



SENATE COMMITTEE SERVICES

2006 Interim Work Plan and Meeting Schedule

Note: Meeting dates and times are revised as information becomes available at <http://www1.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/Default.htm>

Table of Contents

<u>Committee Name</u>	<u>Meetings</u>	<u>Projects</u>
Agriculture & Rural Economic Development	3	21
Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education	4	23
Financial Institutions, Housing & Consumer Protection	5	27
Government Operations & Elections	6	29
Health & Long-Term Care	7	30
Human Services & Corrections	11	33
International Trade & Economic Development	14	35
Judiciary	15	36
Labor, Commerce, Research & Development	16	38
Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation	17	40
Transportation	18	41
Water, Energy & Environment	19	44
Ways & Means	20	46

Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	Full Committee Tour	TBA	TBA
09/26/06	Full Committee Jt. w/ Water, Energy & Environment	Spokane	TBA
10:00 am	Public Hearing/Work Session		
Legislative Assembly Days 11/30-12/1/06	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	TBA

Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
03/22/06 All Day	Full Committee Tour/Work Session	Tri-Cities	<p>Tour Robert Frost Elementary in the Pasco School District to learn about how they are conducting a second language outreach and about the quality communication that they provide to parents.</p> <p>Visit Columbia Basin Community College to learn more about how Columbia Basin Community College is partnering with the Washington State University Tri-Cities on the expansion of Washington State University Tri-Cities into a 4-year institution. Discuss the role for community colleges to help students who have not passed the Washington Assessment of Student Learning.</p> <p>Visit the Richland School District Office to follow up regarding the school district's role in the implementation of Substitute House Bill 2414 (2006).</p>
09/25/06 1:30	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	Spokane	TBA
Legislative Assembly Days 11/30-12/1/06	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	TBA

Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
07/24/06	Homeowners Association Act Committee	Green River Community College	1. Introduction of the members of the Homeowners Association Act Committee and member orientation.
10:00	Work Session		2. How the committee will function as a group. 3. Tasks and meeting schedule.
09/26/06	Full Committee	Spokane	TBA
10:00	Public Hearing/Work Session		
Legislative Assembly Days 11/30-12/1/06	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7432

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
Two meetings, TBA	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	State and Local Command Centers	Emergency management.
Two meetings, TBA	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	TBA	School concurrency.
09/26/06 3:30	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	Spokane	Reports from the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Department of Ecology on their vision, mission, values, strategic challenges, and objectives using the Baldrich model.
Legislative Assembly Days 11/30-12/1/06	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	TBA

Other Meetings:

Legislative Assembly Days	Joint Select Committee on Veterans & Military Affairs Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	Matters concerning veterans and military affairs.
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Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
06/22/06	Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Costs and Access	Olympia	To be announced.
All Day	Public Hearing/Work Session		
07/24/06	Long-Term Care Financing and Chronic Care Management Task Force	Oak Harbor	Discuss public concerns about long-term care. Available information can be found on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.wa.gov/ltctf/
Half Day	Public Hearing		
07/27/06	Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Costs & Access	SeaTac	TBA Location: SeaTac Office of Court Administration Available information can be found on the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Costs & Access website: http://www1.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/HCCA/
Afternoon	Work Session		
09/25/06	Full Committee	Spokane	TBA
1:30 - 3:30 pm	Work Session		
Legislative Assembly Days 11/30-12/01/06	Full Committee	TBA	TBA
	Work Session		

Other Meetings:

04/24/06	Caring for Washington Individuals with Autism Task Force	Olympia	To learn about support and resources available to families, which have been most helpful, and where there are serious gaps.
9:30 - 4:30	Work Session		
04/24/06	Joint Select Committee on Public Health Finance	Sea Tac	1. Review proposed process & timeline for development of recommendations. 2. Presentation and discussion of how spending alternatives will be defined, costed, and prioritized. 3. Presentation and discussion of alternative financing mechanisms.
Half Day	Work Session		

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
05/03/06	Chronic Care Advisory Committee to Long-Term Care Financing & Chronic Care Management (LTCF) Task Force	Seattle	TBA Available information can be found on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.wa.gov/ltctf/
Afternoon	Work Session		
05/04/06	New Funding Advisory Committee to LTCF Task Force	Seattle	TBA Available information can be found on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.wa.gov/ltctf/
Afternoon	Work Session		
05/17/06	Certificate of Need	Seattle	TBA Available information can be found on the Health Care Authority website: http://www.hca.wa.gov
All Day	Work Session		
05/22/06	Caring for Washington Individuals with Autism Task Force	Olympia	To refine draft report in progress based on reviewers' comments. Available information can be found on the Department of Health website: http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Autism/Autism.htm
All Day	Work Session		
05/25/06	Technical Advisory Committee to Certificate of Need Task Force	Seattle	Additional questions from Task Force.
All Day	Work Session		
05/25/06	Joint Select Committee on Public Health Finance	Sea Tac	1. Presentation and discussion of public health community's recommended spending. 2. Presentation and discussion of specific tax options.
Half Day	Work Session		
05/31/06	Long-Term Care Financing and Chronic Care Management Task Force	Puyallup	Discuss public concerns about long-term care. Available information can be found on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.wa.gov/ltctf/
Afternoon	Work Session		
June	Long-Term Care Financing and Chronic Care Management Task Force	North Central Washington	Discuss public concerns about long-term care. Available information can be found on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.wa.gov/ltctf/
	Work Session		

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
06/14/06	Certificate of Need Task Force	Conference call	TBA Available information can be found on the Health Care Authority website: http://www.hca.wa.gov
4:00 - 5:30	Work Session		
06/14/06	Chronic Care Advisory Committee to LTCF Task Force	Seattle	TBA Available information can be found on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.wa.gov/lctcf/
Afternoon	Work Session		
06/15/06	New Funding Advisory Committee to LTCF Task Force	Seattle	TBA Available information can be found on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.wa.gov/lctcf/
Afternoon	Work Session		
06/20/06	Joint Select Committee on Public Health Finance	Sea Tac	Development and adoption of Joint Select Committee's recommended spending priorities and financing mechanisms.
Half Day	Work Session		
06/28/06	Certificate of Need Task Force	Seattle	TBA Available information can be found on the Health Care Authority website: http://www.hca.wa.gov
All Day	Work Session		
July	Long-Term Care Financing and Chronic Care Management Task Force	10th Legislative District	Discuss public concerns about long-term care. Available information can be found on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.wa.gov/lctcf/
	Work Session		
07/26/06	Chronic Care Advisory Committee to LTCF Task Force	SeaTac	TBA Location: SeaTac Office of Court Administration Available information can be found on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.wa.gov/lctcf/
Afternoon	Work Session		
07/27/06	New Funding Advisory Committee to LTCF Task Force	Seattle	TBA Available information can be found on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.wa.gov/lctcf/
Afternoon	Work Session		

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
August	Long-Term Care Financing and Chronic Care Management Task Force Work Session	Vancouver	Discuss public concerns about long-term care. Available information can be found on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.wa.gov/lctcf/
08/16/06 4:00 - 5:30	Certificate of Need Task Force Work Session	Conference call	TBA Available information can be found on the Health Care Authority website: http://www.hca.wa.gov
09/06/06 Afternoon	Chronic Care Advisory Committee to LTCF Task Force Work Session	Seattle	TBA Available information can be found on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.wa.gov/lctcf/
09/06/06 Afternoon	New Funding Advisory Committee to LTCF Task Force Work Session	Seattle	TBA Available information can be found on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.wa.gov/lctcf/
09/07/06 TBA	Caring for Washington Individuals with Autism Task Force Work Session	TBA	To review public input to the draft report in progress. Available information can be found on the Department of Health website: http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Autism/Autism.htm
09/07/06 TBA	Chronic Care Advisory Committee to LTCF Task Force Work Session	Seattle	TBA Available information can be found on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.wa.gov/lctcf/
09/07/06 TBA	New Funding Advisory Committee to LTCF Task Force Work Session	Seattle	TBA Available information can be found on the Governor's website: http://www.governor.wa.gov/lctcf/
09/20/06 All Day	Certificate of Need Task Force Work Session	Seattle	TBA Available information can be found on the Health Care Authority website: http://www.hca.wa.gov

Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
09/26/06	Full Committee	Spokane	TBA
1:30 - 3:30	Work Session		
Legislative Assembly Days 11/30-12/01/06	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
Other Meetings:			
Monthly meetings- TBA	Task Force on Adminstration and Delivery of Services to Children and Families	TBA	TBA
	Work Session		
Monthly meetings- TBA	Task Force on Criminal Background Check Processes	TBA	TBA
	Work Session		
Monthly meetings- TBA	Task Force on Child Safety for Children in Child Protective Services of Child Welfare Services	TBA	TBA
	Work Session		
Monthly meetings- TBA	Legislative & Executive Task Force on Mental Health Services & Financing	TBA	TBA
	Work Session		
Monthly meetings- TBA	Task Force on Offenders Programs, Sentencing, and Supervision	TBA	TBA
	TBA		
05/23/06	Legislative & Executive Task Force on Mental Health Services & Financing	Puget Sound Educational Service District, Renton	TBA
9:00 am	Work Session		

**Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
05/30/06	Joint Task Force on Child Safely for Children in Child Protective Services or Child Welfare Services	HHR A, Olympia	TBA
1:30 pm	Work Session		
05/31/06	Joint Task Force on Administration and Delivery of Services to Children and Families	HHR A, Olympia	TBA
12:30 pm	Work Session		
06/29/06	Joint Task Force on Criminal Background Check Processes	HHR B, Olympia	TBA
9:30 am	Work Session		
07/25/06	Joint Task Force on Offenders Programs, Sentencing & Supervision	HHR A, Olympia	1:00- DOC 101 Presentation – Overview of Current DOC Reentry Efforts 2:10- Local Perspectives on Reentry (presenters TBA)
1:00-5:00	Work Session		2:30- Report and Discussion of Education and Employment Workgroup 3:00- Report and Discussion of Transitional Programs & State/County Coordination Workgroup 3:30- Break 3:45- Report and Discussion of Legal Barriers & Civil Liability Workgroup 4:15- Report and Discussion of Community Partnerships Workgroup 4:45- Task Force Refocus/Areas of Concern 5:00- Adjourn
07/27/06	Joint Task Force on Administration and Delivery of Services to Children and Families	HHR A, Olympia	TBA
10:00-1:00	Work Session		

Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
07/27/06	Joint Task Force on Criminal Background Check Processes	HHR B, Olympia	TBA
9:30-12:00	Work Session		
08/24/06	Joint Task Force on Administration and Delivery of Services to Children and Families	HHR A, Olympia	TBA
10:00-1:00	Work Session		
08/29/06	Joint Task Force on Offenders Programs, Sentencing & Supervision	HHRA, Olympia	TBA
1:30-4:30	Work Session		
09/21/06 1:00-4:30			
09/27/06	Joint Task Force on Administration and Delivery of Services to Children and Families	Spokane	TBA
9:00-12:00	Work Session		
10/04/06	Joint Task Force on Offenders Programs, Sentencing & Supervision	HHR A, Olympia	TBA
1:00-4:00	Work Session		
10/23/06	Joint Task Force on Offenders Programs, Sentencing & Supervision	HHR A, Olympia	TBA
1:00-4:30	Work Session		
11/14/06	Joint Task Force on Offenders Programs, Sentencing & Supervision	HHR A, Olympia	TBA
1:00-4:30	Work Session		

Senate International Trade & Economic Development Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
09/26/06 1:30 - 3:30	Full Committee Work Session	Spokane	1. Microenterprise development. 2. Border competitiveness with Idaho and Oregon.
Legislative Assembly Days 11/30-12/1/06	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA
Other Meetings:			
TBA	Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy	TBA	TBA

**Senate Judiciary Committee
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
09/26/06 10:00 - 12:00	Full Committee Work Session	Spokane	Legislation relating to a privilege from compelled testimony for members of the news media.
Legislative Assembly Days 11/30-12/01/06	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA

Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	Full Committee Tour and Briefing	Eastern WA. & Western WA.	Briefing and tour of several Washington wineries and breweries and community college viticulture programs.
5/24/06	Full Committee, Jt. w/ House Commerce & Labor Work Session	HHR A, Olympia	Review of gambling policy setting issues.
09/26/06 3:30 - 5:30	Full Committee Work Session	Spokane	1. Update by Liquor Control Board on the task force. 2. Update by Employment Security Department on implementation of ESSB 6885. (2006) 3. Update by Labor & Industries on work of workers' comp task force.
Legislative Assembly Days 11/30-12/1/06	Full Committee Work Session	TBA	TBA
Other Meetings:			
07/19/06 10:00 am - noon	Joint meeting with House Commerce & Labor. Work Session	Olympia	Gambling Policy Issues.

Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	TBA	Washinton State's ocean policy development.
TBA	Work Session	TBA	Salmon recovery planning and funding.
TBA	Full Committee Tour and Briefing	TBA	Department of Fish and Wildlife's pheasant program and pheasant rearing facilities.
TBA	Full Committee Tour and briefing	TBA	Veteran's Conservation Corps and its participants.
TBA	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	TBA	Trust land transactions and management.
Legislative Assembly Days 9/25-26/06		Spokane	No meeting scheduled.
Legislative Assembly Days 11/30-12/1/06	Full Committee TBA	Olympia	TBA

Senate Transportation Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
June 28-29	Full Committee TBA	Seattle	Tour of the Washington state ferry system in conjunction with the Joint Transportation Committee.
07/11/06 Afternoon	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	Public transportation issues.
07/13/06 10:00 am	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	Seattle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Route 519. 2. Update on the Regional Transportation Commission. 3. Update on the Expert Review Panel for the Alaskan Way Viaduct and State Route 520.
09/25/06 3:30 - 5:30 PM	Full Committee Work Session	The Davenport Hotel, Spokane	
Legislative Assembly Days 11/30-12/1/06	Full Committee TBA	Olympia	TBA
Other Meetings:			
Monthly meetings	Joint Transportation Committee	TBA	Legislative transportation issues.
June 2006	Tranportation Performance Audit Board	TBA	Review of Hood Canal Bridge audit.

**Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006**

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	Full Committee Tour (3-day)	TBA	TBA
09/26/06	Full Committee Jt. w/ Agriculture & Rural Economic Development	Spokane	TBA
10:00 am			
Legislative Assembly Days 11/30-12/1/06	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
Other Meetings:			
May 15-16	Legislative Council on River Governance	Richland	Four-state discussion on water issues relating to the Columbia River.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2006

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

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
09/25/06 3:30-5:30 pm	Full Committee Work Session	Spokane	Fiscal Issues.
Legislative Assembly Days 11/30-12/1/06	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	Fiscal Issues.
Other Meetings:			
TBA	Washington Learns Committee TBA	TBA	Study the finance of early learning, K-12, and higher education in the state.
04/24/06 Half Day	Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing Work Session	SeaTac	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review proposed process & timeline for development of recommendations. 2. Presentation and discussion of how spending alternatives will be defined, costed, and prioritized. 3. Presentation and discussion of alternative financing mechanisms.
05/25/06 Half Day	Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing Work Session	Seattle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation and discussion of public health community's recommended spending. 2. Presentation and discussion of specific tax options.
06/20/06 Half Day	Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing Work Session	SeaTac	Development and adoption of Joint Select Committee's recommended spending priorities and financing mechanisms.

Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Licensing of Small-Scale Dairies

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Bob Lee

Reference: SSB 6377 (2006)

Description: The 2006 clarification that all dairies that provide milk to others must obtain a class A milk license and meet the same regulatory requirements as other dairies, has led to the concern that meeting these requirements may be overly costly and onerous to small-scale dairies. Prior to the 2006 legislation, a number of small dairies produced raw milk from unlicensed and uninspected facilities and provided the milk to consumers who prefer unpasteurized raw milk. A small dairy work group is to be convened by the Department of Agriculture to look at the barriers to small-scale dairies in meeting licensing requirements and to look at economically feasible and size-appropriate solutions. Staff will monitor the work group, including the review of any funding or legislative proposals.

Project: Livestock Identification Program

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Bob Lee

Reference: SHB 3033, ESHB 2651, ESB 6376 (2006)

Description: Improving the ability to trace the origin and movement of diseased livestock is part of both national animal disease control and homeland security strategies. The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed the National Animal Identification System with the goal of being able to trace the origin and movement of diseased livestock within 48 hours. As some livestock diseases can have a significant financial impact on livestock producers, either directly or through the loss of markets, the USDA is relying on industry groups and state governments to design the program that would best work for them.

Historically, cattle have been identified for ownership purposes by the use of registered brands and the movement of cattle traced through the use of brand inspection certificates. The use of these mechanism help but by themselves do not provide reliably traceable data. In the last decade, the means of identifying individual cattle through the use of radio frequency identification devices (RFID) has become increasingly available. If the system is designed properly, RFIDs could provide the desired database to fulfill the goal of the national program while also providing the producer with the means of identifying individual cattle for ownership and for herd management purposes.

There are a number of issues involved in the development and implementation of the state's component of the national system. There are technical issues relating to the compatibility of technologies and financial issues relating to the cost and development of the system. Also, there are concerns that sensitive information placed in the system by producers will be secure and used only for legitimate purposes.

Through an advisory committee, the major cattle organizations will be working with the Department of Agriculture to evaluate the proposed national program and review the approaches being taken by other states. The advisory committee will provide a recommendation to the Legislature on what the state's response should be for the cattle industry. Staff will monitor the work of the advisory committee, including any legislative recommendations.

Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: **Regulation of Confined Animal Feeding Operations**

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Bob Lee

Reference: SSB 5602 (2005)

Description: The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced that it plans to release, in June, revised federal water quality rules that includes additional confined animal feeding operations. The prior rules, adopted in February 2003, were revised because a federal court found them inconsistent with the statute.

In accordance with 2003 state legislation (Substitute Senate Bill 6161), the administration of the existing state Dairy Nutrient Management Act was transferred from the Department of Ecology to the Department of Agriculture. In addition, the 2003 legislation places those operations that would become subject to regulation pursuant to the new federal rules into the program administered by the Department of Agriculture. Legislation necessary to complete the program transfer is to be developed by a multi-interest committee and submitted to the legislature. Legislation that had been developed for the 2005 session was held in abeyance until the new federal rule was available. Staff will monitor the work of the committee and provide assistance to Senate members who have been appointed to the committee.

Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Focusing on College and University Completion

Completion Date: December 29, 2006

Staff: Ingrid Mungia

Description: According to the Education Commission of the States, enrollments of traditional college-age students are expected to increase by 2.3 million, or 13 percent, from 2000 to 2015. There are state, federal, and private programs that offer various forms of assistance to help students enter colleges and universities. However, according to the Education Trust, a nonprofit education research organization, six out of every ten college students do not complete a bachelor's degree within six years of enrollment.

Committee staff will research how many students who enroll in Washington institutions of higher education do not complete a two- or four-year degree within six years of enrollment, including students that receive financial aid. Additionally, staff will provide a report detailing policies and programs operating in Washington and other states, including mentorship programs and community-based programs, for the purpose of increasing completion rates for students in colleges and universities.

Project: Recognition of Student Achievement

Completion Date: November 30, 2006

Staff: Stephanie Yurcisin

Reference: SHB 2733 (2006), ESSB 6475 (2006)

Description: A number of states are providing recognition to students who complete additional coursework, take certain tests, achieve high test scores, and/or graduate with a minimum grade point average. This recognition of achievement can take the form of an endorsement, seal, stamp on a student's diploma or transcript; a higher level diploma; or a Certificate of Mastery or Advanced Mastery.

In an effort to encourage students to meet higher academic expectations, the 2004 Legislature was going to award a scholar's designation on a student's transcript, beginning in 2008, if the student achieved level four the first time he or she took a content area of the tenth grade Washington Assessment of Student Learning. The 2006 Legislature passed legislation to remove the scholar's designation from law.

Committee staff will collect, review and summarize the available relevant information regarding the different methods that states are using to recognize exemplary student achievement, develop policy options, and draft legislation as needed.

Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Children with Medical and Psychological Needs in our Schools

Completion Date: September 1, 2006

Staff: Susan Mielke

Reference: SB 6641 (2006)

Description: Federal and state law requires school districts to conduct evaluations of students who may have a disability and who, by reason of that disability, need special education and related services. In the 2006 legislative session, Senate Bill 6641 was introduced to assist educators by providing medical and psychological expertise, outside of education, with evaluations or re-evaluations of students and the development of individualized education programs for students receiving special education.

Committee staff will research and provide an overview of the challenges faced by educators who do not have a medical or psychological background or training but must provide appropriate services to students who have medical or psychological needs that qualify the student for special education; and a general overview of what other states are doing to address this issue. Additionally, staff will include a more detailed report on what is happening in Washington and three to five other states.

Project: The Establishment of the Department of Early Learning

Completion Date: January 15, 2007

Staff: Stephanie Yurcinis/Ingrid Mungia

Reference: 2SHB 2964 (2006)

Description: The 2006 Legislature passed legislation establishing a new executive branch agency: the Department of Early Learning. Under the new department more than a half-dozen child care and early learning programs were consolidated to provide greater efficiency and support parents and communities to make sure every child is ready to succeed in school and life. The agency will be the focal point in working with the private sector to coordinate investments and improve coordination between early learning and K-12. Committee staff will participate in regular updates on the progress of the actions that are undertaken to establish the new department.

Project: Examining Options to Augment the Current System of Assessments

Completion Date: January 15, 2007

Staff: Susan Mielke

Reference: SSB 6618 (2006), The Booth Gardner Act

Description: The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (Institute) must study options to augment the current system of assessments used to demonstrate that students have met the state learning standards. The Institute must consult with a number of listed experts and stakeholders in developing the initial list of possible options, procedures, methods, and measures to be reviewed. By December 1, 2006, the Institute must provide an interim report to the Legislature that includes recommendations on at least two alternative assessment options, methods, procedures, or performance measures. Additionally, under the 2006-07 budget, the Institute must report on services for students who are English language learners who have not met graduation requirements. Committee staff will monitor the study and prepare legislation, as needed, for the 2007 session.

Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Incentives for Schools and School Districts to Meet State Standards

Completion Date: January 1, 2007

Staff: Susan Mielke/Stephanie Yurcisin

Reference: ESSB 5732 (2005), E2SHB 3098 (2006)

Description: The Legislature passed legislation reconstituting the State Board of Education (SBE) with a new purpose, membership, and duties, and transferred many of the SBE's former duties to other state agencies. The SBE was encouraged to review the transfer of duties and to request the return of any transferred duty to the SBE that is necessary to fulfill the SBE's mission. One of the new duties assigned to the State Board is implementation of a standards-based accountability system to improve student academic achievement, including adopting criteria to identify successful schools and districts, schools in need of assistance, and schools in which state intervention measures will be needed and a range of appropriate intervention strategies to be brought to the Legislature for authorization prior to implementation.

Committee staff will monitor the activities of the SBE during the 2006 interim. Additionally, the committee may schedule a work session early in the 2007 legislative session for the State Board to share information about the board's interim activities. Legislation will be prepared, as needed.

