

# Senate Committee Services

2012 Interim Work Plan and Meeting Schedule



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June 2012



DATE: June 22, 2012

TO: Washington State Senators and Other Interested Persons

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

SUBJECT: Senate Committee Services - 2012 Interim Work Plan and Activities

We are pleased to provide this 2012 Interim Work Plan and Activities, as approved by the Facilities & Operations Committee, for your reference in the months preceding the 2013 Legislative Session.

The interim work plan is a public planning document containing the major issues that each committee currently plans to consider during the next legislative session. It is used to guide staff in conducting research over the interim and in planning related interim committee activities and hearings. In addition to the items included in this work plan, Senate Committee Services' staff conducts additional research projects as requested by individual Senators. In this light, we trust you will find this work plan useful in planning your calendars and monitoring the committee's work during the interim.

The electronic version of this document can be found on our website at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/Pages/default.aspx>. The website will be updated throughout the interim as the dates and locations of committee and task force meetings and activities are finalized.

If you have other requests or questions, or need assistance on any issue, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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## Committee Meeting Schedule – 2012 Interim

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

November	Full Committee	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
Legislative Assembly Time TBA <sup>1</sup>	Public Hearing		

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### Other Meetings:

August	Legislative Council on River Governance	Boise, Idaho	Agenda items to be announced.
Time TBA	Public Hearing		

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<sup>1</sup> TBA = To be announced.

# Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2012 Interim

**PROJECT:** Graduation and Dropout Rates

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Susan Mielke  
786-7422

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** National and state reports regarding graduation and dropout rates show conflicting characterizations about the rate trends in Washington State.

Committee staff will review, compare, and contrast various reports and efforts to improve graduation rates and decrease dropout rates in Washington and other states and summarize the information for members. Staff will draft legislation as directed.

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**PROJECT:** Legislative Councils, Committees, Task Forces, and Working Groups

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Susan Mielke/Lidia Mori  
786-7422/786-7755

**REFERENCES:** [E2SSB 5828 \(2007\)](#), [SHB 1347 \(2009\)](#), [ESHB 2261 \(2009\)](#), [SSB 5248 \(2009\)](#), [2SSB 5973 \(2009\)](#), [SSB 6759 \(2010\)](#), [2SHB 1163 \(2011\)](#), [SHB 1710 \(2011\)](#), [2ESB 5389 \(2011\)](#), [HRC 4410 \(2012\)](#), [HB 2824 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** In recent years the Legislature has created a number of task forces, working groups, councils, and committees with legislators as members:

Quality Education Council (QEC). The QEC was created in statute in 2009 to recommend and inform the ongoing implementation by the Legislature of an evolving program of basic education and funding for it; and develop goals and priorities for a 10-year period for the educational system. It is comprised of eight legislators and five educational agency representatives (Office of the Governor, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Board of Education, Professional Educator Standards Board, & Department of Early Learning.) The QEC is required to annually report to the Legislature and the Governor.

Joint Select Committee on Education Accountability. The committee was created in statute in 2010 to examine accountability models in other states and identify options for a complete system of education accountability but is not to convene prior to May 1, 2012. It is comprised of eight legislators. The Committee must report to the Legislature and the Governor by September 1, 2012 and 2013.

Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC). The EOGOAC was created to recommend policies and strategies to close the achievement gap. It is comprised of the chairs and ranking members of the Education Committees or their designees plus one additional legislator from the House and Senate, and other appointed members.

Joint Select Committee on Article IX Litigation. The joint select committee was created in 2012 to facilitate communication between the Court and the Legislature on the McCleary case since the Court retained jurisdiction of the case. It is comprised of eight legislators.

Joint Task Force on Education Funding. The task force was created in 2012 and is comprised of eight legislators, and three others appointed by the Governor. It is to develop a proposal for a reliable and dependable funding mechanism to support basic education programs and report by December 2012.



common core state standards, public school enrollment options, Washington's Quality Rating and Improvement System for licensed child care providers; social impact bonds to fund early learning, and the Early Learning Race to the Top grant.

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### **Committee Meeting Schedule – 2012 Interim**

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

Date TBA Time TBA	Full Committee Tour/Briefing	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
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November Legislative Assembly Time TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
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**PROJECT:** Identifying Best Practices for Collaborative Public/Private Sector Trade Assistance

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 1, 2012

**STAFF:** Edward Redmond  
786-7471

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** The Washington State Export Initiative, whose goal is to increase exports by 30 percent in five years, began in 2010 as a response to the National Export Initiative to double exports in the same time frame. In the 2011 legislative session, the state enacted various measures directed to meet this objective through trade promotion, training, and direct assistance to small and medium sized businesses (SMEs). The Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) received \$3 million in state funding which the board awarded in the form of grants to various organizations to develop trade specific services for Washington State SMEs.

