



SENATE COMMITTEE SERVICES

2004 Interim Work Plan and Meeting Schedule

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Senate Agriculture Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
05/20/04	Joint with Senate Technology & Communications	Seattle	Tour bio-technology entities in Seattle.
Work Session & Tour			
06/08/04	Joint with Senate Technology & Communications	Richland	Tour of bio-based product research at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Washington State University in Richland.
Work Session & Tour			
06/22/04	Joint with Senate Land Use & Planning	Lewis County	Issues relating to agricultural land designations under the Growth Management Act (GMA).
Tour Only			
09/20/04 1:30 pm	Full Committee	Olympia	SHR 2 TBA
Work Session			
09/22/04 10:00 am	Jt. With Natural Resources, Energy & Water; Land Use & Planning; Government Operations & Elections; Parks, Fish & Wildlife	SHR 1 Olympia	Agricultural Buffers.
Work Session			
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	Pesticide take-home exposure.
Public Hearing & Work Session			

Senate Children & Family Services & Corrections Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
9/22/04, 10/13/04, 11/10/04	Children & Family Services & Corrections	Olympia	Legislative Study Panel on Adoption.
	Work Group		

Other Meetings:

7/27/04, 8/26/04,9/24/0 4, 10/28/04, 11/16/04, 12/8/04	Joint Legislative/Executive Mental Health Task Force	SeaTac, location TBA	Task force to study and make recommendations on the organization and financing of Washington's public mental health system.
	Work Group		

Senate Commerce & Trade Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
07/26/04 Half Day	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report on the Valley Medical Center of Occupational Health & Education Pilot Projects. 2. State of Washington Accountability Report - 2003 & 2002 - Department of Labor and Industries - Finding Nos. 03-38 and 02-03. 3. Update on Costco v. Liquor Control Board lawsuit. 4. Lottery Commission's RFP process. 5. Problem gambling.
07/26/04 Morning	Joint with House Commerce & Labor Committee Public Hearing	Olympia	Tribal-State Compact Amendment for Class III Gaming Between the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and the State of Washington.
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outsourcing. 2. Licensing of private sports coaches and training. 3. Update on Governor's Task Force on Workers' Compensation Reform. 4. Gambling zoning.
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Problem gambling update. 2. Streamlining the apprenticeship approval process. 3. Pump installers. 4. Strikes by public employees.

Senate Economic Development Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
06/15/04 All Day	Joint with the Legislative Committee on Economic Development and International Relations	Whidbey Island	Small Business and Cottage Industries.
	Work Session		
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	Locating a Stock Car Racing Facility in Washington.
	Work Session		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		

**Senate Education Committee
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		

Senate Financial Services, Insurance & Housing Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
Other Meetings:			
TBA	Financial Literacy Public Private Partnership (FLPPP)	TBA	For more information, contact the committee at (360) 786-7420.
	Work Session		

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
09/22/04 Morning	Joint with Natural Resources, Energy, & Water; Agriculture; Land Use & Planning; and Parks, Fish, & Wildlife Committees	Olympia	Agricultural Buffers.
	Work Session		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
TBA	Full Committee	TBA	Review of county government.
	TBA		
TBA	Full Committee	Olympia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updating the Public Disclosure Act (Initiative 134). 2. Review of the operation and effectiveness of the campaign finance and public disclosure statutes. 3. Testimony from the public, elected officials, party officials, Public Disclosure Commission, Political Action directors, and others.
	Public Hearing & Work Session		
TBA	TBA	TBA	The distribution of property tax money for the relief of indigent and suffering veterans. (Veterans' Relief Act Chapter 73.08 RCW).
	TBA		
Other Meetings:			
May 10-12, 2004	Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs	Spokane	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tour of Veterans' Hospital. 2. Work session: (1) update on Forward Fairchild, (2) private sector activities in support of Forward Fairchild, and (3) briefing on border security.
	Work Session & Tour		
August 2004	Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs	Port Orchard	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tour of Retsil Veterans' Home.
	Tour		

**Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
December Legislative Assembly	Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
Other Meetings:			
06/01/04 Morning	Joint Long-Term Care Study Group	Olympia	Nursing home regulations.
	Work Session		
06/14/04 TBA	Joint Long-Term Care Study Group	TBA	1. Nursing home bed occupancy. 2. Other financial business.
	Work Session		
TBA	Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities	TBA	For more information, contact the committee at (360) 786-7436.
	TBA		

Senate Higher Education Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	Higher Education Coordinating Board Master Plan.
	Work Session		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	Tuition Waivers.
	Work Session		

Senate Highways & Transportation Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
06/23/04 TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Yakima	1. Preview of Washington Transportation Plan process. 2. Joint discussion with Washington Transportation Commission.
08/01/04 TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Seattle	1. Progress report on three-county projects. 2. Review of the Alaska Way Viaduct Environmental Impact Statement. 3. Report on Regional Transportation Investment District.
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA
Other Meetings:			
06/11/04, 09/10/04, 12/10/04	Special License Plate Review Board Work Session	Seattle	Review and approve special license plate applications.
TBA	Tacoma Narrows Bridge Oversight Committee Work Session	Tacoma	For more information, contact the Committee at (360) 786-7300.
TBA	Legislative Transportation Committee Work Session	TBA	Legislative transportation issues.
Monthly meetings	Transportation Performance Audit Board Work Session	TBA	Transportation performance reviews and audits of transportation agencies.

Senate Judiciary Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	Purchase of Prescription Drugs in Canada - Current law and practices, liability issues, and efforts by other states to deal with the cost of prescription drugs.
	Work Session		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	Caps on noneconomic damages in medical malpractice, insurance reform and experiences in other states.
	Work Session		
TBA	Full Committee	Olympia	Examining Judicial and Prosecutorial Sentencing Discretion: (a) "Armed Crime" with draft legislation; and (b) concurrent / consecutive sentencing Issues.
	Work Session		
Other Meetings:			
April - December - monthly meeting	Work Group on Sentencing	Criminal Justice Training Commission, Burien	For more information, contact the Committee at (360) 786-7455.
	Work Group		

Senate Land Use & Planning Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
06/17/04 10:00 am	Joint with House Local Government	Ocean Shores	2004 GMA required comprehensive plan updates and additional related topics.
	Work Session		
06/22/04	Joint with Senate Agriculture	Lewis County	Issues relating to agricultural land designations under the Growth Management Act (GMA).
	Tour Only		
09/20/04 1:30 pm	Full Committee	Olympia SHR 3	TBA
	Work Session		
09/22/04 10:00 am	Jt. With Natural Resources, Energy & Water; Agriculture; Government Operations & Elections; Parks, Fish & Wildlife	SHR 1 Olympia	Agricultural Buffers.
	Work Session		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
Other Meetings:			
06/29/04 10 am - 2 pm	Joint Select Legislative Task Force on Permitting Processes	House Hearing Room A -- Olympia	Develop recommendations for a more simple, coordinated, and efficient local permit system. For more information, contact the committee at (360) 786-7462.
September December	Joint Select Legislative Task Force on Permitting Processes	TBA	Develop recommendations for a more simple, coordinated, and efficient local permit system. For more information, contact the committee at (360) 786-7462.

