governor's Statewide Broadband Office with the power and duty to serve as the central broadband planning body for the state. Beginning January 1, 2021, and every two years after that, the office shall submit a report on its activities during the previous two years, including, among other things, an overview of incumbent broadband infrastructure within the state; a summary of the office's activities in coordinating broadband infrastructure development with the Public Works Board; and any proposed legislative and policy initiatives.

COVID-19 demonstrated the need for broadband, in particular for education and health care access. Committee staff will evaluate gaps, opportunities, cooperation, and lessons learned from COVID-19; as well as monitor office activities; examine relevant local, state, and federal actions regarding broadband; review investment requirements and spending priorities; and draft legislation as requested.

Coronavirus Pandemic Impact on Environment, Energy, and Technology

COMPLETION DATE: December 2020

STAFF: Kim Cushing (360) 786-7421 / Jan Odano (360) 786-7486 / Angela Kleis (360) 786-7469 / Greg Vogel (360) 786-7413

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: The committee will review the impact of the global coronavirus pandemic on the environment, energy, and technology sectors in Washington state. Committee staff will provide research on issues such as the challenges and opportunities of public works projects to address water, waste, and recycling systems; the energy burden on residential customers and the affordability of clean power, and greater integration of the state's energy and transportation sectors; the successes of and barriers to the state IT systems, particularly in areas such as education, health care, and unemployment. Committee staff will also compile relevant studies and prepare legislative proposals as requested.

Facial Recognition Services

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Angela Kleis (360) 786-7469

REFERENCE(S): [ESSB 6280](#)

DESCRIPTION: ESSB 6280 as passed the Legislature established a facial recognition task force with specified purposes, such as providing recommendations addressing the potential abuses and threats posed by the use of facial recognition services while also addressing how to facilitate and encourage the continued development of these services. However, the task force was vetoed because it was unfunded in the budget. The partial veto message included a recommendation that the Legislature engage with the Ruckelshaus Center in preparing a situation assessment that would inform policy recommendations on facial recognition technologies.

Committee staff will monitor the development of such situation assessment and examine uses and current research related to facial recognition services. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

Local Climate Change Mitigation Planning

COMPLETION DATE: November 2020

STAFF: Greg Vogel (360) 786-7413

REFERENCE(S): [SB 6335](#); [HB 2609](#); [SB 6453](#); [HB 2427](#)

DESCRIPTION: In 2020, the Legislature considered legislation relating to implementing climate change mitigation policies and planning at the city and county level. Over the interim, staff will review current climate change mitigation approaches by cities and counties across the state and research best practices and methods for local climate change mitigation planning.

Public Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure

COMPLETION DATE: December 2020

STAFF: Jan Odano (360) 786-7486

REFERENCE(S): [SB 6342](#)

DESCRIPTION: During the 2020 legislative session, SB 6342 concerning chemical contaminants in drinking water brought forth conversations regarding the cost to mitigate contamination of drinking water supplies, regulations applying to large and small drinking water systems, as well as infrastructure needs to ensure safe drinking water and the protection of public health. Staff will review the state's approach to drinking water systems and wastewater treatment plants, the state of these systems, infrastructure requirements, financing options available, and will draft legislation as requested.

Statutory Work Groups and Committees Related to Energy and Technology

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Kim Cushing (360) 786-7421 / Angela Kleis
(360) 786-7469

REFERENCE(S): [Chapter 44.39 RCW](#); [RCW 43.21F.090](#); [ESHB 1109 \(2019\)](#); [RCW 43.105.285](#)
and [.287](#); [ESSB 6280 \(2020\)](#); [SSB 6065 \(2020\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: Committee staff will monitor and provide updates on the various environment, energy and technology work groups and committees with legislative members, which include the following:

Joint Committee on Energy Supply and Energy Conservation. The Committee reviews plans proposed by the Governor for programs, controls, standards, and priorities for the production, allocation, and consumption of energy during any current or anticipated conditions of energy supply alert or energy emergency and makes recommendations to the Governor. The Committee may meet at specified times, including at least once per year, or at any time at the call of the chair to receive information related to the state or regional energy supply situation.

Energy Strategy Advisory Committee. The Department of Commerce must establish an advisory committee to review the state energy strategy in order to align it with the purposes of the Washington Clean Energy Transformation Act and the Department of Ecology's recommended greenhouse gas emissions reductions by December 31, 2020, and at least once every eight years thereafter.

Sustainable Aviation Biofuels Work Group. The Washington State University Office of Clean Technology must convene a work group to further the development of sustainable aviation fuel as a productive industry in Washington, and provide recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.

Technology Services Board. The Technology Services Board is created within the Consolidated Technology Services Agency with the focus on IT strategic planning, enterprise architecture, standards and policies, and major project oversight.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRADE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
Summer - TBD	Full Committee/ Work Session	TBD	<p>Panel discussions regarding issues and concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • update on evictions and foreclosures from the Department of Commerce and the Department of Financial Institutions • update from banks and the Department of Financial Institutions on implementing paycheck protection loans and refinancing existing Small Business Association loans in the CARES Act • report from small business stakeholders on how the paycheck protection loans and the economic injury disaster loans and emergency advances are working • update from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner regarding its emergency order and property and casualty advisory notice
November 30 and December 1 - Senate Assembly Days	Full Committee/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

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HEALTH & LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
September	Full Committee/Tour	Western Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender health clinics and school-based health centers
November 30 and December 1 - Senate Assembly Days	Full Committee/Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
July	Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Washington's response to the COVID-19 pandemic
November	Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
TBD	Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Planning for Aging & Disability Issues/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
TBD	Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Planning for Aging & Disability Issues/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
TBD	Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Planning for Aging & Disability Issues/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

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HEALTH & LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Evan Klein (360) 786-7483

REFERENCE(S): [E2SHB 2572 - Sec. 3 \(2014\)](#)

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 a review of Washington's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Planning for Aging and Disability Issues

COMPLETION DATE: June 30, 2021

STAFF: LeighBeth Merrick (360) 786-7445

REFERENCE(S): [ESHB 1109, Sec 204 \(12\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: The Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Planning for Aging and Disability Issues was established in 2013 and will continue through June 2021. The committee is charged with making recommendations and identifying key strategic actions to prepare for the aging of Washington's population. The committee may focus on issues relating to the health care needs of aging people and people with disabilities; financing mechanisms for long-term services and supports; advance care planning and advance care directives; needs of the aging demographic impacted by reduced federal support; protecting the rights of vulnerable adults; promoting client safety through residential care services and protecting aging people and people with disabilities from physical abuse and financial exploitation; and housing, land use, and transportation planning for communities to adapt to the aging demographic.