Due to budgetary restraints, there is increased interest in collaborating with private sector organizations to provide greater trade assistance to SMEs. Staff will (1) work with state agencies and trade organizations to identify the organizations and programs involved in the state's international trade efforts; (2) research best practices for government trade assistance services; and (3) provide a report to the Economic Development, Trade & Innovation committee regarding the findings of this research. Legislation will be drafted as appropriate.

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### **Committee Meeting Schedule – 2012 Interim**

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

Date TBA Time TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Tri-Cities, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
Date TBA Time TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Location to be announced	1. Washington's Economic Development Strategic Plan. 2. Commercialization of energy research.
November Legislative Assembly Time TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.

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# Senate Energy, Natural Resources & Marine Waters Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2012 Interim

**PROJECT:** Fuel Mix Reports

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** William Bridges  
786-7416

**REFERENCES:** [SHB 1712 \(2012\)](#), [SHB 2783 \(2012\)](#), [SSB 5431\( 2012\)](#), [SSB 5510 \(2012\)](#),  
[SB 5809 \(2011\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** In 2001, the Legislature started requiring each retail electric utility in the state to disclose its actual or imputed annual fuel mix used to generate electricity. Among other things, the disclosure must include the percentage attributable to each of the following generation sources: coal, hydroelectric, natural gas, nuclear, or other. The Department of Commerce (Commerce) administers the fuel mix reporting program.

During the 2011-12 legislative biennium, five bills were heard that would have amended the fuel mix reporting law: SHB 1712, SHB 2783, SSB 5431, SSB 5510, and SB 5809. Four of the bills concerned the reporting of null power, which is renewable electricity from which renewable energy credits have been separated. The remaining bill concerned the reporting of coal power that is generated from a plant that is transitioning to non-coal fuel. During the discussion of these bills, questions arose about the original purpose of the fuel mix reports and how the reports are currently used.

Senate committee staff will prepare a report on the fuel mix reporting program, which will examine the following: the legislative history of the law, previous evaluations of the program by Commerce, and how the collected fuel mix data is used by other agencies and entities.

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**PROJECT:** Interconnection Standards

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** William Bridges  
786-7416

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** In 2006, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) adopted rules for interconnecting small electric generating projects to electrical systems owned by investor-owned utilities (IOUs). During the summer of 2011, the WUTC developed policy recommendations for promoting distributed generation in IOU service territories, including a recommendation that the WUTC initiate a rulemaking to consider changes to the interconnection rules. That rulemaking is now underway (WUTC Docket: UE-122133) and is focusing on reviewing rules to lower interconnection costs and accelerate the development of distributed generation systems, without unduly shifting costs between ratepayers or classes. Stakeholders have submitted comments on the proposed rules and the WUTC will hold workshops during the legislative interim to review and discuss the comments. The WUTC plans on issuing the final rules in December 2012. Senate committee staff will attend the workshops, monitor the progress of the rulemaking, and assist in the preparation of any draft legislation as directed.

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**PROJECT:** Forest Fire and Health

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Curt Gavigan  
786-7437

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 6141 \(2007\)](#), [3ESHB 2127 Sec. 606.18 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Legislature has regularly considered and taken action regarding forest health and fire issues in recent years. For example, in 2007 SSB 6141 designated the Department of Natural Resources as the state lead in developing a comprehensive forest health program for the state and created a tiered advisory and regulatory system to address forest health issues. More recently, in November 2011 the Commissioner of Public Lands initiated a forest health hazard warning and convened a technical committee to provide recommendations on this threat and potential responses. Also, the 2012 supplemental operating budget initiated a study on mechanisms for reducing the amount of and variation in the state's fire suppression costs, including an examination of the state's fire suppression staffing costs and Oregon's fire suppression insurance program. Senate committee staff will monitor these and other relevant forest fire and health related activities and provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.

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**PROJECT:** Emerging Marine Waters Issues

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Curt Gavigan  
786-7437

**REFERENCES:** [2SSB 6263 \(2012\)](#), [3ESHB 2127 Sec. 308.11 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** A number of activities relating to marine waters issues will be ongoing during the 2012 interim. These include implementation of both 2SSB 6263 which modifies the framework for marine spatial planning as well as an associated 2012 operating budget proviso that provides an appropriation of \$2.1 million for marine management planning. Activities under an interagency, public-private partnership established in December 2011 and known as the Washington Shellfish Initiative will continue, including work by the Ocean Acidification Blue Ribbon Panel. Additionally, the ongoing local shoreline master program update process will continue according to the statutory schedule. Senate committee staff will monitor these activities and other emerging marine waters issues and provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.