Senate Natural Resources, Energy & Water Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
04/14/04 Morning	Full Committee	Olympia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reports from the Office of the Governor and Department of Ecology on water withdrawals relating to the Columbia River Initiative. 2. Update on the Department of Natural Resources pilot study of geoduck aquaculture on state-owned aquatic lands. 3. Briefing on the method of billing for the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC).
	Work Session		
June 7-9, 2004	Full Committee	Snoqualamie Pass, Republic & Metaline Falls	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest health - tour examining diseased forests. 2. Forest fire prevention. 3. Metaline Falls mine tour.
	Tour Only		
09/20/04 9-10 am	Joint with House Agriculture & Natural Resources	HHRA Olympia	Review of stock water issues.
	Work Session		
09/20/04 10:00 am	Full Committee	Olympia SHR 2	Update on Department of Natural Resources pilot study of geoduck aquaculture on state-owned aquatic lands.
	Work Session		
09/22/04 10:00 am	Jt. With Land Use & Planning; Agriculture; Parks, Fish & Wildlife; Government Operations & Elections	SHR 1 Olympia	Agricultural Buffers.
	Work Session		
09/23/04 7:30 am - 3:30 pm	Full Committee	Hood Canal	Van tour to travel to Hood Canal to examine the factors that contribute to low levels of dissolved oxygen in the water.
	Tour Only		
October 12-14, 2004	Full Committee	Yakima, Richland & Hanford	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed site of the Black Rock Reservoir. 2. Granger Drain Joint Board of Control. 3. Hanford Reservation. 4. Renewable energy project sites.
	Tour Only		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	Waste tire management.
	Work Session		

Senate Parks, Fish & Wildlife Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
05/18/04	Full Committee	Olympia	Public hunting and wildlife viewing access to private lands: westside timberlands.
	Tour Only		
05/19/04	Full Committee	Issaquah, Green River	Hatcheries and the Endangered Species Act.
	Tour Only		
09/21/04 1:30 pm	Full Committee	Olympia SHR 2	1. Update on Deschutes hatchery. 2. Columbia River salmon allocation.
	Work Session		
09/22/04 10:00 am	Jt. With Natural Resources, Energy & Water; Land Use & Planning; Agriculture; Government Operations & Elections	SHR 1 Olympia	Agricultural Buffers.
	Work Session		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	1. Report of the State Parks Centennial Committee. 2. Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife permitting reform.
	Work Session		
TBA	Full Committee	Southwest Washington	State Parks & Lewis & Clark.
	Tour Only		
TBA	Full Committee	Grant County	Public hunting and wildlife viewing access to private lands: eastside agriculture.
	Tour Only		
Other Meetings:			
April - December (2 meetings)	State Parks Centennial Advisory Committee implementation of the State Parks 2013 Plan	TBA	For more information, contact the Committee at (360) 786-7462.

Senate Technology & Communications Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
05/20/04 All Day	Joint with Senate Agriculture	Seattle	Tour bio-technology entities in Seattle.
	Tour & Work Session		
06/08/04 All Day	Joint with Senate Agriculture	Richland	Tour of bio-based product research at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Washington State University in Richland.
	Tour & Work Session		
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).
	Work Session		
October 2004	Full Committee	Olympia	Telecommunications Regulations.
	Work Session		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	Wireless Deployment.
	Work Session		

Senate Ways & Means Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
Other Meetings:			
7/27/04, 8/26/04,9/24/0 4, 10/28/04, 11/16/04, 12/8/04	Joint Legislative/Executive Mental Health Task Force	SeaTac, location TBA	Task force to study and make recommendation on the organization and financing of Washington's public mental health system.
	Work Group		

Senate Agriculture Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Monitor Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) Program

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Evan Sheffels

Reference: SHB 2229

Description: The 2004 Legislature authorized the Washington State Department of Agriculture to adopt rules to meet federal requirements for mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL). Labeling requirements for beef, lamb, pork, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, and peanuts are scheduled to take effect in 2006. Fish and shellfish must be labeled by country, and as farm-raised or wild fish, by September 30, 2004. Committee staff will examine COOL and its relationship to state labeling programs, identify policy issues, and determine the nature and degree of involvement in the program by states.

Project: Monitor Issues Relating to Response to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies (BSE)

Completion Date:

Staff: Bob Lee

Reference: SSB 6107, SSB 6636, SSB 6596, ESJM 8050, SHB 2299, SHB 2802, SHB 2929

Description: Washington State was the location of the first and only cow in the United States to test positive with BSE. As the federal government has the overall responsibility of coordinating the response, a series of federal actions have been adopted and proposed, including increasing the number of cattle tested from 20,000 last year to 260,000 this year. Also, individual beef processing companies are seeking approval of BSE testing in order to restore foreign markets lost as a result of embargos on U.S. beef products imposed by foreign countries.

A number of issues will be monitored including: the results of increased BSE testing; the role of in-state animal disease laboratories in testing; the establishment of animal disease trace-back systems; proper disposal of diseased and non-ambulatory livestock; reopening of foreign beef markets; and compliance with federal feed rules.

Project: Monitor Judicial Decisions Regarding Commodity Commissions

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Evan Sheffels

Reference: SSB 6310, SHB 2367, SHB 2618, SB 6106, SB 5552, HB 2301, HB 1890 (2004), HB 1361 (2003)

Description: The Legislature has updated the state's commodity commission statutes in response to court decisions finding certain commission promotional activities that are funded by mandatory producer assessments to be unconstitutional. The U.S. Department of Justice recently petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to determine the constitutionality of the federal beef checkoff program. A Supreme Court decision could greatly reduce the confusion caused by conflicting decisions in state and federal courts. Committee staff will monitor this and other commodity commission cases and to understand, identify and evaluate legislative options and policy issues.

Senate Agriculture Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Regulation of Confined Animal Feeding Operations

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Bob Lee

Reference: SSB 5891

Description: The federal Environmental Protection Agency adopted rules that modify water quality requirements applicable to confined animal feeding operations and increase the number of operations subject to these requirements. In 2003, state legislation was adopted that transfers the administration of the existing Dairy Nutrient Management Act from the Department of Ecology to the Department of Agriculture. The legislation also establishes a multi-interest group to develop a program that would meet the new federal requirements. Proposed legislation and a funding request will be submitted to the Legislature for consideration during the 2005 session. Committee staff will assess the requirements of the federal rules, the options available to the Legislature, and the legislation and funding requested for the revised program.

Senate Children & Family Services & Corrections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Analysis of Initiative 884

Completion Date: Late summer

Staff: Edith Rice

Description: In the past, Senate Committee Services staff has prepared summaries for initiatives to the people. Senate Committee Services staff will jointly prepare a summary of the provisions of Initiative 884 (dedicating funds designated for educational purposes) for release when the initiative qualifies for the ballot.

Project: ESHB 2556 - Criminal Background Checks

Completion Date: December 31, 2004

Staff: Edith Rice

Reference: ESHB 2556

Description: Requests for criminal background checks come from many sources and often under very limited timelines. Inconsistent practices, response times, and misunderstandings about how background checks are performed are the subjects of recurring constituent concerns expressed to legislators. The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs will conduct a study to determine how Washington's background check system can be technologically improved. A 15-member joint task force consisting of legislators, representatives of state agencies, and entities which frequently request background checks will make recommendations regarding policy issues involved in criminal background checks. The results of both the technology study and policy study will be made available to the Legislature by December 31, 2004.