Health Clinic Tour

COMPLETION DATE: TBD

STAFF: Evan Klein (360) 786-7483 / LeighBeth Merrick (360) 786-7445

REFERENCE(S): [SB 6279 \(2020\)](#); [SB 6416 \(2020\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: The Health & Long Term Care Committee will tour school-based health clinics and gender health program clinics in western Washington to learn more about delivery of health care directly to students and the availability of gender health care services.

The committee extends an invitation to other senators with interest in these topics to participate in all or part of the tour. As requested by senators, legislation may be developed based on lessons learned from the tour.

Work Group on Establishing a Universal Health Care System

COMPLETION DATE: November 2020

STAFF: Evan Klein (360) 786-7483

REFERENCE(S): [ESHB 1109 - Sec. 211 \(2019\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: The Health Care Authority was directed to convene a work group on establishing a universal health care system in Washington. The work group must include legislators, consumers, patients, the general public, patient advocates, representatives of business and labor, health care providers, health care facilities, health insurance carriers, and state agencies. Committee staff will monitor the work group on behalf of members of the Health & Long Term Care Committee.

The work group must study and make recommendations on how to create, implement, maintain, and fund a universal health care system available to all Washington residents. The work group must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by November 15, 2020.

Telemedicine Collaborative

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Evan Klein (360) 786-7483

REFERENCE(S): [SB 6163 \(2018\)](#); [SSB 5386 \(2019\)](#); [ESSB 5385 \(2020\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: The Collaborative for the Advancement of Telemedicine was created to enhance the understanding of health services through telemedicine. The collaborative is convened by the University of Washington Telehealth Services and participants include four legislators, representatives of the academic community, hospitals, clinics, health care providers, insurance carriers, and other interested parties. Pursuant to SB 5385 (2020), the collaborative is also tasked with studying store and forward technology with a focus on utilization, whether the technology should be paid for at parity with in-person services, and the potential for using the technology to improve rural health outcomes.

Committee staff will monitor the collaborative on behalf of the members of the Health & Long Term Care Committee. The collaborative must submit a report by December 1, 2021, including recommendations on improving reimbursement and access to services. The collaborative terminates December 31, 2021.

HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
November 30 and December 1 - Senate Assembly Days	Full Committee/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To be determined
TBD	Full Committee/ Work Session	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Higher education and the health workforce pipeline
TBD	Full Committee/ Work Session	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">COVID 19 pandemic impact on higher education administration and student learning

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HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Barriers to Students' Application and Admission to Higher Education Institutions

COMPLETION DATE: December 2020

STAFF: Alicia Kinne-Clawson (360) 786-7407

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: Committee staff will work with higher education stakeholders on understanding the barriers students face in applying and gaining admission to higher education institutions. Staff will research other states' approaches in identifying and addressing barriers, including the impact of:

- certain strategies such as adopting a common application system;
- standardized testing on students, and
- strategies for outreach to and engagement with underrepresented student groups.

Committee staff will research strategies that have been implemented successfully in other states to make the application and admissions process more accessible.

Rural Economic and Workforce Development and the Green Economy

COMPLETION DATE: December 2020

STAFF: Kellee Gunn (360) 786-7429

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: Committee staff will work with the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, rural workforce development councils, the Department of Commerce, and other stakeholders to identify economic and workforce development strategies associated with the green economy. Among others, the green economy includes industries and economic development strategies that are consistent with sustainable development.

Committee staff will develop a document summarizing current strategies and sectors involved in developing the green economy in rural Washington.

HOUSING STABILITY & AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
September	Full Committee/ Work Session	Poulsbo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared housing • Local efforts to address affordable housing and homelessness • Tribal homelessness/affordable housing issues
October	Full Committee/ Work Session	Vancouver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property manager licensing/education • Local efforts to address affordable housing and homelessness
November	Full Committee/ Tour	Seattle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Justice Project/eviction court
November 30 and December 1 - Senate Assembly Days	Full Committee/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Landlord-Tenant Act reform update • Summary proceedings • Rent stabilization update

To view specific meeting dates and times, please visit:
<http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx>

To sign up for e-mail notifications, including updates to meeting dates and times, please visit:
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HOUSING STABILITY & AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Affordable Housing/Homelessness

COMPLETION DATE: Interim 2020

STAFF: Brandon Popovac (360) 786-7465 / Jeff Olsen (360) 786-7428

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: The COVID-19 pandemic has forced elected officials and communities to stem the outbreak and its economic costs within Washington cities, the state, and the nation by providing a variety of strategies and solutions, including, for example, Governor Inslee's eviction moratorium (Proclamation 20-19) and passage of the federal CARES Act. COVID-19 has impacted affordable housing development, other landlord-tenant relations, and homelessness response systems, generating demand for solutions at all levels. Staff will monitor these COVID-19 impacts and resulting emergency proclamations and solutions within the state and nationally and provide information, support, research, and drafting services to members as requested.

Multifamily Property Tax Exemption

COMPLETION DATE: December 2020

STAFF: Jeff Olsen (360) 786-7428

REFERENCE(S): [SHB 2950](#)

DESCRIPTION: Several pieces of legislation were introduced to modify the Multifamily Property Tax Exemption (MFTE) during the 2019-2020 legislative sessions. SHB 2950 extends certain property tax exemptions that are set to expire until December 31, 2021. In addition, SHB 2950 directs the Department of Commerce to contract with a nonprofit organization to convene a work group to study and make recommendations on certain aspects of the MFTE program. However, the Governor vetoed the work group. Staff will monitor the work of stakeholders on MFTE issues and provide research, support, and drafting services to members as requested.

Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection Programs

COMPLETION DATE: Interim 2020

STAFF: Brandon Popovac (360) 786-7465

REFERENCE(S): [ESHB 1109, Sec. 129\(31\) \(2019\)](#); [SSB 6560 \(2018\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: Two pieces of legislation require the Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection Programs (OHY) to provide recommendations and develop a plan concerning youth experiencing homelessness. Specifically, ESHB 1109 requires OHY to make recommendations to the Legislature by October 31, 2019, regarding the rights for unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults for appropriate care and treatment in licensed and unlicensed residential runaway and homeless youth programs.