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### **Committee Meeting Schedule – 2012 Interim**

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

Date TBA Time TBA	Full Committee Tour Session	BPA Control Center Vancouver, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
Interim 2 Tours Date/Time TBA	Full Committee Tour/Briefing	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
November Legislative Assembly Time TBA	Full Committee Public Hearing	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.

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# Senate Environment Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2012 Interim

**PROJECT:** State Environmental Policy Act

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Diane Smith/Jan Odano  
786-7410/786-7486

**REFERENCES:** [SB 6130 \(2012\)](#), [E2SHB 2253 \(2012\)](#), [ESSB 6406 Sec. 301 - 312 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) was adopted in 1971, establishing a framework for an environmental review and evaluation process to assist with decision-making for proposals. SEPA applies to decisions by every state and local agency, including state agencies, counties, cities, ports, and special purpose districts. SEPA is intended to ensure that environmental values are considered during decision-making by state and local agencies. Proposed 2011 legislation sought to update and streamline the SEPA process.

Staff will work with interested members and stakeholders to address outstanding concerns such as notification requirements; subjects for statutory categorical exemptions; and possible and appropriate changes for use of non-project environmental reviews. Staff will prepare and draft legislation as directed.

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**PROJECT:** Product Stewardship Programs

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Jan Odano/Diane Smith  
786-7410/786-7486

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 6145 \(2012\)](#), [SB 6148 \(2012\)](#), [SSB 6341 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** During the past decade, the Legislature has considered several bills regarding manufacturers' stewardship of products. The bills have addressed issues of financing stewardship programs, collecting, recycling, and appropriately disposing of unwanted drugs, carpet, rechargeable batteries, mercury-containing lights, paint, and electronic products.

Staff will review other states' product stewardship programs and regulations; national, international, and private sector models; and strategies for uniform templates; as well as work with stakeholders. Staff will prepare and draft legislation as directed.

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**PROJECT:** National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Storm Water General Permits

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Karen Epps  
786-7424

**REFERENCES:** [SB 6406 \(2012\)](#), [SB 6207 \(2012\)](#), [ESHB 1478 \(2011\)](#), [SB 5360 \(2011\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit system to regulate wastewater discharges from point sources to surface waters, including, but not limited to, storm water discharges from municipalities operating municipal separate storm sewer systems that meet specified criteria. The Department of Ecology (DOE) administers permits, including municipal storm water general permits, under the CWA. On January 17, 2007, DOE reissued the phase I municipal storm water general permit and issued two phase II municipal storm water permits, one for Western Washington and one for Eastern Washington, all with an effective date of February 16, 2007. As a result of 2011 legislation, by July 31, 2012, DOE must extend the phase

II permits for a term of one year and without modification. Additionally, DOE must issue updated phase II permits, which become effective on August 1, 2013. Staff will review the proposed municipal storm water general permits and draft legislation as directed.

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### **Committee Meeting Schedule – 2012 Interim**

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

Date TBA	Full Committee	SE Washington
Time TBA	Tour/Briefing	

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Date TBA	Full Committee	NW Washington
Time TBA	Tour/Briefing	

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

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# Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2012 Interim

**PROJECT:** Foreclosure

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Alison Mendiola  
786-7483

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 2614 \(2012\)](#), [SSB 6070 \(2012\)](#), [2SHB 1362 \(2011\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Residential foreclosures continue to impact residents of Washington State. This interim, staff will monitor the implementation of ESHB 2614 (relating to short sales, the Foreclosure Fairness Act, and foreclosure remedies) by attending various meetings including, but not limited to; the Washington State Housing Commission monthly Commissioner meetings and the quarterly Affordable Housing Advisory Board meetings and any related trainings.

SSB 6070, addressing the recording of all Deed of Trusts, was introduced but did not pass into law during the 2012 regular session. Staff will engage in member directed research on the issue of recording Deed of Trusts, including Mortgage Electronic Registration System (MERS). Staff will attend and staff meetings as directed by members, as well as attend other related meetings and trainings.

Other related issues include; monitoring the Attorney General's National Mortgage Settlement; continuing to monitor foreclosure statutes and litigation in other jurisdictions; and other work as directed. Possible legislation as directed by members.