Project: Implementation of HCR 4418 - Study Panel on Adoption

Completion Date: January 1, 2005

Staff: Edith Rice

Reference: HCR 4418

Description: HCR 4418 created a study panel composed of two House and two Senate members. These members will invite participation by representatives from a variety of interest groups to explore issues related to adoption fees, barriers to adoption, child selling and buying, adoption facilitation, advertising, marketing, discrimination based upon ability to pay, race, color, or national origin of child or parent, background checks and agency licensing and credentialing. Current adoption statutes and policies will be reviewed. The study panel will issue findings based on input from the various interest groups, in a report due to the Legislature by January, 1, 2005.

Senate Children & Family Services & Corrections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Mental Health Issues in Corrections

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Fara Daun

Description: Offenders in county jails and state corrections facilities often enter the criminal justice system with existing mental health needs, or develop them while incarcerated. Concerns have been expressed regarding how mental health needs are met in a corrections setting and how treatment can be sustained when an offender is released. Often, offenders are released with little or no continuity of mental health care. This can prompt repetitive offending behavior which results in an increase in recidivism, and mental health related costs to prisons and jails. The utilization of mental health courts and triage centers will be reviewed along with other options to identify and treat mentally ill offenders. Committee members will also look at ways to improve and manage the cost of treating the mentally ill in jails and prisons and to assure adequate care when they transition from these facilities back to the community. Building on work already done in this area in the Children and Family Services and Corrections Committee, as well as the Health and Long-Term Care Committee, the goal will be to gather and analyze information sufficient to determine what if any legislation would be appropriate during the 2005 session. Work on this topic will be accomplished in collaboration with the Health and Long-Term Care Committee.

Other Projects:

Project: Joint Legislative/Executive Mental Health Task Force

Completion Date: January 1, 2005

Staff: Fara Daun

Description: The supplemental operating budget (ESHB 2459) establishes an eight-member task force, including five legislators, to study and make recommendations on the organization and financing of Washington's public mental health system. Initial findings and recommendations are to be submitted to the Governor and Legislature by January 1, and final recommendations by June 30. Issues to be addressed include funding for persons not eligible for Medicaid; the formula by which available public funds are distributed across the state; progress toward implementation of performance-based reporting and the elimination of excessive administration; the effectiveness of the current public mental health system administrative structure; the relative benefits of alternative payment models; and the number and type of needed residential treatment beds. In collaboration with staff from the House and from the executive branch, Children & Family Services & Corrections staff will assist in the development and execution of task force work plans addressing all of these areas.

Senate Commerce & Trade Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Costco Wholesale Corporation versus Liquor Control Board

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff: Jennifer Strus

Description: On February 23, 2004, Costco filed a lawsuit against a number of defendants, including the state Liquor Control Board. Costco alleges, among other things, that Washington State liquor laws violate certain federal statutes in that the state laws restrain competition. This issue has received national attention because Michigan (whose liquor laws are similar to Washington's) is appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling finding its laws unconstitutional. Committee staff will monitor the Costco case as well as the national issue and keep the committee members apprised.

Project: Gambling Zoning

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: John Dziedzic

Reference: HB 1667 (2004)

Description: Chapter 9.46 RCW is a general law granting exclusive authority regarding the licensing and regulation of gambling activities to the Washington State Gambling Commission (WSGC). A license issued by the WSGC authorizes the licensee to engage in the gambling activity for which the license is issued throughout a city or county across the state, except in a city or county that has prohibited any or all of the gambling activities for which the license is issued.

Except for powers granted under the statute, local licensing and regulatory authority relating to gambling is preempted by RCW 9.46.295. A city or county may enact local ordinances related to gambling only to the extent that they do not conflict with the statute or WSGC rules. The committee will continue to work with interested parties to resolve differences on this issue. Legislation may be drafted as a result of the Committee's work.

Project: Governor's Task Force on Workers' Compensation

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Jennifer Strus

Reference: SB 6464, SB 6317, SB 6395, SB 6394 (2004)

Description: As a result of the latest workers' compensation rate increase in December 2003, the Governor announced that he would convene a task force to look at reforming the workers' compensation system. Committee staff will attend these task force meetings and report the progress of the task force to the committee members. Specific major workers' compensation issues of focus include:

- Methods (hours worked v. payroll) by which workers' compensation premiums are set (Reference: SB 6461)
 - Self-insurance and the oversight of self-insurers by the Department of Labor and Industries (Reference: SB 6317)
 - Applications for workers' compensation (SB 6395)
 - Compromise and release (SB 6394)
-

Senate Commerce & Trade Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Joint Legislative Committee on Trade

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff: John Dziedzic

Reference: SHB 1059, SSB 5549 (2003)

Description: SHB 1059 and SSB 5549 created a joint legislative committee on trade. The committee consists of legislative members and will be staffed by Senate Committee Services and the House Office of Program Research. The Committee must annually report to the State Trade Representative and the Legislature.

Project: Licensing of Commercial and Domestic Pump Installers

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: John Dziedzic

Reference: SB 6739 (2004)

Description: A person engaged in the business of working on pumps for potable water or waste water systems is subject to regulation from numerous sources: the Department of Labor and Industries, the Department of Ecology and the Department of Health. The regulation from these different state agencies is cumbersome to the pump installers. Committee staff will work with interested parties to explore methods by which the regulatory system can be less cumbersome while still protecting the safety of the public. Legislation may be drafted as a result of the Committee's work.

Project: Licensing of Private Sports Coaches and Trainers

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: John Dziedzic

Reference: SB 6229 (2004)

Description: As a result of The Seattle Times series on the lack of oversight over private sports coaches and trainers last fall, SB 6229 was introduced during the 2004 session. Among the concerns voiced during the testimony on this bill was that it would require licensure of hundreds of volunteer parks and recreation coaches. This requirement could cause a number of the volunteers to give up coaching simply because the cost and process of licensure would be too unwieldy. Committee staff will meet with interested parties to discuss concerns voiced by the persons who testified. Legislation could result from this work.

Project: Outsourcing State Activities

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff: Jennifer Strus

Reference: EHCR 4419 (2004)

Description: During the 2004 legislative session, the outsourcing of state activities and jobs was the subject of discussion. The full extent to which state jobs or activities are currently outsourced, or will be outsourced, is not known, nor is the extent to which other countries "insource" jobs to this country and this state. Committee staff will collect available national and state information on the current use of outsourcing and insourcing activities and report this information to the committee. Legislation may be drafted as a result of the committee's work.

Senate Commerce & Trade Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Problem Gambling

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: John Dziedzic

Reference: SB 6572, HB 2776 (2004)

Description: A 1999 study funded by the Lottery Commission found that 5.1% of the Washington adult population had experienced gambling problems at some point in their lives. In 2002, the Legislature established a program for the treatment of pathological gambling in the Department of Social and Health Services. The Legislature provided \$500,000 in revenue from the multi-state lottery to fund this program for FY 2003. The pathological gambling program operated for nine months, from October 2002 through June 2003, subsidizing treatment for 203 problem gamblers and providing training on treatment of problem gambling for 25 mental health professionals.