SSB 6560 (2018) requires OHY and DCYF to jointly develop and issue a plan to the Legislature by the end of 2019, including legislative recommendations, to ensure that by the end of 2020 no unaccompanied youth is discharged from a publicly funded system of care into homelessness. Staff has monitored OHY efforts and attended meetings as necessary in these areas.

Staff will provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested and upon completion of the two reports described herein.

Landlord-Tenant Laws (Residential & Manufactured/Mobile Home)

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing, June 2020

STAFF: Brandon Popovac (360) 786-7465

REFERENCE(S): [ESSB 5600 \(2019\)](#); [ESSB 6378 \(2020\)](#); [ESHB 1582 \(2019\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: Three pieces of legislation impact the Residential Landlord-Tenant Act (RLTA) and the Manufactured/Mobile Home Landlord Tenant Act (MHLTA), respectively.

ESSB 5600 modified the RLTA by:

- increasing the notice to pay or vacate for failure to pay rent from 3 to 14 days;
- requiring a landlord to first apply tenant payments to rent before other charges;
- requiring a tenant to pay into court or to the landlord within five court days after a judgment for default in the payment of rent any rent due, court costs, late fees not to exceed \$75, and attorneys' fees if awarded, to have their tenancy restored;
- authorizing the court to exercise discretion to stay a writ restoring the premises to the landlord based on good cause and evidence of several factors with the burden of proof on the tenant; and
- providing a revised, reader-friendly eviction summons.

ESSB 5600 also expanded eligibility of the Landlord Mitigation Program (LMP) to include landlord claims for reimbursement in eviction cases where the court has exercised discretion and there is a total or partially unpaid judgment for rent, late fees, attorneys' fees, and costs, as applicable. The Department of Commerce (Commerce) designated this new expansion of the LMP as the Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP).

ESSB 6378 is a trailer bill to ESSB 5600 and modifies some of the eviction reforms in that legislation, including but not limited to:

- modifying the uniform 14-day pay or vacate notice and summons forms;
- requiring landlords to accept pledges of emergency rental assistance provided to tenants from governmental or nonprofit entities before or after expiration of a pay or vacate notice period if certain requirements are met; and
- requiring landlords to suspend any court action for 7 days to allow for payment of emergency rental assistance funds.

Staff and committee members will attend an eviction court hearing during the interim to monitor the bills' effects on the court process, as well as continue to monitor use of and access to the TPP by eligible landlords and tenants. Staff will provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.

ESHB 1582 modified the MHLTA by:

- increasing notice to pay or vacate for failure to pay rent from 5 to 14 days;
- increasing notice to comply with park rules or vacate from 15 to 20 days;
- requiring 30 days' notice before a new or amended park rule takes effect with a 3-month compliance grace period;
- authorizing the solicitation of park tenants by housing and low-income assistance organizations; and
- adding new lease content requirements.

ESHB 1582 requires Commerce to convene a work group to make recommendations to the Legislature by June 30, 2020, regarding mobile home park rental agreement terms; closure/conversion notices; and amendments, changes, or additions to mobile home park rules under the MHLTA. The work group met four times during the 2019 interim and staff monitored its process and progress in reaching any agreed upon recommendations. Staff will provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested once the work group recommendations are published.

HUMAN SERVICES, REENTRY & REHABILITATION COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
November 30 and December 1 - Senate Assembly Days	Full Committee/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To be determined

To view specific meeting dates and times, please visit:
<http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx>

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HUMAN SERVICES, REENTRY & REHABILITATION COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Statewide Coordinating Committee

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Alison Mendiola (360) 786-7488

REFERENCE(S): SB 5308 (2013);

<https://www.atg.wa.gov/commercially-sexually-exploited-children-statewide-coordinating-committee>

DESCRIPTION: Created by the Legislature in 2013, the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Statewide Coordinating Committee addresses increasing protections for exploited youth by examining local and regional practices and incidence data and making recommendations on statewide laws and practices. Committee members include representatives from the Attorney General's Office, the Legislature, state and local agencies, criminal justice entities and advocacy organizations.

Staff will monitor meetings and provide support to the legislative membership of the committee.

Department of Children, Youth, and Families Oversight Board

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Alison Mendiola (360) 786-7488

REFERENCE(S): 2E2SHB 1661 (2017); <http://ofco.wa.gov/dcyf-oversight-board/>

DESCRIPTION: In 2017, the Legislature created the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and the Oversight Board for DCYF. The purpose of the board is to monitor and ensure DCYF achieves the stated outcomes of chapter 6, Laws of 2017 3rd sp. sess., and complies with administrative acts, relevant statutes, rules, and policies pertaining to early learning, juvenile rehabilitation, juvenile justice, and children and family services. Members of the board include two senators and two representatives from the Legislature.

Staff will monitor meetings and provide support to the legislative membership of the board.

Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Alison Mendiola (360) 786-7488

REFERENCE(S): E3SHB 1482 (2018);

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/health-care-human-services/workfirst-poverty-red>

DESCRIPTION: This task force oversees the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and WorkFirst programs and collaborates with the Poverty Reduction Work Group to develop and monitor strategies to prevent and address adverse childhood experiences and reduce intergenerational poverty. Eight legislative members are appointed to the task force along with eight members from state agencies.

Staff will monitor meetings and provide support to the legislative membership of the task force.

Sex Offender Policy Board

COMPLETION DATE: December 1, 2020

STAFF: Kelsey-anne Fung (360) 786-7479

REFERENCE(S): https://sgc.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/SOPB/documents/2020_SOPB_Request.pdf

DESCRIPTION: On March 11, 2020, the Sex Offender Policy Board received an assignment from the Senate Ways and Means Committee to convene and research and make recommendations for improving systems for sexually violent predators and their reentry into the community. The Sex Offender Policy Board advises the Governor and Legislature on issues related to sex offender management and sex offender policy.

Staff will monitor meetings and provide support to the legislative membership of the board.

Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Kevin Black (360) 786-7747

REFERENCE(S): [Executive Order 15-03](#); <http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/practice-improvement/ojj/wa-pcjj>

DESCRIPTION: The Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice (WA-PCJJ), established in 2010, is the primary planning agency for juvenile justice-related matters in Washington. The council is staffed by the Office of Juvenile Justice within the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. Members of the council include an appointed member from the Senate and House of Representatives.

Staff will monitor meetings and provide support to the legislative membership of the board.

LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
September	Full Committee/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment insurance system, and unemployment trust, fund and Paid Family and Medical Leave account, including the impacts from COVID-19, wait times for benefits, and staffing • Audit report from Department of Labor and Industries on Office Careers, a private vocational school • Vocational rehabilitation services for injured workers and an overall report on the re-employment outcomes for vocational rehabilitation services
November 30 and December 1 - Senate Assembly Days	Full Committee/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

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LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Temporary Workers

COMPLETION DATE: December 31, 2020

STAFF: Susan Jones (360) 786-7404

REFERENCE(S): [ESSB 6122 \(2020\) - not passed](#)

DESCRIPTION: Committee staff will research other states' laws and regulations and emerging trends regarding safety and health laws and regulation and workers' compensation for temporary workers. Committee staff will provide updates and draft legislation, as directed.

Tower Crane Safety

COMPLETION DATE: December 31, 2020

STAFF: Jarrett Sacks (360) 786-7448

REFERENCE(S): [SB 6171 \(2020\) - not passed](#)

DESCRIPTION: Committee staff will monitor the Department of Labor and Industries and federal rulemaking regarding tower crane safety and research tower crane safety standards adopted in other states. Committee staff will provide updates and draft legislation as directed.

Broadening Apprenticeship Programs

COMPLETION DATE: December 31, 2020

STAFF: Jarrett Sacks (360) 786-7448

REFERENCE(S): [2SSB 5236 \(2019-2020\) - not passed](#)

DESCRIPTION: Committee staff will research the development of apprenticeship programs in new industries and monitor emerging trends in the application of apprenticeship programs to new industries in other states. Committee staff will provide updates and draft legislation as directed.

Domestic Workers

COMPLETION DATE: December 31, 2020

STAFF: Susan Jones (360) 786-7404 / Richard Rodger (360) 786-7461

REFERENCE(S): [ESSB 6122 \(2020\) - not passed](#)

DESCRIPTION: Committee staff will research laws and regulations of other states and nations and emerging trends regarding workplace safety, harassment, discrimination, and other economic laws and regulations for domestic workers. Committee staff will provide updates and draft legislation, as directed.

Legislative Task Force on Social Equity in Marijuana

COMPLETION DATE: December 31, 2020

STAFF: Richard Rodger (360) 786-7461

REFERENCE(S): [E2SHB 2870 \(2020\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: E2SHB 2870 established a legislative task force on social equity in marijuana. The task force is staffed by the Health Equity Council of The Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities or, if requested, by the Office of Equity created by E2SHB 1783 (2020).

The task force must make recommendations to the: (1) Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) regarding the establishment of a social equity program for the issuance and reissuance of existing retail marijuana licenses; and (2) the Governor and the Legislature on policies that will facilitate development of a marijuana social equity program. The recommendations must include: (1) factors the LCB must consider in distributing the licenses currently available from marijuana retailer licenses that have been subject to forfeiture, revocation, or cancellation by the LCB, or marijuana retailer licenses that were not previously issued by the LCB but could have been issued without exceeding the statewide limit; and (2) whether any additional marijuana licenses should be issued beyond the current statewide limit.

The task force must submit one or more reports to the Governor, the LCB, and the Legislature. The task force is encouraged to submit individual recommendations, as soon as possible, to facilitate the LCB's early work to implement the recommendations. Final recommendations must be submitted by December 1, 2020.

Committee staff will monitor the task force, provide updates, and draft legislation as directed. The task force expires June 30, 2022.

Task Force on Marijuana Odor

COMPLETION DATE: December 31, 2020

STAFF: Richard Rodger (360) 786-7461

REFERENCE(S): [ESSB 6168 Sect. 140\(15\) \(2020\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: ESSB 6168 Sect. 140(15) established a task force on marijuana odor. The task force is staffed by the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB).

The task force will review the available and most appropriate ways or methods to mitigate, mask, conceal, or otherwise address marijuana odors and emissions; and the potentially harmful impact of marijuana odors and emissions on people who live, work, or are located in close proximity to a marijuana production or processing facility. The review must include: (1) filtering systems; (2) natural odor masking mechanisms or odor concealing mechanisms; (3) zoning and land use controls and regulations; and (4) changes to state laws and regulations including, but not limited to, those related to nuisance and public health.

The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the majority and minority leaders of the two largest caucuses of the House of Representatives and the Senate by December 31, 2020.

Committee staff will monitor the task force, provide updates, and draft legislation as directed.

Work Group on Independent Medical Examination

COMPLETION DATE: December 31, 2020

STAFF: Susan Jones (360) 786-7404

REFERENCE(S): [ESSB 6440 \(2020\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: ESSB 6440 established an independent medical examination (IME) work group within the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I). The work group includes legislative members and stakeholders.

The work group must: (1) develop strategies for (a) reducing the number of IMEs per claim while considering claim duration and medical complexity; and (b) improving access to medical records, including records and reports created during the course of or pursuant to an examination; (2) consider (a) whether L&I should do all the IME scheduling; (b) the circumstances for randomly selected or specified examiners; and (c) workers' rights in the IME process including attendance, specialist consultations, exam recording, and the distance and location of exams; (3) recommend changes to improve the efficiency of the IME process; and (4) identify barriers to increasing the supply of in-state IME physicians.

L&I must report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by December 11, 2020.

Committee staff will monitor the work group, provide updates, and draft legislation as directed.

Employment Security Department Study re: Certain Unemployment Insurance Exceptions

COMPLETION DATE: December 31, 2020

STAFF: Susan Jones (360) 786-7404

REFERENCE(S): [ESSB 5473 \(2020\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: ESSB 5473 requires the Employment Security Department (ESD) to study the impacts to the unemployment trust fund and employer contribution rates for unemployment insurance by allowing exceptions to provisions disqualifying individuals from receiving unemployment benefits for leaving work voluntarily related to: (1) inaccessible care for a child or vulnerable adult; (2) substantial increases in job duties or significant changes in working conditions without commensurate increase in pay; or (3) relocation due to the separation from a minor child. ESD must meet at least three times with a representative of the largest business association and a representative from an organization providing low-cost representation or free advice to people regarding their unemployment benefits to discuss the information gathered by ESD.

ESD must provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature by November 6, 2020.

Committee staff will monitor the study, provide updates, and draft legislation as directed.

LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
September	Full Committee/ Work Session	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-conviction review alternatives • Sentencing Task Force process/recommendations • Human trafficking training
October	Full Committee/ Work Session	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex offender registration • Law enforcement lessons learned and the need for reforms in response to the COVID-19 pandemic • Worker protection act
November 30 and December 1 - Senate Assembly Days	Full Committee/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal services contractors • Centralized background check system/firearms purchases • Court operations lessons learned and the need for reforms in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

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LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Evaluation of State Sentencing Laws and Practices

COMPLETION DATE: December 2020

STAFF: Shani Bauer (360) 786-7468

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: In 2018, the Legislature provided funding to the Sentencing Guidelines Commission (SGC) to conduct a comprehensive review of the sentencing reform act. The SGC completed its work and submitted a report to the Legislature on July 1, 2019. In the 2019-21 budget, the Legislature established the Washington State Criminal Sentencing Task Force, including a broader range of stakeholders. The Task Force is directed to review state sentencing laws, including the report of the SGC, and develop recommendations for:

- reducing sentencing implementation complexities and errors;
- improving the effectiveness of the sentencing system; and
- promoting and improving public safety.

The task force must submit a final report to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 31, 2020. Staff will attend meetings, update members on progress, and draft legislation as requested.

Implementation of Centralized Background Check System

COMPLETION DATE:

STAFF: Shani Bauer (360) 786-7468

REFERENCE(S): [E2SHB 2467](#)

DESCRIPTION: E2SHB 2467 requires the Washington State Patrol (WSP) to establish a centralized single point of contact background check system for firearm transfers. The Governor is required to appoint a Washington Background Check Advisory Board to oversee the implementation of the background check system, which must convene within 90 days of the effective date of the bill and meet on a monthly basis until the background check system is operational. Thirty days after WSP issues notice that the background check system is operational, background checks for all firearm transfers must be processed through WSP.

Staff will monitor the meetings of the board and update members on the WSP's progress in implementing the centralized background check system.

Sex Offender Registration for Out of State Sex Offenders

COMPLETION DATE: October 2020

STAFF: Shani Bauer (360) 786-7468

REFERENCE(S): [SB 6155](#)

DESCRIPTION: In *State v. Batson*, 9 Wn. App. 2d 546 (2019), the court held that Washington's law requiring an offender to register in Washington if the person is required to register in their state of conviction is an unconstitutional delegation of authority. Washington is now required to conduct a comparability analysis for any sex offender moving to this state to determine if the person's offense is comparable to an offense for which registration is required in Washington.

SB 6155, removing the nonmarriage element of many sex crimes, was intended to address the noncomparability of many state sex offenses with sex offenses in other states. That bill failed to pass in the 2020 legislative session.

Staff will have discussions with the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs and county offices regarding processes for when out of state sex offenders move to Washington and research laws and processes in other states to see if there are efficiencies that can be adopted here.

Washington State Task Force Against the Trafficking of Persons

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Melissa Burke-Cain (360) 786-7755

REFERENCE(S): [SB 5884](#); [RCW 7.68.350](#)

DESCRIPTION: Human trafficking continues as a local and global human rights problem. Washington uses a multifaceted policy response to prevent and reduce human trafficking. Washington's state and local agencies and service providers help trafficking victims escape from their traffickers, educate the public about trafficking, and investigate traffickers and prosecute them. The Washington State Task Force Against the Trafficking of Persons measures and evaluates these efforts.

In 2016, the task force formed six standing subcommittees—business outreach, survivor voices, victims' services, systems coordination, housing, and public outreach. The task force meets two to three times per year. The subcommittees study trafficking survivors' needs for health care, human services, legal assistance, job training, education, and victim compensation. The task force makes recommendations for legislation and resources to improve the state's anti-trafficking efforts.

Committee staff supports legislators by identifying issues and developing options to address them, and drafting legislation as requested.

Legal Service Contractors and Subscription Service Legal Defense Funds

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Melissa Burke-Cain (360) 786-7755

REFERENCE(S): [SB 6146](#); [SB 6043](#)

DESCRIPTION: Washington State does not currently regulate legal service plans, legal service contractors, or membership-based legal defense plans. In the 2020 session, two proposed bills addressed regulation of prepaid legal service plans.

SB 6146 (companion HB 2306) proposed limited Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) regulation of legal services plans and legal service contractors, but as non-insurance products. Under a legal services plan, a consumer pays a periodic advance fee to a legal service contractor to access specified legal services from a panel of participating attorneys. In turn, the participating attorneys provide the legal services and agree to be reimbursed for the services through the legal service contractor.

SB 6043 (companion 2367) exempted membership-based legal defense services plans from OIC regulation. For example, these plans have been provided to members of shooting sports and firearm safety associations. The legal defense services plan pays for criminal defense costs for members facing potential criminal charges related to their use of a legally possessed firearm.

Committee staff will support and coordinate work session activities to address regulation of prepaid legal service arrangements and prepare draft legislation as requested.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Statewide Coordinating Committee

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Melissa Burke-Cain (360) 786-7755

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: The Commercial Sexually Exploited Children Statewide Coordinating Committee addresses protections for exploited youth by examining local and regional practices and incidence data, and making recommendations for statewide laws and best practices.

Committee members include representatives from the Attorney General's Office, the Legislature, state and local agencies, criminal justice entities, and advocacy organizations. In 2017, HB 1832 extended the committee through June 30, 2023.

As requested, staff will support legislators by identifying issues and developing options to address them, and drafting legislation.

Revisions to the Washington Non-profit Corporation Act

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Tim Ford (360) 786-7423

REFERENCE(S): [Ch 24.03 RCW](#)

DESCRIPTION: The Washington State Bar Association Business Law section has proposed revisions to the state laws governing non-profit entities. Staff will compile the proposed revisions, identify and meet stakeholders, coordinate committee work session activities on the topic, and prepare draft legislation as requested.

Court and Law Enforcement Operations: Lessons Learned and the Need for Reforms in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Tim Ford (360) 786-7423

REFERENCE(S): [Courts Emergency Orders](#); [Governor Inslee's stay at home order](#)

DESCRIPTION: A review of the impact of COVID-19 on law enforcement and the court. Points of interest include, but are not limited to the following: number of arrests, number of court cases heard, and the disposition of those cases during the state of emergency. Staff will compile data and draft legislation as requested.

Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Other Protective Arrangements Act

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Tim Ford (360) 786-7423

REFERENCE(S): [SB 6287 \(2020\)](#); [SB 5604 \(2019\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: The Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Other Protective Arrangements Act repeals existing state guardianship laws and third party custody laws, and replaces them with the Uniform Act which covers guardianships, conservatorships, and protective arrangements for both minors and adults. Staff will support and coordinate work session activities to address errors and omissions or other proposed changes to the Uniform Act, and prepare draft legislation as requested.