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**PROJECT:** Exchange Facilitators

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Edward Redmond  
786-7471

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 6295 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** A tax-deferred exchange is a method by which a property owner trades one or more relinquished properties for one or more like-kind replacement properties. The Internal Revenue Code 26 U.S.C 1031 requires the use of an exchange facilitator or qualified intermediary to hold proceeds from the sale of the original property until those funds are applied to the purchase of the replacement property in order to receive a tax deferral on the exchange. During the 2012 legislative session, SSB 6295 passed which modifies certain exchange facilitator requirements and enacts additional penalties. The bill also contains a provision requiring the development of a stakeholder taskforce to identify effective regulatory procedures for the exchange facilitator industry and to provide specific recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2012. Staff will attend and help facilitate the stakeholder taskforce meetings over the interim.

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## Committee Meeting Schedule – 2012 Interim

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

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

# Senate Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2012 Interim

**PROJECT:** Voting Rights Act of 2012

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Sharon Swanson  
786-7447

**REFERENCES:** [SB 6381 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Last session, the Legislature considered SB 6381, which would have established the Washington State Voting Rights Act of 2012. Committee staff will meet with interested members and stakeholders to discuss the costs and legal implications of possible implementation of a state voting rights act. House and Senate staff will research and review the federal voting rights act as well as California's voting rights act, passed in 2004.

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**PROJECT:** Public Records Act

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Sharon Swanson  
786-7447

**REFERENCES:** [SB 6146 \(2012\)](#), [SB 6351 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will meet with interested members and stakeholders to address concerns expressed about the cost to local governments related to excessive records requests. Staff will review other jurisdictions' methods of addressing the costs of excessive records requests and compile information as to what method has been most successful. Staff will provide this information to the Committee and to stakeholders for their review. Staff will draft legislation as directed by members.

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**PROJECT:** Procurement Reform

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Karen Epps  
786-7424

**REFERENCES:** [2SHB 2452 \(2012\)](#), [ESSB 5931 \(2011\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** In 2011 the Legislature passed ESSB 5931, which eliminated the departments of Information Services (DIS), General Administration (GA), Personnel, and the State Printer, and created two new agencies: the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) and Consolidated Technology Services. The procurement lead groups from the departments of GA, DIS, and the Office of Financial Management (OFM) were consolidated into DES. ESSB 5931 directed DES to provide a report to the Governor with procurement reform recommendations by December 31, 2011. The legislation also directed OFM to examine on a biennial basis, which services within DES might be performed by the private sector. Last session, the Legislature passed 2SHB 2452 which implemented some of the procurement reform recommendations and charged DES with oversight of state procurement of goods and services. 2SHB 2452 requires the Director of DES to adopt rules, policies, and guidelines governing procurement. Committee staff will monitor this procurement reform effort and draft legislation as directed by members.

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**PROJECT: Elections and Special Purpose Districts**

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Sam Thompson  
786-7413

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Certain types of special purpose districts such as diking, drainage, and flood control districts limit election participation to property owners. Committee staff will meet with interested members and stakeholders and county auditors to discuss the current election procedures for special purpose districts and potential options for new election procedures for special purpose districts.

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**Other Projects:**

**PROJECT: Public Records Exemption Accountability Committee - Sunshine Committee**

**COMPLETION DATE:** NA

**STAFF:** Sharon Swanson  
786-7447

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5435 \(2007\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The 13 member committee was created in 2007 to review all public records exemptions and make annual recommendations to the Legislature on whether to maintain, modify, or terminate each exemption. The Sunshine Committee will hold meetings in May, August, and October of 2012.

Committee staff will continue to attend and monitor meetings held by the Sunshine Committee. Staff will draft any resulting legislation as directed by members.

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

**COMPLETION DATE:** NA

**STAFF:** Karen Epps  
786-7424

**REFERENCES:** [RCW 73.04.150](#)  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/jointcommittees/JCVMA/>

**DESCRIPTION:** The Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs is a 16 member committee empowered to study and make recommendations to the Legislature on veterans' issues, active military forces issues, and National Guard and Reserve component issues. House and Senate staff will schedule public hearings, work sessions, and tours for the Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs.

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**PROJECT: Joint Select Committee on Junior Taxing Districts, Municipal Corporations, and Local Government Finance**

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Sam Thompson  
786-7413

**REFERENCES:** [3ESHB 2127 \(2012\)](#), [EHB 2602 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Joint Select Committee will review junior taxing districts and municipal corporations for the purpose of evaluating their provided services and making recommendations on the appropriateness of consolidating services into a general purpose local government. The Joint Select

Committee will also examine new revenue options for local governments and review the impact of the passage of Initiative Measure No. 1183 on public safety needs, and provide a sustainable plan for the use and disbursement of excess liquor revenues. Committee staff will work with House staff to support members and provide research when necessary.