How to fund problem gambling treatment, how much funding is needed and how many problem gamblers need treatment are issues the committee will study during the interim. Legislation may be drafted as a result of the committee's work.

Project: Streamlining the Apprenticeship Approval Process

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: John Dziedzic

Reference: SB 6182 (2004)

Description: Obtaining approval for apprenticeship programs from the Apprenticeship and Training Council is often cumbersome and time consuming. The committee will explore options to improve the apprenticeship process. Legislation may be drafted as a result of the Committee's work.

Senate Economic Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Brownfields Development

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Jack Brummel

Description: Brownfields are typically abandoned commercial and industrial properties that contain some contamination that may affect their future productive use. Liability concerns and insufficient financial incentives have presented obstacles to large-scale brownfield cleanup and redevelopment activity in Washington. The committee will review options for addressing the obstacles to brownfield development. Legislation will be drafted as needed.

Project: Community, Trade and Economic Development Statutes

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Jack Brummel

Description: The statute creating the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development was enacted over 10 years ago. Since then, the department has undergone a number of internal reorganizations and evaluations. The department responded in January of this year to a request for information on how it carries out its obligations under its economic development statutes. The department's programs and activities will be reviewed in relation to current statutes and the department's strategic plan. Through discussions with the Department and the Economic Development Commission, proposed revisions of CTED statutes will be developed.

Project: Stock Car Racing Facility

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Jack Brummel

Description: International Speedway Corporation is scouting for a 500 to 1,000-acre site in the Northwest on which to build a \$200 million track to hold stock car racing events. The company made a presentation before the Economic Development Committee during the legislative session which indicated a dramatic economic impact was possible from the creation of a track. The committee will monitor the selection process and examine the state's capacity to facilitate the siting of a track in Washington. Legislation will be drafted as needed.

Senate Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Civic Education Summit

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Susan Mielke

Reference: SB 5128, SB 5772, HB 1194, HB 2857, HB 2814

Description: In response to several Senate and House bills offered in the 2003 and 2004 sessions, the Senate Education Committee held a work session on "Restoring the Civic Mission of our Schools." Several recommendations were made at the work session, one of which was that legislators participate in a "Civics Education Summit" organized and funded by the Center for Civic Education where a 5-year plan for Washington is developed. The Summit will be held on September 22, 2004. Legislative options that result from the summit will be evaluated and legislation will be drafted as needed.

Project: School Policies on the Administration of Prescription Drugs to Students

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Heather Lewis-Lechner

Reference: SB 6289 & Congressional HR 1170

Description: In the last few years there has been an increased use of medications to control and manage behavioral disorders. There is concern that there may be school employees who are not medical professionals making suggestions to parents and placing an inappropriate emphasis on the use of prescription drugs for behavioral problems observed in school. Congress is currently considering legislation to address this issue by requiring states to implement certain policies and procedures. The committee will monitor the status of the federal legislation; review current Washington policies in order to determine if legislation will be needed to comply with any congressional requirements; and draft legislation to accomplish the purposes of SB 6289 and comply with any federal requirements.

Project: Analysis of Initiative 884

Completion Date: Late Summer

Staff: Susan Mielke

Description: In the past, Senate Committee Services staff has prepared summaries for initiatives to the people. Senate Committee Services staff will jointly prepare a summary of the provisions of Initiative 884 (dedicating funds designated for educational purposes) for release when the initiative qualifies for the ballot.

Project: Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff: Susan Mielke and Heather Lewis-Lechner

Description: Senate Education and Ways and Means Committee staff will prepare a Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance. This will provide a resource for members, legislative staff, and the general public. The document will focus on frequently asked questions regarding K-12 Finance.

Senate Financial Services, Insurance & Housing Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: A Legislator's Guide to Housing Issues

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Fara Daun

Description: Housing issues cover a multitude of concerns, including low income housing, mobile homes, landlord/tenant complaints, condominiums, building contractor problems, and barriers to first-time ownership. Staff will research and prepare "A Legislator's Guide to Housing Issues," providing background for those new to housing issues. The Guide will explain the structures for financing low income housing, rental housing supports, and supports for first-time and low-income buyers. The review will include private, public and public-private financing initiatives.

Project: Financial Literacy Public Private Partnership (FLPPP)

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Joanne Conrad

Reference: SHB 2455/SB 6212

Description: SHB 2455/SB 6212 created a Financial Literacy Public Private Partnership (FLPPP) that includes Legislative membership. The FLPPP will meet over a period of 3 years, to develop a working definition of "financial literacy," identify curricula, and implement some initial programs to improve and evaluate financial literacy in K-12 public education. The FLPPP will be staffed, in part, by Senate Committee Staff.

Project: Legislative Field Guide to Financial Services

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff: Joanne Conrad

Description: The world of "banking" has changed immensely in the past decade. Financial services now include not only such traditional institutions as banks, savings and loans and credit unions, but also brokerages, pay day lenders, money transmitters and mortgage lenders. Many of these entities are regulated at both the state and federal levels. New legislators, and others engaged in public policy analysis affecting the financial sector, need a concise, updated overview of financial services, including background on recent major legal changes.

Project: Updated Analysis of the Use of Credit Scoring and Comprehensive Loss Underwriting Exchange (CLUE) Reports in Insurance Decision-Making

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Joanne Conrad and 2004 Summer Intern

Reference: ESHB 2544 (2002)

Description: In 2002, the Legislature passed ESHB 2544, allowing and limiting the use of credit history in underwriting and rating decisions for auto insurance. In 2004, the Legislature considered measures protecting consumers from misinformation in their CLUE reports, for property insurance. Legislators, the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) and the Senate Financial Services, Insurance and Housing Committee have received numerous consumer complaints and inquiries about the use of these types of information and databases for insurance decision-making. Staff will research and analyze the use of credit scoring and CLUE reports, including the legislative and regulatory approaches taken in other jurisdictions.

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: County Government

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Diane Smith/Mac Nicholson

Description: The committee will review forms of county government in light of the reported pending insolvency of some counties and lack of tax base in others. Additionally, the statutes will be reviewed in the following issue areas: (1) citing of churches in rural areas; (2) surface water management tax/fee (RCW 36.89.080); (3) creation of new counties; and (4) creation of methods for formal, regional consolidation of counties. Potential legislation for 2005 will be developed as is appropriate.

Project: Updating the Public Disclosure Act (Initiative 134)

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Diane Smith/Mac Nicholson

Reference: Initiative 134

Description: The committee will seek insight on the operation and effectiveness of the campaign finance and public disclosure as seen from various perspectives. Potential legislation for 2005 will be developed as is appropriate.

Project: Veterans' Relief Act

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Diane Smith/Mac Nicholson

Reference: SB 6142, HB 2670 (2004)

Description: The committee will explore this issue as it concerns the distribution of property tax money for the relief of indigent and suffering veterans pursuant to chapter 73.08 RCW. Potential legislation for 2005 will be developed as is appropriate.