Worker Protection Act

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Tim Ford (360) 786-7423

REFERENCE(S): [HB 1965 \(2019\)](#); [Epic System Corp. v. Lewis, 138 S. Ct. 1612 \(2018\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: HB 1965 from the 2019 legislative session, if enacted, would have created The Worker Protection Act permitting Qui Tam actions, allowing whistleblowers to bring suit in the name of the state, against employers for the purpose of enforcing certain state laws. HB 1965 was in response to a 2018 U.S. Supreme Court opinion of *Epic System Corp. v. Lewis*, interpreting the Federal Arbitration Act to uphold arbitration clauses in employment contracts in employee disputes.

Staff will research HB 1965, the *Epic System* ruling, applicable federal and state laws, and prepare a summary of potential impacts to state laws.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
November 30 and December 1 - Senate Assembly Days	Full Committee/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be determined
TBD	Full Committee/ Tour	Western Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural character and LAMIRDS
TBD	Full Committee/ Tour	Eastern Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural character and LAMIRDS

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

2020 Growth Management Act Work Group

COMPLETION DATE: December 2020

STAFF: Greg Vogel (360) 786-7413 / Bonnie Kim (360) 786-7316

REFERENCE(S): [2020 Budget, supp., ESSB 6168 Section 127\(85\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: In 2020, the Legislature passed ESSB 6168, which included a proviso directing the Department of Commerce to convene a work group to review and make recommendations for GMA-related legislation in light of the Road Map to Washington's Future report produced by the Ruckelshaus Center. Final recommendations are due December 1, 2020. Staff will monitor the progress of the work group and draft legislation as appropriate.

Special Purpose Districts- Elections Research

COMPLETION DATE: November 2020

STAFF: Bonnie Kim (360) 786-7316

REFERENCE(S): [SB 6514](#)

DESCRIPTION: In 2020, the Senate Local Government Committee considered legislation relating to special purpose district elections. Staff will research special purpose district elections and summarize the different methodologies under current law.

Special Purpose Districts- Revenue Research

COMPLETION DATE: November 2020

STAFF: Greg Vogel (360) 786-7413

REFERENCE(S): [SB 6415](#)

DESCRIPTION: In 2020, the Senate Local Government Committee considered legislation relating to expanding special purpose district revenue authority and establishing voter requirements necessary to activate that authority. Staff will research special purpose district revenue options, the terms of revenue options, and requirements for establishing revenue authority.

STATE GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL RELATIONS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
September - TBD	Full Committee/Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of pandemic on state agencies and constituents
November 30 and December 1 - Senate Assembly Days	Full Committee/Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative modernization Campaign finance enforcement
January 2021 - TBD	Full Committee/Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of pandemic on election operations Implementation of 2019/20 election legislation

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
TBD	Joint Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs/Tour, Work Session	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
TBD	Joint Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs/Work Session	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
TBD	Joint Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs/Work Session	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
TBD	Legislative Oral History Committee/Work Session	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

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STATE GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL RELATIONS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Alternative Public Works

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Melissa Van Gorkom (360) 786-7491

REFERENCE(S): [RCW 43.131.055, 407 and 408; Chapter 39.10 RCW; ESB 5457 \(2020\); ESSB 5418 \(2019\);](#)
<https://des.wa.gov/about/boards-committees/capital-projects-advisory-review-board>

DESCRIPTION: The Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB), was created by the Legislature in 2005 to review alternative public works contracting procedures and provide guidance on ways to further enhance the quality, efficiency, and accountability of public works contracting methods. CPARB consists of 23 members, including four non-voting legislative members.

A 2013 Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee (JLARC) report recommended that alternative public works and the CPARB board continue. In 2014, the Legislature extended alternative contracting procedures to June 30, 2021. JLARC is scheduled to begin its next review on the alternative public works contracting procedures sunset in September 2020.

CPARB was also directed by the Legislature to complete two reports by November 1, 2020 to provide recommendations regarding subcontractor listing requirements and public works contracting processes for local governments. Committee staff will attend the CPARB meetings and draft legislation as requested.

Emergency Management and Preparedness

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Melissa Van Gorkom (360) 786-7491

REFERENCE(S): [SSB 5012 \(2019\); SCR 8200 \(2019\); SB 5260 \(2019\); HB 1147 \(2019\);](#)
<https://www.governor.wa.gov/office-governor/official-actions/proclamations> <https://mil.wa.gov/>

DESCRIPTION: The Military Department administers the state's comprehensive emergency management plan, operates the state emergency operations center, and engages in public outreach about both disaster preparedness and state disaster response programs.

In 2019, the Legislature updated state emergency processes to provide broadcasters access to emergency areas and allow the Governor to issue temporary suspension of regulatory obligations or limitations during an emergency. The Legislature also proposed a constitutional amendment, that was later approved by Washington state citizens on November 5, 2019, to give the state the ability to ensure continuity of government operations during a catastrophic incident.

On February 29, 2020, the Governor declared a state of emergency to address COVID-19 in all counties of Washington State and subsequently issued a number of proclamations to address the emergency which, beginning on March 13, 2020, included waiving or suspending certain regulatory obligations or limitations that hinder or delay necessary action in coping with COVID-19.

Committee staff will follow the COVID-19 emergency and schedule work sessions and draft legislation as requested.

Tribal-State Relations

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Melissa Van Gorkom (360) 786-7491

REFERENCE(S): [Chapter 43.376 RCW](#)

DESCRIPTION: A complex legal system informally called Indian law governs the rights of Indian tribes. Under Indian law, 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 United States government for tribes and tribal members. Washington and several other states currently exercise limited state jurisdiction in Indian country pursuant to a 1953 federal act delegating authority to the states. Committee staff will attend the annual centennial accord to listen to issues of mutual concern for the tribes and draft legislation as requested.

Legislative Modernization

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Sam Brown (360) 786-7470

REFERENCE(S): [SCR 8412 \(2020\)](#); [SSCR 8402 \(2015\)](#); [Chapter 44.04 RCW](#)

DESCRIPTION: Legislation introduced in the 2020 session raised questions of how to enable the Legislature to keep pace with business and technological developments. Staff recruitment and retention, the use of technology, and policies, procedures, and rules to promote a more efficient operation were all discussed. After the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" executive order was issued on March 24, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, legislators and staff have been telecommuting and using other technological resources to perform their duties. Committee staff will assess practices, policies, and procedures in other state legislatures in these areas, conduct research and legislation as directed, and schedule a work session.