## Committee Meeting Schedule – 2012 Interim

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

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

### Other Meetings:

Date TBA	Joint Select Committee on Junior Taxing Districts, Municipal Corporations, and Local Government Finance	Location to be announced	Agenda items to be announced.
Time TBA	Work Session		

May 2, 2012	Joint Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs	Olympia, WA	Review of veteran- and military-related bills that passed in 2012, interim plan discussion, and the economic impact of our military bases.
10:00 a.m.	Work Session		

May, Aug., Oct.	Public Records Exemption Accountability Committee (Sunshine Committee)	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
Time TBA	Work Session		

June 28, 2012	Joint Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs	Whidbey Island, WA	Tour of Naval Air Station.
Time TBA	Tour/Briefing/Meeting		

September	Joint Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs	Location to be announced	Agenda items to be announced.
Time TBA	Work Session		

Nov./Dec.  
Time TBA

Joint Committee on  
Veterans' & Military  
Affairs  
Work Session

Olympia, WA

Agenda items to be  
announced.

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# Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2012 Interim

**PROJECT:** Hospital Issues

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Kathleen Buchli/Mich'l Needham  
786-7488/786-7442

**REFERENCES:** [3ESHB 2127 \(2012\)](#), [ESHB 2582 \(2012\)](#), [SB 6360 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** In 2011, the Legislature addressed several areas relating to hospital public policy. Additionally, the 2012 budget contains several provisions relating to hospital issues that should be monitored by Health Care Committee staff. During the 2012 interim, a comprehensive approach, including stakeholders, Senate and House policy and fiscal staff, agency representatives and interested members, should be developed to address and monitor the following issues:

- Development of a hospital rates review commission.
- Critical access hospitals and rural health clinics:
  - includes discussion on rural health system access and quality incentive payments and Department of Health necessary provider criteria for critical access hospitals and quality measures and other performance measure to promote access and quality in rural health systems; and
  - includes discussion on rural health clinics.
- Unnecessary use of emergency rooms: Budget proviso requiring the Health Care Authority (HCA), Washington State Medical Association, and the Washington Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians to designate best practices and performance measures to reduce medically unnecessary emergency room visits of Medicaid clients.
- Facility Fees: Monitor and report on the payment of facility fees in programs administered by the HCA.
- Other issues.

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**PROJECT:** K-12 Employee Benefits

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Mich'l Needham  
786-7442

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 5940 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The committee staff will participate in an interagency workgroup to develop a communication plan and communication materials for school districts and K-12 stakeholders to assist with early implementation questions on benefit requirements and premium requirements, and monitor on-going implementation efforts in preparation for data gathering and reporting to the Legislature.

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**Other Projects:****PROJECT: Joint Select Committee on Health Reform Implementation****COMPLETION DATE:** June 30, 2014 **STAFF:** Mich'l Needham  
786-7442**REFERENCES:** [ESHCR 4404 \(2011\)](#)  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/jointcommittees/HRI/>

**DESCRIPTION:** In 2010 the Washington State Legislature established the Joint Select Committee (JSC) on Health Reform Implementation to provide a forum for public comment and expert advice on the development of Washington's response to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Although the Committee was set to expire in 2011, the Legislature stated a need to continue to monitor changes to the health care system and the implementation activities of the executive branch and extended the term of the Committee to June 30, 2014. Possible items for the JSC to address during the 2012 interim include: Medicaid expansion, Basic Health Plan, and the Supreme Court's decision on the Affordable Care Act.

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**PROJECT: Developmental Disability Service System Task Force****COMPLETION DATE:** December 1, 2012 **STAFF:** Kathleen Buchli  
786-7488**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5459 \(2011\)](#), [SB 6609 \(2012\)](#)  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/jointcommittees/DDSSTF/>

**DESCRIPTION:** In 2011 the Legislature established the Developmental Disability Service System Task Force. The Task Force is directed to issue recommendations on developing a system of services for persons with developmental disabilities, the state's long-term needs for residential habilitation center capacity, a plan for consolidating institutional capacity, mechanisms for using savings from downsizing residential habilitation centers to create community-based services, use of surplus property, and strategies for reframing the mission of the Yakima Valley School. Recommendations must be reported to the Legislature by December 1, 2012. Possible items for discussion include SB 6609 and Frances Haddon Morgan experience.