Other Projects:

Project: Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)

Completion Date: June 2005

Staff: Mac Nicholson

Reference: EHB 2064 (2003)

Description: The committee will finalize the BRAC report that examines the missions and economic impacts of military facilities in Washington; studies obstacles to mission performance; and evaluates state and local proposals aimed at facilitating military missions. Upon completion, the report will be distributed to the Legislature, the Governor, and made available to the public.

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Health Care Cost Reduction

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Jonathan Seib

Reference: SB 5807, HB 1299 (2003), SB 6651, SB 5404 (2004)

Description: The Legislature has traditionally focused its efforts with regard to health care on assuring access to medical treatment, with particular attention on the availability and affordability of health insurance. While the question of how to pay for care has thus received substantial consideration, less attention has been devoted to strategies which might reduce the cost of such care, and the need and demand for it. Recent legislation, however, has touched on ideas such as evidence-based medicine, wellness promotion, consumer-driven care, and value purchasing. Exploring these ideas in more depth may identify other means to improve the health status of Washington residents while also addressing concerns about the increasing cost of medical treatment.

Project: Medical Malpractice

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Tanya Karwaki

Reference: SB 5209, SJR 8207 (2003), ESHB 2459 Section 118 (2004)

Description: The Committee will identify and evaluate other states that have adopted legislation or taken other action to address the issue of medical malpractice. Staff assistance will be provided to the Task Force on Non-Economic Damages established in the 2004 supplemental operating budget. Options for legislation will be prepared for the 2005 session as needed.

Project: Mental Health Insurance Coverage

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Jonathan Seib/Tanya Karwaki

Reference: HB 1828, SB 6484 (2004)

Description: Legislation which would require health carriers to provide coverage for mental health services on the same basis as that provided for physical health services has been introduced in various forms in each of the past several years. Each year such legislation has failed to pass due in part to concerns regarding its impact on public and private health insurance costs. There is ongoing interest, however, in the role of private insurance in serving the mentally ill, and the proper way, if any, to expand mental health coverage in an affordable and cost-effective fashion. Anticipating the introduction of legislation again in 2005, the Committee will compile updated information on the issue, particularly regarding cost impacts. This work will be done in conjunction with mental health related projects of the Children & Family Services & Corrections Committee.

Project: Obesity as a Public Health Threat

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Rhoda Donkin

Description: Studies increasingly show obesity linked to chronic, life-threatening illness. Obesity in children has doubled in the last two decades. The Committee will look at juvenile obesity trends and possible interventions, including curbing the provision of non-nutritional foods in schools.

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Regulatory Reform in Health Care

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Jonathan Seib

Reference: SB 5753 (2003), SB 6485 (2004)

Description: The Committee will continue its efforts, initiated in 2003, to identify ways to reduce the burden of state regulations on health carriers and health care providers. Particular focus will be on streamlining the audit and review process, reducing data collection requirements, and moving towards more uniform compliance standards among the various regulatory and purchasing agencies. Implementation of SB 6485, which requires relevant state agencies to take certain actions to coordinate and reduce the administrative burden of hospital surveys and audits, will also be monitored. Legislation will be prepared as appropriate.

Project: Utilization of the 340B Drug Pricing Program

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Tanya Karwaki

Reference: Federal Law

Description: The 340B Drug Pricing Program permits federally designated community health centers or other federally qualified covered entities to purchase pharmaceuticals below the Medicaid rebate price. The Committee will study Washington's current uses of the 340B Drug Pricing Program and identify areas where Washington could further utilize the program. Legislation will be prepared, as appropriate, to address any concerns identified.

Other Projects:

Project: Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities

Completion Date: November 2005

Staff: Rhoda Donkin

Reference: SCR 8419 (2004)

Description: The Committee has heard from many sources that disease and premature death occurs disproportionately in communities of color in our state. Legislation created a joint select committee to review health disparities in these communities and among women. Staff will assist in the process of developing a legislative agenda to respond to health disparities in Washington.

Senate Higher Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Analysis of Initiative 884

Completion Date: Late Summer

Staff: Jean Six

Description: In the past, Senate Committee Services staff has prepared summaries for initiatives to the people. Senate Committee Services staff will jointly prepare a summary of the provisions of Initiative 884 (dedicating funds designated for educational purposes) for release when the initiative qualifies for the ballot.

Project: Financial Aid Policies

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Heather Lewis-Lechner

Description: The availability of adequate financial aid is integral to providing access to higher education for all students who are qualified and can benefit from education and training beyond the secondary level. The issues to be analyzed include need-based v. merit-based policies; conditional loan repayment programs; and the possible effect of the Locke v. Davey Supreme Court decision. A review of these various financial aid policies, as well as others not listed, may lead the committee to consider the drafting of legislation.

Project: Minimum College Admission Standards Review

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff: Jean Six

Description: The Higher Education Coordinating Board with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and other education entities are reviewing the minimum college admission standards, and if necessary, will revise them. The review includes whether the admission standards should be linked to specific components of K-12 education reform (such as the Washington Assessment of Student Learning or the Certificate of Mastery), the effect of the admission standards on high school course offerings, and whether changes could help reduce the need for recent high school graduates to take remedial classes at college. The Board intends to make any revisions to the admission standards by late September 2004. The Committee will monitor the progress of the review.

Project: Tuition Waivers

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Jean Six

Description: Every year the Legislature deals with tuition waivers which reduce the revenue available from tuition collections. Waivers proliferated at a time when tuition was a state general fund resource, but in the early 1990s tuition was shifted from the state general fund to local college/university revenue. Public baccalaureate institutions and community colleges may waive all or a portion of tuition through approximately 35 different waiver programs. There is a statutory maximum on the amount that each baccalaureate or the community colleges as a whole may waive and receive state general fund subsidy. The waiver cap ranges from a high of 35 percent for the community colleges to a low of 6 percent for The Evergreen State College. The process by which institutions choose to participate in waiver programs, and the waivers actually distributed, varies by institution. A thorough review of waiver policy by the Committee may lead to the drafting of legislation.

Senate Highways & Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Local Freight Project Funding Policy

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Greg Doss

Reference: ESSB 6701, ESSB 6680

Description: The interaction of freight rail, commercial trucking and general traffic has a significant impact on congestion and the resulting delays have substantial direct and indirect impacts to the state's economy. The 2003 nickel package did not provide revenue for local freight projects. The 2004 Legislature provided state motor vehicle funds for one-time, partial funding of eight local freight projects and full funding of one project. Committee staff will identify potential revenue sources (Federal, State & Local) and develop programmatic solutions to address the ongoing funding needs of local freight projects. A white paper or legislation will be prepared as requested by Committee members.

Project: Passenger-Only Ferries: Public-Private Partnerships

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Tami Neilson

Description: Within the next couple of years, public-private partnerships, such as those formed by Kitsap Transit and Aqua Express, will provide passenger-only ferry service within the Puget Sound. Committee staff will monitor existing partnerships, progress in providing this service, and the potential to expand these services to other locations. Additionally, staff will examine the role of the Utilities and Transportation Commission in setting fares and granting certificates of public convenience and necessity and waivers from the 10 mile restriction. A report or legislation will be prepared as requested by committee members.