Congressional and Legislative Redistricting

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Sam Brown (360) 786-7470

REFERENCE(S): [ESHB 2575 \(2020\)](#); [SSB 5502 \(2019\)](#); [2SSB 5287 \(2019\)](#); [SJR 8210 \(2016\)](#); [Chapter 44.05 RCW](#)

DESCRIPTION: The five-member bipartisan Redistricting Commission (Commission) must establish state legislative and congressional districts every ten years based on results from the federal decennial census. Legislative leaders must appoint voting members to the next Commission by January 15, 2021.

Redistricting law has been the subject of legislation recently. In 2016, Washington voters approved a constitutional amendment moving up the deadline for the Commission to complete its work. In 2019, the Legislature required that persons incarcerated in Washington state prisons be counted as residents of their last known address for redistricting purposes.

Nationally, redistricting is the subject of frequent litigation over plans' conformance with the United States Constitution and federal laws. Committee staff will monitor developments relating to the conduct of the 2020 Census, redistricting litigation nationwide, the administration of the Redistricting Commission, and conduct research and draft legislation as directed.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
November 30 and December 1 - Senate Assembly Days	Full Committee/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To be determined

To view specific meeting dates and times, please visit:
<http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx>

To sign up for e-mail notifications, including updates to meeting dates and times, please visit:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WALEG/subscriber/new?>

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Automated Detection of High Occupancy Vehicle Passenger Compliance Demonstration Project

COMPLETION DATE: June 30, 2021

STAFF: Kim Johnson (360) 786-7472

REFERENCE(S): [ESHB 2322 - Sec 201\(3\) \(2020\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: ESHB 2322, Sec. 201(3), directs the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) to oversee a demonstration project in one county. The WTSC must coordinate with a public transportation benefit area (PTBA) and the Washington Department of Transportation to test the feasibility and accuracy of automated enforcement technology for high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane passenger compliance.

The PTBA, in consultation with the WTSC, must provide a report to the transportation committees of the Legislature including the number of violations detected, whether the technology used was accurate, and any recommendations for future use of the automated enforcement technology for HOV lanes. The report is due by June 30, 2021.

Committee staff will monitor progress of the demonstration project, provide relevant updates, and draft legislation as requested.

Autonomous Vehicle Work Group

COMPLETION DATE: December 31, 2020

STAFF: Kelly Simpson (360) 786-7403 / Kim Johnson (360) 786-7472

REFERENCE(S): [SHB 2970 \(2018\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: SHB 2970, enacted in 2018, directs the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) to convene a work group to develop policy recommendations to address the operation of Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) on public roadways in the state. The AV work group is comprised of members of both the legislative and executive branches of government, as well as relevant stakeholders from the public and private sectors. The WSTC must annually submit recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor based on the input provided by the AV work group, which recommendations may include proposed modifications to state law and rules to address the emergence and deployment of AV technology in the state.

Committee staff will monitor progress of the AV work group, provide relevant updates, and draft legislation as requested.

COVID-19 Impacts on State Transportation Revenue

COMPLETION DATE: December 1, 2020

STAFF: Bryon Moore (360) 786-7726 (general revenue impacts), Erica Bramlet (360) 786-7321 (toll revenue impacts), Daniel Masterson (360) 786-7454 (ferry fare revenue impacts)

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: The outbreak of COVID-19 in Washington State is impacting state transportation revenue collections. For example, motor vehicle fuel tax revenues, toll revenues, and ferry fare revenues could be significantly impacted due to reduced travel patterns.

Committee staff will monitor revenue impacts due to the COVID-19 outbreak and will provide periodic updates as they become available, with a final analysis prior to the 2021 legislative session. Staff will work with members, as directed, on options for mitigating the COVID-19 revenue impacts, including developing options related to a transportation investment or economic recovery package.

Ferry Operations and Planning Issues

COMPLETION DATE: Status update December 2020 **STAFF:** Daniel Masterson (360) 786-7454

REFERENCE(S): [ESHB 2322 - Sec 106, Sec 204\(6\), Sec 223\(1\), and Sec 308\(6\) \(2020\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: A number of legislatively directed studies related to ferry operations and planning are underway with reports due before or during the 2021 legislative session.

Committee staff will monitor progress on these studies and other ferry issues and have the following updates available by the 2021 legislative session:

- The Foster School of Business' Consulting and Business Development Center (UW) will conduct an analysis of the workforce development needs of Washington State Ferries. The report is due January 11, 2021.
- The Joint Transportation Committee will conduct a study of the feasibility of a private auto ferry between the state of Washington and British Columbia, Canada. The report is due February 15, 2021.
- The Puget Sound Regional Council is studying new passenger ferry service to better connect communities throughout the twelve county Puget Sound region. The report is due January 31, 2021.
- Washington State Ferries is developing ten-year and twenty-year implementation plans to efficiently deploy hybrid-electric vessels. The report is due June 30, 2020.

I-405 and SR 167 Express Toll Lane Low Income Toll Study

COMPLETION DATE: June 30, 2021

STAFF: Erica Bramlet (360) 786-7321

REFERENCE(S): [ESHB 2322 - Sec 205 \(2\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: The Legislature directed the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) to conduct a study of discounted tolls and other similar programs for low-income drivers provided by other states, countries, or other entities, and how such a program could be implemented in Washington State. WSTC must consult with the departments of Transportation and Social and Health Services, and the study must include benefits, requirements, detriments, cost-effectiveness, and implications for the toll facilities. Committee staff will be involved in a staff work group to monitor progress on this study and have updates available by the 2021 legislative session.

Statewide Transportation Needs Assessment

COMPLETION DATE: December 31, 2020

STAFF: Hayley Gamble (360) 786-7452

REFERENCE(S): [ESHB 2322 - Sec 204\(1\) \(2020\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: ESHB 2322, Sec. 204(1), directs the Joint Transportation Committee to conduct a comprehensive assessment of statewide transportation needs and priorities, and existing and potential transportation funding mechanisms to address those needs and priorities. This study includes two phases. Phase I is to be completed by June 30, 2020, and will include:

- recommendations on the critical state and local transportation projects, programs, and services needed to achieve an efficient, effective, statewide transportation system over the next ten years;
- a comprehensive menu of funding options for the Legislature to consider to address the identified transportation system investments;
- recommendations on whether a revision to the statutory statewide transportation policy goals is warranted, and
- an analysis of the economic impacts of a range of future transportation investments.