Project: Authorization Pilot Community and/or Technical College Bachelor's Degrees

Completion Date: December 15, 2006

Staff: Susan Mielke/Ingrid Mungia

Reference: E2SHB 1794 (2005), ESSB 6386 (2006)

Description: During 2004-05, the Legislature authorized up to four community or technical colleges to offer applied baccalaureate degrees on a pilot basis. The 2006 Supplemental Budget, recently passed by the Legislature, provides funding for these pilots. Applications have been submitted by six institutions and the selection process is underway. The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges will recommend approval of up to four programs and then the programs must be approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. In late 2006, the approved programs may begin advertising the degrees and preparing for admission of juniors in the Fall of 2007. Committee staff will monitor this process and draft legislation, as needed for the 2007 legislative session.

Project: Expanding Access to Higher Education Using the University Center Model

Completion Date: December 29, 2006

Staff: Susan Mielke

Reference: E2SHB 1794 (2005), SHB 3113 (2006), ESSB 6386 (2006)

Description: In 2005, the Legislature passed House Bill 1794, which required the Everett Community College to develop a plan for the North Snohomish, Island, and Skagit (NSIS) counties area, with preliminary recommendations due December 1, 2005. The Everett Community College submitted a report describing a university center model where bachelor's and graduate degree programs would be offered by a variety of different universities. The 2006 Legislature provided funding for 250 Full Time Enrollments at the upper-division and graduate levels. Everett Community College, with the assistance of Edmonds Community College, Skagit Valley College, and the participating universities will submit a report to the Legislature by July 1, 2007. The report will describe the number of enrollments and degrees resulting from the new FTE funding, as well as the effect of those enrollments and degrees on local communities. Committee staff will monitor these activities and prepare legislation, if necessary.

Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Creation of the Office of the Education Ombudsman

Completion Date: December 29, 2006

Staff: Susan Mielke

Reference: ESHB 3127 (2006), ESSB 6386 (2006)

Description: Under Engrossed Substitute House Bill 3127, the Governor must share information about the appointment of the education ombudsman with a 6-person legislative committee. Additionally, the legislation and budget appropriations reactivated the Center for the Improvement of Student Learning within the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Committee staff will stay apprised regarding the appointment of the ombudsman and the operations of the Center for the Improvement of Student Learning. Committee staff will prepare legislation as directed.

Other Projects:

Project: Washington Learns Committee

Completion Date: January 15, 2007

Staff: Susan Mielke/Ingrid
Mungia/Stephanie Yurcisin

Reference: E2SSB 5441 (2005)

Description: In 2005, the Legislature created a comprehensive education study steering committee comprised of legislators, the governor, and others and three sector advisory committees on which legislators and others serve. The committees were directed to conduct a comprehensive funding and policy study of early learning, K-12, and higher education. Additionally, the steering committee must develop recommendations on how the state can best provide stable funding for early learning, public schools, and public colleges and universities and recommendations on specified early learning, K-12 and higher education policy issues. The steering committee must submit an interim report to the Legislature by June 16, 2006, and a final report with recommendations by November 15, 2006. Committee staff will provide staff support to the Senate members of the steering committee and each of the three advisory committees. Staff will prepare legislation, as needed, for the 2007 session.

Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Conversion Condominiums

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Jennifer Arnold

Description: Review existing state and local government statutes on conversion condominiums; evaluate the impact of such conversions on affordable housing; and review available relocation assistance programs. Conduct a comparative analysis of state legislative mechanisms for addressing the effect of conversion condominiums on affordable housing. Review the effectiveness of the right of first refusal, along with developer incentives, in maintaining the supply of affordable housing among residential properties.

Project: Mobile Homes and Manufactured Housing

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Jennifer Arnold

Description: Review concerns relating to mobile homes and manufactured housing, including the Manufactured/Mobile Home Landlord-Tenant Act and sustainable affordable housing. Analyze concerns raised in the report developed by the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development in regards to Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1640 (2005). Assess alternative solutions to effectively address landlord-tenant disputes. Review the existing state relocation assistance program for manufactured/mobile home tenants who are displaced due to park and community closures or conversions.

Project: Identity Theft and Consumer Credit Protection

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Joanne Conrad

Description: Identity theft continues to top the list of consumer concerns, with Washington State an unfortunate "leader" in this type of consumer fraud. Despite many legislative efforts during the past several sessions, legislators, law enforcement and consumers remain concerned that more effective solutions are needed. Focusing especially on the issue of credit score protection, staff will continue to provide updated research in this area, for possible action. Expected outcome: new and revised legislation for 2007 Session.

Project: In-Depth Study of Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFIDs)

Completion Date:

Staff: Joanne Conrad

Description: Perform comprehensive research study regarding the business and government uses of RFID technology. Explore consumer and privacy advocate concerns, and make policy recommendations. Outline state and federal legislative efforts. Expected outcome: Briefing paper and policy recommendations for interested Senators.

Project: Study of the Market Challenges of Community Banks

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Joanne Conrad

Description: Research and analyze current market conditions for small and community banks, including the value of state charter, and impact of competition from "big box" corporations. Study legislative approaches in other jurisdictions, and meet with interested Senators to determine the need for possible legislation. Expected outcome: policy discussion with Senate Financial Institutions, Housing and Consumer Protection Committee Members.

Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: **Uniform Securities Act Revision/Workgroup**

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Joanne Conrad

Description: Continue commitment to work with stakeholders in preparing proposed revisions to the Uniform Securities Act. Meet with interested parties and analyze the financial institutions, securities bar and insurance aspects of the proposed draft. Expected outcome: legislation for 2007 Session.

Other Projects:

Project: **Homeowners' Association Act Committee**

Completion Date: September 2007

Staff: Jennifer Arnold

Reference: SCR 8423 (2006)

Description: Monitor committee meetings to review the recommendations of the Homeowners' Association study group. In conjunction with the study group, among other concerns: analyze the method and manner of amending restrictive covenants; review the processes for voting and budget ratification; determine the need for alternative dispute mechanisms; and develop solutions to resolve potential conflicts between association governing documents and state statutes.

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Permanent Funding for Emergency Management

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Mac Nicholson

Reference: SB 6433 (2006)

Description: Florida has a permanent funding source for emergency management based on insurance premiums. What is the legislative history of this program, objections and proponents at the time of passage and any development of those positions since passage? What are the facts about the "retaliatory tax" doctrine and its application among the 50 states? A report will be prepared on the results of this inquiry, possibly leading to legislation.

Project: Rural County Funding Study

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Genevieve Pisarski

Description: This study is prompted by ongoing difficulties of rural counties to fund basic governmental services as documented by a recent study of Ferry County. The committee will compile and examine available information and recommendations regarding cost and funding of government services in rural counties, in order to identify both a uniform approach to characterizing the funding issues of rural counties and any feasible alternatives for improving the ability of rural counties to provide government services. A report will be prepared on the results of this inquiry, possibly leading to legislation.

Project: Public Financing of Campaigns

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Diane Smith

Description: Public Financing of Campaigns is a recurring issue that is beginning to be the subject of legislation in other states. The following questions will be explored: (1) What are the state-of-the-art approaches to public funding of campaigns? (2) Status, by state, of the revenue sources used. A report will be prepared on the results of this inquiry, possibly leading to legislation.

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: **Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Costs and Access**

Completion Date: December 1, 2006

Staff: Jonathan Seib

Reference: ESSB 6386 (Sec. 128(13)) (2006)

Description: This 14-member executive-legislative commission includes four Senators. It is required to recommend to the Governor and the Legislature a sustainable five-year plan for substantially improving access to affordable health care for all Washington residents. While a schedule and specific agenda have not yet been established, it is anticipated that the commission will meet at least once a month from June through December.