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**Committee Meeting Schedule – 2012 Interim***For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7456*

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

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**Other Meetings:**

Interim 2 Meetings Date/Time TBA	Developmental Disability Service System Task Force  Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
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July 25, 2012 Time TBA	Joint Select Committee on Health Reform Implementation  Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
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Fall, Winter  
Date/Time TBA

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Joint Select Committee  
on Health Reform  
Implementation  
Work Session

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Location to be  
announced.

Agenda items to be  
announced.

# Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2012 Interim

**PROJECT:** Higher Education Councils, Boards, and Working Groups

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Kim Cushing/Katherine Taylor  
786-7421/786-7434

**REFERENCES:** [E2SHB 1795 \(2011\)](#), [RCW 28B.95.030](#), [ESHB 2088 \(2011\)](#), [RCW 28B.50.050](#),  
[E2SHB 2483 \(2012\)](#), [RCW 28C.18.020](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will monitor and provide updates on the various higher education councils, boards, and working groups, which include the following:

Academic Credit for Prior Learning Work Group. Coordinates and implements specific legislative goals related to awarding academic credit for prior learning.

Committee on Advanced Tuition Payment. Administers Washington's advanced college tuition payment program (aka *Guaranteed Education Tuition - GET*).

Opportunity Scholarship Board. Provides oversight and guidance for the opportunity expansion and opportunity scholarship programs in light of legislative priorities and meet required duties and responsibilities.

State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. Provides leadership and coordination for Washington's public system of 34 community and technical colleges.

Student Achievement Council. Provides focus and goals for the state's higher education system.

Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board. Advises the Governor and Legislature on workforce development policy, ensures that the state's workforce services and programs work together, and evaluates performance.

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**PROJECT:** For-Profit Institutions of Higher Education

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Katherine Taylor  
786-7434

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will review federal law that impacts for-profit institutions of higher education (for-profits); investigate for-profit student loans, financial aid, and tuition costs; research for-profit veteran student recruitment; compare and contrast for-profit programs with community college education programs, analyze for-profit accreditation; and conduct for-profit site visits. Staff will summarize the research and data found during research and site visits on for-profits.

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confusing and the bill, as drafted, met with considerable resistance. A work group comprised of stakeholders will be formed to review and recommend solutions to the issues surrounding the public availability of non-conviction data. Committee staff will provide support to the work group.

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**Other Projects:**

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

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing **STAFF:** Jennifer Strus  
786-7316

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 5921 \(2011\)](http://www.leg.wa.gov/jointcommittees/LEWOTF/)  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/jointcommittees/LEWOTF/>

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

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**Committee Meeting Schedule – 2012 Interim**

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

June 1, 2012 10:00 a.m.	Domestic Violence Protection Order Work Group  Work Session	Everett, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
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November Legislative Assembly  Time TBA	Full Committee  Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
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**Other Meetings:**

July 23, 2012 1:30 p.m.	Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Task Force  Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
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October  Time TBA	Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Task Force  Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
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December  
Time TBA

Legislative-Executive  
WorkFirst Oversight  
Task Force  
Work Session

Olympia, WA

Agenda items to be  
announced.

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# Senate Judiciary Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2012 Interim

**PROJECT:** Private Use of Global Positioning System (GPS) Devices

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Aldo Melchiori  
786-7439

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Several manufacturers produce GPS tracking devices for the use of private individuals. They can be placed on vehicles with or without the owner's or driver's knowledge. While the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that placement and use of these tracking devices by law enforcement constitutes a search, use by private individuals was not addressed. Staff will survey the other state's laws to determine whether and how these devices are regulated and whether the issue has been addressed by the courts. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

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**PROJECT:** Body-Cameras and Sound Recordings by Law Enforcement

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Katherine Taylor  
786-7434

**REFERENCES:** [SB 6066 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Currently, restrictions and requirements regarding intercepting, recording, or divulging private communication; intercepting private communication; intercepted communication in evidence; and violating the right to privacy do not apply to police, fire, emergency medical service, emergency communication center, and poison center personnel if the sound recordings correspond to video images recorded by video cameras mounted in law enforcement vehicles. A sound recording device that makes a recording must be operated simultaneously with the video camera when the operating system has been activated for an event.