Project: Patrol Towing

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Kim Johnson

Reference: Statutes and case law

Description: Some tow companies operate under a contract providing blanket permission to patrol parking lots and tow any illegally parked vehicle. However, many times the vehicles are towed without the owner of the lot specifically authorizing each tow, as may be required by state law. In 1994, Congress passed a law deregulating the motor-carrier industry, which some tow companies argue preempts state and local patrol towing laws. Committee staff will review federal, state and local laws concerning patrol towing and property rights, and monitor current litigation on this issue. A summary of federal and state law will be prepared.

Project: Project Reporting

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Janice Baumgardt

Reference: ESHB 2474

Description: ESHB 2474 places quarterly project reporting requirements on the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). Staff and WSDOT will develop report format and elements. Additionally, scheduling milestones and measures will be developed to monitor the scope, schedule, and cost of projects. The Transportation Executive Information System (TEIS) is to be enhanced to track this data.

Senate Highways & Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Public Private Partnerships

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Michael Groesch

Description: Washington State's Public-Private Initiative Act was effectively concluded with the transition of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge project to a publicly financed facility. The Federal Highway Authority is actively promoting Public-Private partnerships and Congress may make special provision for such projects in the Federal Transportation Act Reauthorization. In the 2004 session, HB 3164 proposed to reinvigorate public-private transportation financing in Washington State. Committee staff will review existing state statutory provisions in Washington and neighboring states, proposed 2004 legislation, and initiatives being researched by the Transportation Commission. A white paper or legislation will be prepared as requested by committee members.

Project: Transportation Finance 101 Publication

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Dean Carlson

Description: Funding for transportation in Washington is a complicated process and is not fully understood by the public. Of late, transportation financing issues such as the new nickel package passed by the legislature, the Regional Transportation Investment District in the Central Puget Sound area, and the Tacoma Narrows Bridge project have pushed to the forefront of issues. A Citizen's Guide publication explaining how transportation is financed in this state would be of benefit to the public, the media, and present and future legislatures. This publication will be formatted much the same as past publications explaining various tax issues written by Senate Committee Services.

Project: Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Involvement in Local Zoning Changes Impacting Right-of-Way Costs

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Kelly Simpson

Description: Right-of-way costs applicable to transportation construction projects are based, in part, on the permitted land usage for which particular properties at issue were zoned by local governments. Local zoning decisions that change the permitted land usage of specific properties may increase the value of the property needed for the transportation project, thereby impacting right-of-way costs applicable to the project. The impact to the right-of-way costs by local zoning changes may be, in some cases, significant. Committee staff will (1) review existing state law regarding the issue, including zoning and planning statutes; (2) examine establishing a process whereby WSDOT may be involved in local zoning changes impacting transportation construction projects; and (3) prepare a report or legislation as requested by committee members.

Senate Judiciary Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Aggravated Sentencing

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: In Washington, juries determine the guilt of criminal defendants. Judges determine the length of the sentence as a matter of law by using either the sentencing class, for misdemeanors, or the sentencing guidelines if the crime is a felony. Sentences outside the standard sentencing range may be imposed if the judge determines that there are sufficient mitigating or aggravating circumstances. An offender may not be sentenced above the statutory maximum in any case. The imposition of sentences based upon aggravating factors has been the subject of considerable state and U.S. Supreme Court litigation in recent years. Washington has a case pending before the court that could have a significant affect on judicial discretion in regard to sentencing. Staff will study the status of sentencing litigation in regard to judicial discretion and an offenders right to a trial by jury. A report will be prepared and legislative alternatives identified if appropriate.

Project: Courts of Limited Jurisdiction, Municipal Court Services

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Lidia Mori & Jinnah Rose-McFadden

Description: The committee will continue to monitor the "Court Funding Task Force, Courts of Limited Jurisdiction, Delivery of Service Work Group" and will work with the Administrative Office of the Courts to determine possible future legislation. Staff will draft legislation as directed.

Project: Creation of a Specialized Water Rights Court

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Lidia Mori

Description: One recommendation of the Water Disputes Task Force issued by the Attorney General is the creation of a specialized water rights court to help resolve water rights disputes. Legislation was introduced in the 2004 session to implement this recommendation, however, the bill did not pass. Staff will investigate whether a constitutional amendment is necessary in order to create such a water court and will work with the legislatively created task force to study judicial and administrative alternatives for resolving water disputes. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

Project: Development of Consensus Tort Reform Legislation

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Lidia Mori & Jinnah Rose-McFadden

Description: The issue of tort reform is contentious and critical. There have been several failed legislative attempts to address some of the issues central to the tort reform debate. Staff will meet with interested parties in an attempt to develop legislation that resolves at least some of the issues involved in the tort reform dispute, with special attention given to the issue of caps on noneconomic damages and insurance reform. In addition, staff will assist the Task Force with Non-Economic Damages which was created in the 2004 supplemental operating budget.

Senate Judiciary Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Prescription Drugs from Canada - Current Law and Practices, Liability Issues, and Efforts by Other States to Deal with the Cost of Prescription Drugs.

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff: Lidia Mori

Description: Staff will examine the potential liability created for a state that is participating in the purchase of prescription drugs in Canada. Staff will also review the practices in other states with regard to prescription drug prices and will research current applicable federal law.

Project: Sentencing Reform Act Review

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: The Senate Judiciary Committee is exploring whether the present determinate sentencing system is serving the purposes identified in the Sentencing Reform Act (SRA). There is concern that the SRA has been amended over the years to the point that it is now overly complex and in need of readjustment. Specific areas of concern are the administration of community custody, the complexity of scoring to determine sentencing length, the balance of discretion between judges and prosecuting attorneys, and the consideration of individual offender characteristics during sentencing. The Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee has requested that a small committee workgroup consider these issues and formulate legislation if appropriate. The participants will include Senator Kline, Senator Brandland, and one representative from each of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission, the Superior Court Judge's Association, the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the Department of Corrections, and the defense bar.

Project: Sentencing Reform Act Work Group

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Lidia Mori

Description: At the interim committee assembly hearing on December 5, 2003, it was suggested by the Chair of the Judiciary Committee that a work group be formed to look at the subject of governmental immunity and the public duty doctrine. One aspect of the public duty doctrine which will be examined, among others, involves the situation in which the government becomes subject to substantial tort liability for injuries caused by criminal defendants as a proximate result of the failure to arrest, detain, and transport on outstanding warrants. The work group will include interested senators and judicial representatives, Dave McEachran, Whatcom county prosecuting attorney, and Tom McBride, Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and other interested parties.

Project: Tort Reform - Judgments and Awards

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Aldo Melchiori & Jinnah Rose-McFadden

Description: During discussions of the various tort reform legislation, conflicting claims have been made regarding whether jury and arbitration awards have been skyrocketing or remaining relatively stable, as well as whether plaintiffs or defendants fair better during arbitration or in jury trials. Staff will study arbitration awards and jury verdicts for medical malpractice and construction defect cases over the last decade. A report summarizing the results will be prepared.