Project: **Community Protection**

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Sharon Swanson

Reference: SB 6630 (2006)

Description: The Community Protection Program (CPP) was created as a program for persons with developmental disabilities who have demonstrated violent or sexually violent behaviors. Senate Bill 6630 placed the CPP into statute. Previously, the program had existed through budget proviso and through policies adopted by the Division of Developmental Disabilities within the Department of Social and Health Services. Several stakeholders expressed concern that Senate Bill 6630 as it passed the Legislature did not fully address existing concerns about the program. The committee will monitor implementation of the 2006 legislation and continue to work with stakeholders regarding additional legislation and funding for the program.

Project: **Health Care Quality Assurance Procedures**

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Edith Rice

Reference: HB 2974, 2292, 1071, 2463, SB 5636, 6820 (2006)

Description: The 2006 Legislature introduced a variety of bills on the subject of quality assurance for health care providers. Bill subjects included standards for licensure, authority to oversee disciplinary matters, a task force to review the complaint process and establish a range of disciplinary sanctions, and consideration of prior disciplinary action taken by other states. Some of the bills did not pass and substantial interest remains in this issue. The committee will monitor interim agency or provider recommendations, identify additional options for improving health care quality assurance procedures in the state, and draft legislation as appropriate.
HB 2974, 2292, 1071, 2463, SB 5636, 6820 (2006)
December 2006
Edith Rice

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Pharmacist Responsibility

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Edith Rice

Description: During 2006 the Washington State Board of Pharmacy will be reviewing comments from stakeholder meetings regarding the Board's decision to examine the need to establish standards for a pharmacist when presented with a lawful prescription, including whether a pharmacist may refuse to process the prescription for clinical, conscientious, moral, or religious reasons. The committee will monitor input received by the Board and Board decisions on this topic, including recommendations and rule development. The committee will research background on this issue and include developments in other states as well as recent case law. Legislation will be developed as appropriate.

Project: Vulnerable Adult Abuse Reporting

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Sharon Swanson

Reference: SB 6622 (2006)

Description: Adult Protective Services (APS) and Residential Care Services (RCS) within the Department of Social and Health Services investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation for vulnerable adults. Under current law, when a complaint is made to either APS or RCS, the public is unable to receive information regarding the status of the complaint investigation. Senate Bill 6622 was intended to make information regarding investigations more readily available to members of the public. The bill did not pass, but the committee remains interested in addressing this issue. It will continue to work with the Department and other stakeholders to address identified concerns and develop legislation for introduction during the 2007 session.

Project: Washington State Health Insurance Pool

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Jonathan Seib

Reference: SB 6831, HB 2632, HB 2398 (2006)

Description: The Washington State Health Insurance Pool (WSHIP) is a nonprofit entity created by the Legislature in 1987 to provide health insurance to those denied coverage in the individual market because of their health status. Enrollee premiums are capped, with losses made up through an assessment charged to all health carriers in the state. However, many people eligible for WSHIP coverage do not enroll (likely due to costs), and legislation addressing access to and the operation of WSHIP is often opposed due to concerns about its financial impact and the ongoing viability of the pool. The committee will conduct research regarding the structure and operation of WSHIP, particularly relative to similar entities operating in other states. Consideration will be given to proposals to provide better access to WSHIP at lower costs to enrollees and carriers, and other options to address the health care needs of high risk individuals.

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Other Projects:

Project: Caring for Washington Individuals with Autism Task Force

Completion Date: December 1, 2006

Staff: Edith Rice

Reference: SB 5311 (2005)

Description: This 14-member task force includes two Senators, and is charged with reviewing the available literature and consulting with experts to gain an understanding of the causes of autism and its incidence in Washington; assessing the availability of services currently provided for early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism; assessing the availability of services to assist families of individuals with autism; and reviewing the effectiveness of programs and services provided to individuals with autism and their families.

Project: Certificate of Need Task Force

Completion Date: November 1, 2006

Staff: Edith Rice

Reference: E2SHB 1688 (2005)

Description: Two Senators are among the 16 people to be appointed to this task force, created to study and prepare recommendations related to improving and updating the certificate of need (CON) program. Specific issues to be addressed include: the scope of facilities, services and capital expenditures that should be subject to CON; the criteria for reviewing CON applications; the need for service and facility specific policies to guide CON decisions; the purpose of the CON program; the timeliness and consistency of CON decisions; and mechanisms to monitor commitments made by health care facilities.

Project: Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing

Completion Date: July 1, 2006

Staff: Jonathan Seib

Reference: EHCR 4410 (2005)

Description: This committee consists of four Senators and four Representatives and is charged with reviewing all current and potential local, state, and federal funding sources and expenditures for public health services and recommend potential sources of future funding for public health services. The recommendation must include methods to ensure that such funding does not supplant existing federal, state, and local funds received by any element of the public health system.

Project: Long-Term Care Financing and Chronic Care Management Task Force

Completion Date: June 30, 2007

Staff: Sharon Swanson

Reference: 2SHB 1220 (2005)

Description: Two Senators are among the eight people to be appointed to this joint legislative and executive task force, which is to make recommendations regarding system capacity, efficient and effective public funding models, appropriate statutory and regulatory revisions, private payment options, and the long-term care needs of rural communities. The task force is also charged with recommending chronic care management and disability prevention interventions.

Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Review of Dissolution of Marriage- Legal Separation Laws

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Indu Thomas

Description: Under Washington's dissolution of marriage and legal separation law, divorcing couples with children must establish a parenting plan. There are concerns that the current construction may not best meet the needs of children and families. Staff will work with key legislators and stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive review of the dissolution statute with a primary focus on residential schedules and visitation.

Other Projects:

Project: Children's Administration Administrative Structure

Completion Date: December 1, 2006

Staff: Kiki Keizer

Reference: ESHB 6741 (2006)

Description: The Children's Administration and the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration each operate within a larger umbrella agency, the Department of Social and Health Services. A task force was formed by the passage of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5872 during the 2005 Legislative session to examine the optimal agency organizational structure to deliver services to families and children. Task force membership will include legislators, representatives from the University of Washington, the Department of Social and Health Services, service providers, courts, the Office of Family and Children's Ombudsman, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Office of Public Defense. A report to the Legislature is due by December 1, 2006.

Project: Criminal Background Check Processes

Completion Date: December 31, 2006

Staff: Indu Thomas

Reference: SSB 6717 (2006)

Description: Substitute Senate Bill 6717 extended for an additional year the duration of the Joint Task Force on Criminal Background Check Processes (Background Check Task Force), which was created by the passage of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2556 during the 2004 Legislative session. A report to the legislature is due by December 31, 2006.

Project: Dependency and Child Safety

Completion Date: September 2006

Staff: Kiki Keizer

Reference: SHB 2156 (2005)

Description: Recent child fatalities created concerns about how best to protect dependent children, particularly those children returned to the care of parents, who may have abused or neglected them. A joint task force created in Substitute House Bill 2156 (2005) will look at the health, safety and welfare issues raised when a child is receiving services from Child Protective Services or Child Welfare Services. Task force membership will include legislators, and representatives of the Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration, Office of the Public Defense, Office of Family and Children's Ombudsman, law enforcement, the Attorney General and the courts. A report is due to the Legislature in December, 2005 and September 2006.

Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Mental Health Funding

Completion Date: June 30, 2007

Staff: Indu Thomas

Reference: E2SHB 1290 (2005)

Description: Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1290 (2005) extended the Joint Legislative and Executive Task Force on Mental Health Funding and Services through 2007 and expanded authority to monitor the implementation of the procurement process for the regional support networks. The task force has legislative members, executive branch members and a representative from the counties. Reports are due to the Legislature and the Governor by January 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007.