Senate Bill 6066 (2012) provided that law enforcement officers may make sound recordings that correspond to video images recorded by video cameras actually worn by law enforcement officers (in uniform) in addition to those mounted in law enforcement vehicles. A question arose regarding a provision in the current statute that "no sound or video recording may be duplicated and made available to the public by a law enforcement agency until final disposition of any criminal or civil litigation which arises from the event or events which were recorded." It was unclear as to the extent to which this provision could prevent discovery (through the Public Disclosure Act or pretrial discovery) and possible use by an alleged victim of improper law enforcement action. In addition, clarification was sought regarding a recorded person's right to privacy in these situations.

Staff will survey the laws of other states and the federal law, as well as court decisions regarding the discovery and right to privacy issues. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

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**PROJECT: Child Access Prevention**

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Aldo Melchiori  
786-7439

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** There have been a number of instances in Washington where children have gained access to firearms stored in a manner that allowed the children to take them without the firearm owner's supervision. Approximately half of the states have child access prevention laws that hold adult firearm owners responsible when a child gains access to improperly stored weapons. Washington does not have a specific provision, but reckless endangerment charges have been successfully used in some circumstances. Staff will survey the specific child access prevention laws of other states and also research how the states without such laws address the issue. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

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**PROJECT: Cell Phone Tracking**

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Aldo Melchiori  
786-7439

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Cell phones register their location with the network several times a minute and this function cannot be turned off while the phone is getting a wireless signal. Some cell phone companies store customers' location data for a period of time. For example, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, Sprint keeps location tracking records for 18-24 months, and AT&T holds onto them "since July 2008," suggesting they may be stored indefinitely. Yet none of the major cell phone providers disclose to their customers the length of time they keep their customers' cell tracking data. Some Washington law enforcement agencies have gained access to cell phone records for individuals without warrants. Some believe that requiring law enforcement to obtain a warrant before gaining access to cell phone records should be required, especially since the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *United States v. Jones*, where a majority of the Supreme Court recently concluded that the government conducts a search under the Fourth Amendment when it attaches a GPS device to a car and tracks its movements. Staff will determine what current practice is in Washington and survey the applicable laws in other states and at the federal level. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

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### **Committee Meeting Schedule – 2012 Interim**

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

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

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# Senate Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2012 Interim

**PROJECT:** Drayage Truck Drivers

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Edith Rice  
786-7444

**REFERENCES:** [SB 6461 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Drayage truck drivers operating at Washington ports face a variety of challenges. Viewed as independent contractors by companies using their services they are often responsible for costly truck ownership, maintenance and operating expenses. These drivers do not benefit from coverage typically provided by employers for unemployment insurance, minimum wage standards, industrial safety and health standards or discrimination protection. For many drivers, the cost of being an independent contractor is not offset by adequate remuneration. Some view this as a misclassification of workers as independent contractors. Others view these drivers as independent contractors by choice - drivers who prefer the flexibility and independence that such work allows them. Other jurisdictions have attempted to address this disparity through legal challenges. Staff will research the unique elements which comprise this dilemma, related case law, and information about how other states have addressed such issues to provide background for legislators interested in addressing this issue.

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**PROJECT:** Unemployment Insurance

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Mac Nicholson  
786-7445

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Washington's unemployment insurance (UI) system has provided significant benefits to Washington residents throughout the recent recession. However, due to changes in federal requirements and changes to employment indicators, the state's UI system will be distributing fewer benefits in the coming year and will need statutory changes to maintain federal conformity. Additionally, due to the length of the recession, thousands of residents have exhausted their UI benefits but are still unemployed or underemployed. The committee will work with the Employment Security Department and monitor development of policy to implement federal requirements and programs to serve residents who have exhausted their UI benefits.

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**PROJECT:** Workers' Compensation

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Mac Nicholson  
786-7445

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5801 \(2011\)](#), [EHB 2123 \(2011\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** In 2011, the Legislature significantly reformed Washington's workers compensation system. Many new programs and policies took effect at the beginning of 2012, including the authority to use claims resolution structured settlement agreements. The committee will continue to monitor the implementation and use of the 2011 changes and work with the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) and stakeholders to address unforeseen issues.

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**PROJECT: Self-Insured Employers**

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Mac Nicholson  
786-7445

**REFERENCES:** [SB 5341 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Qualified employers may self-insure for industrial insurance purposes. Self-insured employers typically contract with third party administrators (TPAs) to administer the employer's workers compensation system. The Ombudsman for Self-Insured Workers has repeatedly found that the failure of TPAs to timely pay authorized medical bills is a source of frustration for injured self-insured workers, as unpaid medical bills are sent to collection agencies. Legislation to address this issue was opposed by self-insured employers, who want to be sure they are paying only for authorized care, are concerned that medical providers may be billing the worker directly, and believe enforcement of current L&I policies would correct the problem. The committee will work with stakeholders to develop a solution to the issue of non-timely payment of medical bills by TPAs.