Senate Land Use & Planning Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Assessment of Mitigation Fees and Impact Fees on Development

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff: Genevieve Pisarski

Reference: SB 6199, SB 6413, SB 6477, SB 6587 (2004); SB 5371 (2003)

Description: Mitigation fees are one of the means used by local governments toward fulfilling State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements to mitigate specific adverse environmental impacts of development projects. Development projects in jurisdictions that plan under the Growth Management Act may also be subject to impact fees that represent a proportionate share of financing streets and roads, parks and open space, school facilities, and fire protection facilities reasonably related to the project. The Committee will identify sources of information regarding these fees, compile the available information, and examine outstanding issues regarding impact fees and mitigation fees, with emphasis on residential development (including both site-built and manufactured homes) and affordable housing. The Committee will coordinate with the Committee on Financial Services, Insurance, and Housing as appropriate.

Project: Implementation of the Best Available Science (BAS) Requirement

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Genevieve Pisarski

Reference: SB 6335 (2004); SB 5658 (2003)

Description: The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires cities and counties to include BAS in fulfilling the mandate to designate and protect critical areas. Several jurisdictions are implementing the BAS requirement for the first time since it was enacted in 1995 as they complete the statutorily required updates of their comprehensive plans and development regulations. The Committee will examine implementation of BAS by local governments, legal challenges that result, interpretation of the requirement by the Growth Management Hearings Boards and courts, and the various issues and concerns that arise regarding BAS. The Committee will examine proposals for clarifying the BAS requirement.

Project: Industrial Land Banks & Land Use Alternatives for Business Development

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff: Andrea McNamara

Reference: SB 6534, SB 6409 (2004)

Description: The Industrial Land Bank (ILB) program enacted by the Legislature in 1996 has been used by only one county (Grant County). Changes to simplify and streamline the process of designating ILBs were enacted this session (SB 6534), but only a limited number of counties are eligible to participate in the program. The Committee will examine the potential future use of the modified ILB program in eligible counties, the possibility of expanding eligibility for the program to other counties, and additional land use alternatives for business development that focus on job recruitment, creation, and retention in rural areas of the state.

Senate Land Use & Planning Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Schedule & Scope of Growth Management Act (GMA) Update Requirements

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Andrea McNamara

Reference: SB 6592 (2004); SB 5160, SB 5680 (2003)

Description: The Committee will continue to explore options to reduce the burden on smaller, slower growing jurisdictions resulting from current GMA update requirements. The frequency of required updates, the scope of what must be updated, the process required to complete updates, the range of issues that may be appealed after updates, and the costs associated with updates and appeals will all be examined. Legislation will be drafted to modify current update requirements in ways that reduce the burden on local governments without sacrificing the goals and objectives of the GMA.

Other Projects:

Project: Joint Select Legislative Task Force on Permitting Processes

Completion Date: January 2006

Staff: Genevieve Pisarski

Reference: SSCR 8418 (2004)

Description: A joint select legislative task force, created by SSCR 8418, will develop recommendations for a more simple, coordinated, and efficient local permit system, after evaluating local development regulations of selected jurisdictions among the "buildable lands" counties and their cities over 50,000. The task force is composed of the chairs and ranking minority members of the Senate Committee on Land Use and Planning and the House Local Government Committee. The Governor will be invited to participate and form a "Five Corners Task Force." An advisory committee will also be established to assist the task force and is to be composed of representatives of the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, the Department of Ecology, the Office of Regulatory Assistance, a county, a city, the business community, the environmental community, agriculture, labor, the property rights community, the construction industry, ports, and federally recognized Indian tribes.

Senate Natural Resources, Energy & Water Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Alternative Energy Economic Development Opportunities

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Andrea McNamara

Reference: SHB 2732, SSB 6131, SSB 6132, SSB 6146, SB 6487, SSB 6646, SB 6685, SB 6716 (2004); Northwest Energy Technology Collaborative Project Strategic Plan (due December 2004); ESHB 1242, ESHB 1243, EHB 2146 (2003)

Description: A recent regional study indicates that technology-driven alternative energy sources could generate as many as 30,000 new jobs in the Northwest. Many of the opportunities in the alternative energy sector are well-suited for development in rural and economically depressed areas of the state. The Committee will examine a range of alternative energy economic development opportunities with special focus on bio-energy initiatives that have potential to assist struggling rural areas, including biodiesel production from agricultural products, dairy/cattle waste-to-energy projects, and forest biomass electricity generation projects. Committee staff will collect available information on current initiatives around the state and existing federal and state incentive programs available to project developers or interested communities. Analysis of legislative options to assist and expand these efforts, including any relevant legislative recommendations contained in the forthcoming strategic plan for renewable energy development by the Northwest Energy Technology Collaborative Project, will be prepared for consideration by the Committee. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

Project: Carbon Dioxide Mitigation/Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) Billing Practices

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Andrea McNamara

Reference: SHB 3141 (2004)

Description: With the passage of a new carbon dioxide mitigation requirement, EFSEC, the Department of Ecology, and local air authorities will be adopting rules and beginning to implement the new program over the interim. The Committee will closely monitor the development of those rules and the handling of any applications subject to the new requirements, in order to identify any issues in need of legislative follow-up.

A related issue is the fee-supported funding of EFSEC's work in this area of mitigation, and generally for all its operations. Concerns have been raised about EFSEC's historic billing practice of charging fees for general EFSEC operations (such as rulemaking, overhead/administrative costs, etc.) even though its fee authority is for costs "actually and necessarily incurred by the council for processing the application... [and monitoring compliance]." The Committee has asked EFSEC to report on its progress to resolve these billing issues over the interim, and will prepare legislation as needed.

Project: Forest Health & Forest Fires

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Vic Moon

Reference: 2SSB 6144 (2004)

Description: The forest health problems in the Loomis area and the state and federal responses to all forest health issues will be reviewed. The staff will be monitoring the development of a total forest health policy being prepared under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Lands pursuant to 2SSB 6144. The urban interface fire and land use policies will be reviewed as they relate to both fire and forest management. The management of forest lands in other states and in Canada will be studied in order to gain possible new approaches to improving forest health and long term sustainability.

Senate Natural Resources, Energy & Water Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: **Impaired Water Bodies**

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Richard Rodger

Reference: SSB 6119 (2004)

Description: Many factors contribute to the failure of water bodies to meet water quality standards. Once a water body has been identified as failing, the Department of Ecology (DOE) must undertake a process of determining the need for a total maximum daily load (TMDL) process. Staff will report on the progress being made under a court settlement agreement that requires DOE to prepare TMDLs for a significant number of water bodies. The Committee will investigate two sites with water quality issues of particular interest:

(1) Moses Lake - the lake has received two designations, one listing it as a "water of concern" and the other "a polluted water body." The Natural Resources, Energy & Water Committee will review the agency's actions in making this determination.

(2) Hood Canal - part of the canal has very low levels of dissolved oxygen causing massive die-offs of the marine life and the closure of much of the canal to fishing. Several efforts are underway to examine ways to improve the canal's water quality.

Legislative policy issues will be identified and evaluated, and legislation will be drafted as needed.