For Phase II, a JTC-appointed commission or panel will review the assessment from Phase I and by December 31, 2020, make final recommendations to the Legislature for consideration during the 2021 legislative session.

Committee staff will monitor progress of the study, provide relevant updates, and draft legislation as requested.

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
November 30 and December 1 - Senate Assembly Days	Full Committee/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
May	Joint Committee on Employment Relations/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
June	Joint Committee on Employment Relations/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
September	Joint Committee on Employment Relations/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
November	Joint Committee on Employment Relations/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
December	Joint Committee on Employment Relations/ Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
June	Pension Funding Council/Work Session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

To view specific meeting dates and times, please visit:
<http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx>

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<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WALEG/subscriber/new?>

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

2020 Legislative Budget Notes

COMPLETION DATE: Summer 2020

STAFF: Ways & Means Committee (360) 786-7715

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: Legislative fiscal staff in the Senate and House will work together with Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee staff to publish the *Legislative Budget Notes* (LBN) in the summer of 2020. 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.

2021 Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance

COMPLETION DATE: January 2021

STAFF: Jeff Naas (360) 786-7708

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: The Ways & Means Committee 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.

2021 Citizen's Guides to the State Operating and Capital Budgets

COMPLETION DATE: January 2021

STAFF: James Kettel (360) 786-7459 / Richard Ramsey (360) 786-7412

REFERENCE(S):

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 Operating Budget* for the 2021 legislative session and a new *Citizen's Guide to the Capital Budget*. The guides are published on an annual basis for use by members, legislative staff, and the public to answer basic questions about the Washington State operating and capital biennial budgets. The guides will be published at the start of the 2021 legislative session and will be available with the committee, as well as online.

2021 Legislative Guide to Washington State and Local Taxes

COMPLETION DATE: January 2021

STAFF: Alia Kennedy (360) 786-7405

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: Committee staff will create a *Legislative Guide to Washington State and Local Taxes*. The guide will serve as an overview of Washington's full tax structure for members, legislative staff, and the public. The guide will reflect the changes made in the 2019 and 2020 legislative sessions. The guide will be published at the start of the 2021 legislative session and will be available from committee staff, as well as online.

Caseload Forecast Council Technical (Staff) Workgroups

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Ways & Means Committee (360) 786-7715

REFERENCE(S):

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 work groups meet periodically and includes 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.

Economic and Budget COVID-19 Update

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Michael Bezanson (360) 786-7749

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: The economic, revenue, and budget situation due to the COVID-19 virus is changing beyond anything assumed in the official revenue forecast and enacted budget. Staff will provide periodic briefings to interested Ways & Means senators as the situation evolves. The briefings are anticipated to follow official or interim revenue forecasts, and as needed.

Four-Year Balanced Budget and Outlook

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Sarian Scott (360) 786-7729

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: Beginning with the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, Ch. 8, laws of 2012 (SSB 6636) requires budgets at the time of passage be projected to be balanced for current and following biennia based on a maintenance level projection. The Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (ERFC) must prepare a budget outlook document for the Governor's proposed budget and for the budget enacted by the Legislature. To assist the ERFC in preparing the state budget outlooks, a State Budget Outlook Work Group 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, ERFC, the Caseload Forecast Council, the Senate Ways & Means Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee. Staff will participate in the work group and provide technical assistance.

Joint Committee on Employment Relations

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Amanda Cecil (360) 786-7460

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: The Joint Committee on Employment Relations, created in 2002 as part of the Personnel System Reform Act, was modified in Senate Bill 5969 (2017) and directed to meet at least six times per year. During the 2020 calendar year, the committee is directed to meet prior to the start of bargaining to identify goals and objectives for the bargaining process that the Governor may take in to consideration. A meeting must also be convened following the Governor's budget submittal to advise the committee on appropriations and legislation necessary to implement the agreements. Committee staff will provide support to JCER and monitor activity.

Joint Legislative Taskforce on Water Supply

COMPLETION DATE: December 2020

STAFF: Karen Epps (360) 786-7424 / Jed Herman (360) 786-7346

REFERENCE(S): [ESHB 1102 \(2019\)](#); [ESSB 6095 \(2018\)](#)

DESCRIPTION: In 2018, the Legislature passed ESSB 6095, establishing the Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Supply. The task force must review surface and groundwater needs and uses as they relate to agricultural uses, domestic potable water uses, and instream flows, and develop and recommend studies. The task force must focus on water resource inventory areas (WRIA) 3 and 4. WRIA 3 is in the western portion of Skagit County and WRIA 4 is in the eastern portions of Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish counties.

Legislative Advisory Committee to the Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) Committee

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Michele Alishahi (360) 786-7433

REFERENCE(S):

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 committee has not scheduled a meeting at this time, but will likely convene based on enacted tuition policy changes.

Local Governments Finance and Distributions

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Jeff Mitchell (360) 786-7438 / Alia Kennedy (360) 786-7405

REFERENCE(S):

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 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 more complete information on the variety of different forms of assistance to local governments, better search capabilities, and mapping tools.

Major Legal Principles Applicable to Washington State and Local Taxation

COMPLETION DATE: September 2020

STAFF: Alia Kennedy (360) 786-7405

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: In addition to administrative, economic, and other practical considerations that apply to state and local taxation, there are several legal considerations that must be kept in mind with respect to any change in tax policy. These considerations derive from both the state and federal constitutions. In January, the Ways & Means Committee will get an introduction to the major legal principles applicable to Washington State and local taxation.

Tax Structure Work Group

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

STAFF: Jeff Mitchell (360) 786-7438

REFERENCE(S):

DESCRIPTION: The 2001-03 operating budget bill created a Washington State Tax Structure Study Committee to study the elasticity, equity, and adequacy of the state's tax system and develop multiple alternatives to the existing tax system. The committee submitted a final report in November 2002, that laid out a framework of tax principles used in the analysis of Washington's tax structure, evaluated Washington's tax structure at the time against the backdrop of these principles, and recommended numerous alternatives to improve Washington's tax structure.

The 2019-21 operating budget bill (section 137 of Ch. 415, laws of 2019 (ESHB 1109)) reauthorizes and expands the membership and scope of the work group. Over the course of several biennia, the work group will engage in the following tasks: update the data and research that informed the recommendations of the 2001-03 Tax Structure Study Committee; make preliminary recommendations to improve Washington's current tax structure; engage in a series of public meetings to solicit stakeholder and taxpayer feedback; and prepare a final report to submit to the Legislature.

Staff will monitor and provide support to the work group.