Project: Offender Reentry and Recidivism Reduction

Completion Date: December 1, 2006

Staff: Shani Bauer

Reference: SSB 6308 (2006)

Description: A joint task force is created to review offender programs, sentencing, and supervision of the offenders upon reentry into the community, with the stated goal of increasing public safety, maximizing rehabilitation of the offenders, and lowering recidivism. The task force must review and make recommendations regarding the type of offender that would most benefit from training and education; the type of education and training that would be most beneficial; changes to the sentencing law and policies that recognize "good time" served; the operation of inmate work release programs; changes to the supervision of offenders once released into the community; and methods for evaluating whether program changes are effective in reducing recidivism. Reports are due to the Legislature by November 15, 2006.

Senate International Trade & Economic Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Customized Training

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff: Jack Brummel

Reference: 2SSB 6326 (2006)

Description: Customized training, designed to meet the needs of specific employers, is used by many states as an economic development tool. The legislature created the Customized Employment Training Program in 2006 to provide training assistance to employers locating or expanding in the state. Committee staff will monitor the implementation of the act, working with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and economic development officials, and identify any refinements which may be needed.

Project: Microenterprise Development

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Jack Brummel

Reference: 2SSB 6711, SB 6712, SSB 6713, SB 6714, SB 6715, (2006)

Description: Microenterprise development refers to the process by which small-scale entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses. The Senate considered a number of approaches to providing state support for microenterprise development last year. The committee will consult with individuals working with microenterprises and examine options for supporting microenterprise development. A committee hearing will be held to provide information to Senators. Legislation will be drafted as needed.

Project: Youth Entrepreneurship

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Jack Brummel

Description: A sizable majority of youth, 70 percent by some estimates, report that they want to start a business of their own. Staff will review the relevant literature on entrepreneurship programs for youth, research policies and programs in Washington and other states and nations, and examine options for state support of youth entrepreneurship. Legislation will be prepared as needed.

Other Projects:

Project: Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Jack Brummel

Description: The Joint Legislative Committee on trade policy includes four Senators and four members of the House of Representatives. It is to take public testimony on the impacts of international trade agreements and negotiations on Washington State and submit a report to the Legislature.

Senate Judiciary Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Analysis of the Adequacy of Washington's Whistle Blower Laws

Completion Date: August, 2006

Staff: Lidia Mori

Description: Whistle blower laws are designed to protect people who disclose, in good faith, improper action on the part of government, health care providers, health care facilities, employers, and others. A question has been raised as to the adequacy of these laws. Staff will review Washington's whistle blower statutes and relevant case law and produce an overview of the same.

Project: Court Docket Prioritization

Completion Date: November 2006

Staff: Lidia Mori and Aldo Melchiori

Description: The courts have inherent authority over their own dockets and scheduling hearings and trials is a judicial function. However, there are provisions in the Revised Code of Washington that direct the courts to give scheduling priority to a wide variety of causes of action. Staff will consult with the courts to determine the best approach to streamlining and organizing the prioritization of cases.

Project: Governmental Liability

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Lidia Mori

Description: Attempts to legislatively address the complex issue of limiting the liability of state and local governments for injuries caused by offenders on supervision have floundered despite good faith efforts at compromise. The office of the attorney general holds quarterly briefings to update interested parties on the status of tort litigation and issues. Staff will attend these meetings and will continue to meet with interested parties to work on legislation to address this issue.

Project: Ownership of Wild Animals

Completion Date: November, 2006

Staff: Lidia Mori

Reference: SB 1151 (2006)

Description: Senate Bill 1151, introduced during the 2006 session, addressed the issue of whether it should be legal for people to own certain wild animals. There are many points of view on the subject. Staff will investigate why the legislation failed last session and make efforts to build a consensus regarding this issue. Legislation will be drafted to incorporate the changes suggested by the outreach efforts.

Project: Plea Bargaining for Contributions

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: It has recently been revealed that some local prosecuting attorneys have agreed to dismiss or reduce criminal charges against defendants if they made contributions to charitable organizations or local law enforcement funds. Concerns have been expressed that these practices may not only be ethical violations, but also that they unequally favor those defendants who can afford to make contributions. Staff will survey the laws of all 50 states in regard to this issue and summarize Washington state case law and opinions. Legislation will be drafted to address the issues identified by the research.

Senate Judiciary Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Property Crime Valuation

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: Staff will survey the laws of all 50 states regarding how they differentiate the degrees of theft, possession of stolen property, and property damage. Specifically, what are the property value delineations, the differences in punishments, and the differences in other relevant elements of the offenses.

Project: Proportionality in Sentencing

Completion Date: December, 2006

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: The length of felony sentences have been adjusted piecemeal nearly every year since the Sentencing Reform Act became effective in 1984. In addition, there are many crimes for which there is no standard range sentence. For these unranked offenses, the maximum sentence that an offender may receive is one year in jail regardless of the offender's criminal history. The Sentencing Guidelines Commission (SGC) is directed to emphasize confinement for violent offenders and alternatives to confinement for nonviolent offenders. The SGC periodically evaluates and recommends changes to the SRA when appropriate to accomplish these purposes. Staff will monitor SGC efforts to provide appropriate criminal sanctions and to make appropriate use of state resources. Senate Judiciary Committee meetings may be scheduled as needed to review SGC reports or proposals.

Project: Testimonial Privileges

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: Legislation regarding testimonial privileges has been considered more often in recent sessions. Information about how testimonial privileges have developed over the years, the extent of testimonial privileges in Washington, and how different states have responded to the issue has not been readily available for legislators. Staff will identify and describe all of the privileges currently available in Washington and all of the other states. For Washington privileges, this will include a survey of the applicable case law. A report summarizing the state of the law for each of the identified testimonial privileges will be available for legislators considering future legislation.

Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Gambling Policy Setting Issues

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: John Dziedzic

Reference: SCR 8417 (2006)

Description: During past Legislative sessions, a number of gambling bills have been introduced. Some of the more recent bills dealt with; changing the age at which it is legal to gamble; allowing state employees to conduct raffles, and determining how many cardrooms should be permitted in a locality. The Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee has determined it should review the following: the current, and possible future, tax structures relating to gambling; the nature of problem gambling and efforts to address this social problem; the current and potential future of the nature and scope of legalized gambling in neighboring states and Canada; current gambling trends emerging in the U.S. and Canada; and the manner in which policies on gambling have been established in Washington and other states, with a focus on strengths and weaknesses of each. To accomplish this, the committee plans several meetings in which these issues will be discussed. As a result of these meetings and the collection of information, the committee may make legislative recommendations.

Project: Family Friendly Workplaces

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Alison Mendiola

Description: Under current law, businesses may receive a designation that they are "family friendly" when they provide a place for lactating mothers to pump or feed their infants. The designation is provided by the Department of Health. Staff will research the issue of promoting family friendly workplaces in a manner that educates the public and benefits both nursing mothers and businesses.

Project: Liquor Control Board Task Force

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Jennifer Strus

Reference: 2SSB 6823 (2006)

Description: In Second Substitute Senate Bill 6823, the Liquor Control Board was directed to convene a task force to conduct a comprehensive review of the current regulatory system controlling the sale and distribution of beer and wine in Washington State. The task force is required to review the genesis of the current regulatory system and whether the system in its current configuration should continue. It is to identify key issues, concerns, and desired changes by stakeholders about the current system and must identify alternatives or modifications to the current system. The task force is also to research and analyze the impacts and implications of the bill, and other suggested modifications to the system on distributors, producers, retailers, and consumers. The task force is to make recommendations about any proposed changes to the system by December 15, 2006. Staff will monitor the progress and decisions of the task force.

Project: Review of Collective Bargaining Statutes

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Alison Mendiola

Description: The Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) is charged with administering nine collective bargaining statutes, each of which differs from the other. These differences make it difficult for PERC to ensure that it is properly administering the statutes each time. Committee staff will undertake a review of each of these statutes and make recommendations regarding potential changes to ease the administration of these statutes.

Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: **Workers' Compensation Workgroup**

Completion Date: September 2006

Staff: Jennifer Strus and Alison Mendiola

Description: The Department of Labor & Industries has developed a plan by which it will work with labor and business representatives to come up with legislative recommendations that will address some of the more divisive issues in the area. Some targeted areas include vocational rehabilitation, compromise and release and wage simplification. Staff will monitor the progress of the workgroup.

Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Washington Forest Lands

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Curt Gavigan

Description: The committee was active during the 2005 and 2006 sessions on issues concerning Washington's management of state-owned forest lands and issues facing private forest landowners. Additionally, a report on the future of Washington forests from the Department of Natural Resources and the University of Washington, which was directed by the Legislature, is expected in December 2006. The Committee will examine options for addressing issues facing Washington's forest lands, including the state's role as a trustee of forest lands, the potential for multiple uses of forest lands, and current economic, social and regulatory influences on the forest products industry.

Project: Salmon Recovery

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Curt Gavigan

Reference: SSB 5610 (2005)

Description: The Legislature has engaged in ongoing salmon recovery efforts since the federal government began listing Washington's salmon and steelhead populations as threatened and endangered in the early 1990s. In light of the scheduled expiration of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office in 2007, the Committee will examine options for the future of the office and its functions. Additionally, in light of the pending completion of regional salmon recovery plans, the Committee will examine issues of funding and the role of state government in the implementation of such plans.

Project: Park Fees

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Curt Gavigan

Reference: SHB 2416 (2006)

Description: In 2003, the State Parks and Recreation Commission began charging fees for day-use parking at its facilities. Moneys collected from parking fees were deposited in an account for use on park operations, development, and renovation. During the 2006 session, the Legislature prohibited the Commission from charging parking fees and provided general fund moneys to backfill lost revenue for the current biennium. The committee will examine options for long term funding of, and goals for, the state's parks.

Project: Recreation Use Immunity

Completion Date: September 2006

Staff: Curt Gavigan

Description: Generally, the recreation use immunity statute protects those who allow free outdoor recreation on their lands from liability for personal injuries, though the statute does set forth specific circumstances in which such persons might still be liable. Over time, the Legislature has listed numerous examples of what qualifies as "outdoor recreation" and has carved out additional circumstances where landowners fall under the protection of the statute. As the statute has evolved, its language has grown lengthier and more challenging to understand and interpret. In light of the many past amendments to the recreation use immunity statute, recent bills addressing the issue, and the many cases interpreting the statute, the committee will examine ways to clarify the statutory language and its intent.

Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Central Puget Sound Regional Transportation Funding

Completion Date: January 1, 2007 Staff: Kelly Simpson

Reference: ESHB 2871 (2006)

Description: Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2871, establishing the Regional Transportation Commission, was enacted in 2006. The Commission is charged with (1) evaluating transportation governance in the central Puget Sound region; (2) developing options for a regional transportation governance proposal; and (3) developing a comprehensive financing strategy and recommended revenue options for improving regional transportation system performance. The recommendations must be submitted to the 2007 Legislature for its consideration. Although the Department of Transportation is directed to staff the Commission, committee staff will monitor the work of the Commission, provide support as appropriate, and assist with drafting legislation as directed.

Project: Comprehensive Review of Transportation Revenue Forecast Process

Completion Date: November 2006 Staff: David Ward

Description: With the Office of Financial Management and stakeholders, participate in the comprehensive review of the forecasting process, accuracy of models used to generate the forecast and communication of forecast results.

Project: Growth Management Act Transportation Concurrency Requirements

Completion Date: December 1, 2006 Staff: Kelly Simpson

Reference: SSB 6241 (2006)

Description: The 2006 supplemental transportation budget directs the Department of Transportation to conduct an analysis of expanding the transportation concurrency requirements prescribed under the Growth Management Act to include development impacts on state-owned transportation facilities. The Department must convene an oversight committee to include designated legislators. Committee staff will monitor the Department's work and provide support as appropriate.

Project: Incidence of Fuel Taxation

Completion Date: December 2006 Staff: David Ward

Description: With the Office of Financial Management and stakeholders, craft legislation for 2007 that addresses flaws in state fuel tax statutes as ruled on by the U.S. Circuit Court in January 2006.

Project: Initiative 917 Summary

Completion Date: July 2006 Staff: David Ward

Description: If certified, write the Senate Committee Services analysis of Initiative 917: An act relating to limiting government-imposed charges relating to motor vehicles.

Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee Review of Transportation Executive Information System

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff: David Ward/Hayley Gamble/Janice Baumgardt

Description: Participate in the drafting of business requirements necessary to upgrade the Transportation Executive Information System (TEIS) Fund Balance and Capital Projects modules into a fully functional, long-range transportation financial planning and budgeting application.

Project: Marine Finance Study

Completion Date: January 1, 2007

Staff: Janice Baumgardt

Reference: SSB 6241 (2006)

Description: The Joint Transportation Committee is directed to study the Washington state ferry system to facilitate policy discussions and decisions by members of the Legislature. Committee staff will provide support to Senate members of the committee and conduct research and analysis as directed.

Project: Palouse River & Coulee City Rail Lines - "PR & CC Cheney-Coulee-Pullman Acquisition & Upgrades"

Completion Date: June 30, 2007

Staff: Kim Johnson/Dory On

Reference: SSB 6241 (2006)

Description: The Office of Financial Management (OFM) is instructed to negotiate the purchase of operating and capital rights for the Central Washington (CW) rail line (Cheney to Coulee City). OFM is instructed to negotiate the purchase of operating rights for the Palouse & Lewiston (P&L) line (Marshall to Pullman), and Pleasant Valley Hooper (PV Hooper) line (Thornton to Winona & Hooper & the Idaho border through Pullman to Winona and Hooper). If OFM is unsuccessful in the purchase negotiations regarding the CW, P&L, and/or PV Hooper lines (in Whitman and Spokane counties), then OFM may stop negotiations and acquire the specified rights by alternative legal means. OFM is instructed to negotiate new operational agreements for the CW, P&L, and PV Hooper lines. While there is no legislatively stated deadline for concluding these negotiations, the relevant appropriation and budget provisos are effective through the end of the 2005-07 biennium. Committee staff will monitor and review the Palouse Coulee City rail negotiations and agreements.

Project: Teenage Driver Traffic Accidents

Completion Date: December 1, 2006

Staff: Kelly Simpson

Reference: SSB 6241 (2006)

Description: The 2006 supplemental transportation budget directs the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) to contract for a review of existing research on programs and policies which decrease accidents by teenage drivers. The review is to include an evaluation of the costs and benefits of programs and policies showing the greatest positive impacts on teenage driving safety. Committee staff will monitor the review and provide support to the JTC as appropriate.

Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Washington State Rail Capacity & Systems Needs Study

Completion Date: December 1, 2006

Staff: Kim Johnson/Dory On

Reference: ESSB 6091 (2005)

Description: The Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) is undertaking a statewide study of strategic freight and passenger rail system needs, challenges, and opportunities. The study will review the current powers, authorities, and interests the state has in freight and passenger rail, and will recommend policies for state participation and ownership of rail infrastructure and service delivery. The study will also prepare a plan for managing state owned rail assets. Committee staff will monitor and review the study.

Project: Long-term Viability of Transportation Financing Methods and Sources

Completion Date: November 1, 2006

Staff: David Ward

Reference: ESSB 6091 (2005)

Description: The Joint Transportation Committee has been given the task of conducting a contracted study of transportation finances. Senate Transportation Committee staff will assist in the screening and direction of the contractor and provide technical assistance.