Project: **Water Resource Issues**

Completion Date: January 2005

Staff: Evan Sheffels

Reference: SB 6734, 2SHB1317, SB 6376, SSJR 8225, SB 6674, SB 6662, SB 6486, SSB 6732, ESSB 6415, SB 6562 (2004), SB 5025, SB 5077, 2E2SHB 1336, 2E2SHB 1338 (2003)

Description: Staff will attend water advisory group meetings and follow major legislative proposals to establish water courts and update statutes on water right relinquishment, trust water, and instream flows. Information will also be gathered in anticipation of potential legislation on stock-watering and other agricultural water use, conservation and transfer issues. In addition, a number of activities will be monitored, including: Watershed Planning Act proposal and approval processes; Department of Health adoption of water use efficiency regulations; Department of Ecology modification and implementation of municipal, industrial and construction storm water permits; and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee's study of Water Conservancy Boards.

Senate Parks, Fish & Wildlife Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Hatcheries & the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Kari Guy

Description: The role of salmon hatcheries has evolved in response to federal ESA listings of salmon. Some hatcheries have changed production methods to limit impacts to listed species; others are used to augment listed runs. The federal fisheries agencies are currently revising hatchery policy and reviewing salmon listings. The Committee will tour a range of hatcheries to determine the policy and budgetary impacts of changes to federal ESA and hatchery policy.

Project: Private Land Partnerships

Completion Date: June 2004

Staff: Kari Guy

Description: There are a number of state programs that encourage landowners to provide hunting and wildlife viewing on private lands. The Committee will tour private land wildlife management area, and evaluate the benefits of continuing or expanding the private land wildlife management area program. The Committee will also tour other access and upland restoration areas to review changes and challenges in implementation of upland restoration programs.

Senate Technology & Communications Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Telecommunications Regulations

Completion Date: October 2004

Staff: William Bridges

Description: According to some providers of telecommunications services, current regulations should be evaluated in light of the increasingly competitive environment for these services. Committee staff will plan a work session in October 2004 that will provide an overview of the Washington Utilities Transportation Commission's telecommunications division. The work session will identify commission responsibilities and encourage discussion of the continued relevancy of telecommunications regulations.

Project: Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff: William Bridges

Description: Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) is a technology that routes telephone calls over the internet instead of the public switched telephone network. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is studying the technology and several state regulatory commissions have attempted to regulate the technology. Committee staff will plan a work session on this topic for the September legislative assembly.

Project: Wireless Deployment

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: William Bridges

Description: Among other things, the 1996 Telecommunications Act prohibits a state or local government from effectively prohibiting the provision of wireless telecommunications services; however, reasonable zoning moratoria are permitted. Some wireless service providers assert that despite the federal law concerning the siting of wireless facilities, and despite the increased consumer demand for wireless services, the siting of wireless facilities in Washington is still difficult. Committee staff will plan a work session on the topic of wireless deployment for the December legislative assembly.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: 2005 Citizen's Guide to the Budget

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Ways and Means staff

Description: For the last several years, the Senate Ways and Means Committee and Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP) staff have published a Citizen's Guide to the Budget. Members, legislative staff, and the general public use the guide to answer basic questions about the Washington State biennial budget. Beginning last year, staff began publishing the Guide on an annual basis because of significant changes in supplemental budget sessions. The Guide will be updated before the 2005 legislative session.

Project: 2005-2007 Fiscal Preview Document

Completion Date: 9/15/04

Staff: Ways and Means staff

Description: In preparation for the 2005-2007 biennial operating and capital budgets, Ways and Means staff will prepare a 2005-2007 Fiscal Preview for legislators and the public in the fall of 2004.

Project: Analysis of Initiative 884

Completion Date: Late Summer

Staff: Senate Committee Services staff

Description: In the past, Senate Committee Services staff has prepared summaries for initiatives to the people. Senate Committee Services staff will jointly prepare a summary of the provisions of Initiative 884 (dedicating funds designated for educational purposes) for release when the initiative qualifies for the ballot.

Project: Analyze 2005-2007 Operating and Capital Budget Requests and the 2005 Supplemental Operating and Capital Budgets

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Ways and Means staff

Description: In the fall of each even-numbered year, state agencies submit to the Office of Financial Management a biennial budget request for the ensuing biennium and a supplemental budget request for the current biennium. State law provides that a copy of each agency budget be provided concurrently to the legislative fiscal committees. These requests provide valuable information in developing the Senate's version of the biennial and supplemental operating and capital budgets.

Project: Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff: Ways and Means Staff; Education Staff

Other Resources: LEAP staff

Description: Senate Education and Ways and Means Committee staff will prepare a Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance. This guide will provide a resource for members, legislative staff, and the general public. The document will focus on frequently asked questions regarding K-12 finance.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Citizen's Guide to the Capital Budget

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff: Ways and Means staff

Description: Senate Ways and Means staff will prepare a Citizen's Guide to the Capital Budget to answer commonly asked questions about the Washington State capital budget. The guide be serve as a resource for members, legislative staff and the general public.

Project: Joint Legislative/Executive Mental Health Task Force

Completion Date:

Staff: Tim Yowell

Other Resources: House and Senate fiscal and policy committee staff

Description: The supplemental operating budget (ESHB 2459) establishes an eight-member task force, including five legislators, to study and make recommendations on the organization and financing of Washington's public mental health system. Initial findings and recommendations are to be submitted to the Governor and Legislature by January 1, and final recommendations by June 30. Issues to be addressed include funding for persons not eligible for Medicaid; the formula by which available public funds are distributed across the state; progress toward implementation of performance-based reporting and the elimination of excessive administration; the effectiveness of the current public mental health system administrative structure; the relative benefits of alternative payment models; and the number and type of needed residential treatment beds. In collaboration with staff from the House and from the executive branch, Committee Services staff will assist in the development and execution of task force work plans addressing all of these areas.

Project: Legislative Budget Notes

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff: Ways and Means staff

Description: Legislative fiscal staff in the Senate and House will work with LEAP staff to prepare the "Legislative Budget Notes" - a publication which represents the official record of legislative action on the omnibus operating, transportation and capital budgets. The Legislative Budget Notes are used by legislators, legislative staff, state agencies and the general public to determine the legislative intent behind the hundreds of policy changes embedded in the three major budget documents.

Project: Monitor and Participate in Evaluation of Higher Education Enrollment Growth Alternatives

Completion Date: December 15, 2004

Staff: Richard Ramsey

Description: The 2004 supplemental budget directs the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) to evaluate specific policy alternatives for making investments in higher education in the 2005-07 biennium. The budget also directs the HECB to develop a simulation model of the impacts and costs various investment decisions.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2004

Project: Public Stadia and Convention Center Financing

Completion Date: November 2004

Staff: Terry Wilson

Description: Various sports and convention centers have been built over the last several years and additional facilities continue to be proposed. The committee will review and summarize the various methods and financing mechanisms employed in the building of local public sports, recreational, and convention facilities in this state.

Project: Studies of Emergency Forest Fire Suppression Costs

Completion Date: June 30, 2005

Staff: Brian Sims

Description: The 2004 supplemental budget funds two studies of the costs of emergency forest fire suppression. These costs have averaged \$30 million per year in the past three years. This is a 300 percent increase over the prior ten year annual average. Staff will monitor and assist with these studies by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee and the State Auditor's Office.