Project: Project Delivery Oversight

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff: Hayley Gamble/Janice
Baumgardt/Kim Johnson/Dory On

Reference: SSB 6241 (2006)

Description: The 2003 Nickel funding package and the 2005 Transportation Partnership funding package both established project specific lists for the expenditure of the new funds. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is instructed to provide quarterly project reviews to the Legislature providing the status on each project in the project lists. Committee staff will work with WSDOT & OFM to develop the reporting mechanism and will monitor project implementation. WSDOT is provided with \$3.5 million to hire consultants to review project management, delivery and performance reporting. Committee staff will follow the progress of the consultants work and work with OFM on possible implementation approaches for the 07-09 budget.

Project: Multimodal Concurrency Study

Completion Date: December 31st, 2006

Staff: Kelly Simpson/Kim Johnson/Dory On

Reference: 2SHB 1565 (2005)

Description: Washington State Department of Transportation study of the relationship between Growth Management Concurrency requirements and multimodal transportation improvements and options under Chapter 36.70A RCW. Two Senate members and two House members will review and approve the scope of the study. Staff from the House and Senate Transportation Committees will provide support to the members and monitor the study.

Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Drought Emergencies

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Margaret King

Reference: RCW 43.83B

Description: Under current law, the Department of Ecology (DOE) declares drought emergencies by administrative order. Before the DOE can declare a drought emergency, it must determine that an area: (1) is experiencing or expected to experience less than 75 percent of normal water supply; and (2) is expected to suffer undue hardships (such as crop failures, municipal water shortages, and fish passage barriers) as a result of the dry conditions. The Governor must provide written approval for the DOE to issue a drought order.

In February, 2006, the DOE submitted a 2005 Drought Response Report to the Legislature. The report analyzes the 2005 drought response, impacts and procedures and makes recommendations for future drought preparedness. Staff will review the DOE 2005 Drought Response Report to the Legislature, as well as other recommendations, reports, or information provided by stakeholders, and draft follow up legislation as directed.

Project: Uniform Environmental Covenants Act

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Sam Thompson

Reference: SB 6517 (2006)

Description: Evaluate the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act (UECA) for proposed enactment in Washington. Environmental covenants are deed provisions in deeds for land that has been contaminated by toxic waste. These covenants--which may include land use restrictions, monitoring requirements, and a wide range of engineering controls--are intended to protect people and the environment from exposure to residual waste after cleanup. The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws has proposed UECA to ensure that environmental covenants remain valid when title to contaminated land is transferred and to clarify enforcement mechanisms.

In 2006, the committee considered a revised version of UECA, Senate Bill 6517, that had been developed by a 2005 interim work group. Stakeholders raised varied concerns about that measure in a legislative hearing. To assess those concerns and other relevant matters, staff will work with stakeholders (including a state bar association committee studying the issue), review recommendations, and draft legislation as directed.

Project: Puget Sound and Hood Canal

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Sam Thompson

Description: Work with the Governor's Office, state agencies, and interest groups on proposals to protect and enhance water quality in Puget Sound and Hood Canal.

Staff will monitor proposals developed by the Puget Sound Partnership, the stakeholder group currently developing a fifteen-year environmental recovery plan, review recommendations, and draft legislation as directed.

Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Cybersecurity

Completion Date: September 2006

Staff: William Bridges

Description: The nation's communications infrastructure is vulnerable to attacks by hackers, criminals, and terrorists. The University of Washington's Center for Information Assurance and Cybersecurity is the region's leader in training cybersecurity experts. In April 2004, the National Security Agency designated the center a national "center of excellence." Committee staff will work with the center to plan a work session or tour that will provide an overview of the center's efforts in training cybersecurity experts. Staff will also work with the center to identify issues that may require legislation.

Project: Consumer Protection and Telecommunications

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: William Bridges

Description: The laws concerning the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) contain provisions relating to automatic dialing and announcing devices, telephone solicitation, and unsolicited faxes. Staff will review the laws in light of new technologies and recent federal regulatory efforts. In addition, staff will examine the legal and policy implications of moving the provisions out of the WUTC title and placing them in the consumer protection title of the RCW. Staff may plan a work session and prepare bills as directed.

Project: Climate Impacts

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: William Bridges

Description: The 2006 operating budget appropriated \$200,000 to the Department of Ecology (DOE) to inventory and categorize greenhouse gases in the state. The DOE will also work with the University of Washington to complete an analysis of the economic impacts of climate change based on the latest scientific information. Staff will monitor the DOE's efforts, review recommendations as they come forth, and draft legislation as directed.

Staff will also evaluate the DOE's recommendation to formally establish an Office of State Climatologist to help assess the state's climate, weather, and water supply information.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: 2007 Citizen's Guide to the Budget

Completion Date: December 2006

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. The Guide is published on an annual basis because of significant changes in supplemental budget sessions. The Guide will be updated before the 2007 Legislative Session.

Project: Analyze 2007-09 Biennial Operating and Capital Budget Requests

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Ways and Means staff

Description: In the fall, state agencies will submit to the Office of Financial Management supplemental budget requests for the current biennium. State law provides that a copy of each agency budget be provided concurrently to the legislative fiscal committees. These requests will provide valuable information in developing the Senate's version of the 2007-09 operating and capital budgets.

Project: Legislative Budget Notes

Completion Date: September 2006

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: Special Education Accounting

Completion Date: January 1, 2007

Staff: Bryon Moore

Reference: SSB 6386 (2006)

Description: The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) will conduct an evaluation of issues raised in the recently completed Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee report on the accounting of special education excess costs. Specifically, OSPI will convene a work group to evaluate modifying or replacing the current accounting methodology. This workgroup will develop a proposal and deliver their report to the Legislature by January 1, 2007. Committee staff will monitor the workgroup activities and prepare legislative options as needed.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Advisory Group

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff: Dean Carlson

Description: The Streamlined Sales Tax Project has been an on-going national effort to develop measures to design, test and implement a sales and use tax system that radically simplifies sales and use taxes. The streamlined sales and use tax advisory group is a group that meets periodically to monitor and to weigh in on the important issues to our state that are developing in the national streamlined sales and use tax project. The group is made up of state and local government officials, businesses and business groups, and legislative staff. Committee staff will monitor and take part in the advisory group activities and will be prepared to inform the members of the current status of the project.

Project: Update of Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance

Completion Date: December 2006

Staff: Bryon Moore

Description: Staff 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.

Other Projects:

Project: Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing

Completion Date: June 2006

Staff: Tim Yowell/Dean Carlson

Reference: HCR 4410 (2005)

Description: In coordination with staff from the health care and fiscal committees in the House and Senate, Ways and Means staff will support the work of the Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing established by House Concurrent Resolution 4410 (2005). The Joint Select Committee is charged with recommending potential sources of future funding for public health services by July 1, 2006.

Project: Long-Term Care Financing and Chronic Care Management Task Force

Completion Date: June 30, 2007

Staff: Chelsea Buchanan

Reference: 2SHB 1220 (2005)

Description: Two Senators are among the eight people appointed to this joint legislative and executive task force, which is to make recommendations regarding system capacity, efficient and effective public funding models, appropriate statutory and regulatory revisions, private payment options, and the long-term care needs of rural communities. The task force is also charged with recommendation chronic care management and disability prevention interventions. Staffing is provided by agencies, OFM, Senate and House policy and fiscal staff.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2006

Project: **Washington Learns Committee**

Completion Date: November 2006

Staff: Bryon Moore/others

Reference: E2SSB 5441 (2005)

Description: The Washington Learns study, which is being led by a Comprehensive Education Finance Study Steering Committee that includes four legislators, one from each caucus of the Senate and House; and three advisory committees, each one including four individuals appointed by the caucuses in the Senate and House, is studying the finance of early learning, K-12, and higher education in the state. Committee staff will provide policy support to the study. The steering committee will issue a final report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature by November 15, 2006. This project will be completed in conjunction with staff members of the Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education Committee