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**PROJECT: Liquor**

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Edith Rice  
786-7444

**REFERENCES:** I-1182, [SHB 2959 \(2008\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Privatization. Privatization of the distribution and sale of liquor statewide is still in the implementation phase. Staff will provide an update on progress to date, as well as those aspects of privatization yet to be implemented or requiring legislative follow up.

In-state manufacturers (distilleries, wineries, breweries). Craft distillers of spirits have increased from zero to approximately forty in Washington State in the last four years. Some have compared craft distilleries' potential economic impact to that of the very successful Washington State wine industry. Staff will provide legislators with legal analysis around licensing issues relating to craft distillers.

Farmer's Markets - Legal definition of farmers market for purpose of sales or sampling of certain alcoholic beverages. Under current state law Washington wineries may offer wine samples and sell wine at certain farmers markets. Likewise, domestic breweries and microbreweries are permitted to sell their products at certain farmers markets. Not all farmers markets in Washington State meet the legal definition of a qualifying farmers market for the purpose of selling beer or wine. Although this issue is raised annually and the Liquor Control Board has suggested clarifying language, it remains unresolved. Staff will provide legislators with statutory and agency background and prepare legislative proposals as requested.

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**PROJECT: Collective Bargaining Processes in Washington**

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2012

**STAFF:** Ingrid Mungia  
786-7423

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will develop a primer to be distributed to committee members on public employee collective bargaining in Washington. The primer will cover the different federal and state collective bargaining laws and who bargains under them; what issues are able to be bargained; how the bargaining process works; how bargaining agreements are funded; how bargaining groups are created; and the Public Employment Relations Commissions' (PERC) role in collective bargaining.

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## Committee Meeting Schedule – 2012 Interim

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

Date TBA	Full Committee	Western Washington	Agenda items to be announced.
Time TBA	Tour/Briefing/Meeting		
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May 31, 2012	Joint with House Labor & Workforce Development Committee	SeaTac City Hall, SeaTac, WA	Concessionaire contracts at SeaTac Airport.
1:30 a.m.	Work Session		
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July 23, 2012	Jt/w House Labor and Workforce Development	House Hearing Rm A John L. O'Brien Bldg. Olympia, WA	Consequences of unemployment.
10:00 a.m.	Work Session		
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November Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
Time TBA	Work Session		
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# Senate Transportation Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2012 Interim

**PROJECT:** Seven to Ten-Year License Plate Replacement Cycle and Paperless Renewals (DOL)

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 31, 2012                      **STAFF:** Amanda Cecil  
786-7429

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 2190 - Sec. 208.18 & 208.19 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will monitor and report on the following transition plans developed by the Department of Licensing: (1) moving to a paperless renewal notice for drivers' licenses and vehicle registrations, and (2) moving from a seven-year license plate replacement cycle to a ten-year license plate replacement cycle.

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**PROJECT:** Road User Fee Assessment Steering Committee

**COMPLETION DATE:** January 1, 2013                      **STAFF:** David Ward/Amanda Cecil  
786-7341/786-7429

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 2190 - Sec. 205 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** During the 2012 interim, staff will support and monitor the activities and progress of a Transportation Commission and Department of Transportation convened steering committee charged with determining the feasibility of transitioning from the state fuel excise taxes to a road user assessment system of paying for transportation. The steering committee will include a member from each of the two largest caucuses of both the Senate and the House as well as members representing various transportation interest groups. The commission will update the Governor and the Legislature on this work by January 1, 2013 and include a plan and budget request for related implementation work and/or pilot project to be completed during the 2013-15 fiscal biennium.

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**PROJECT:** Evaluate the Department of Transportation's Budgeting of Federal Funds

**COMPLETION DATE:** December 16, 2012                      **STAFF:** Clint McCarthy  
786-7319

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 2190 - Sec. 204.8 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will work with counterparts from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), House Transportation Committee, the Office of Financial Management, and the Federal Highway Administration to evaluate the effectiveness, transparency, and priorities by which the Department of Transportation spends federal funds. The study group shall: (1) recommend ways to increase transparency in the programming of federal funds, (2) evaluate assumptions used to predict future federal funds and programming those funds between different federal programs, (3) develop a process to link statewide priorities to the distribution of federal funds from project savings and redistributed federal funds from other states, and (4) develop a process to incorporate stakeholder feedback in developing federal grant and loan applications.

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**PROJECT:**                    **Narrowband Communication System Conversion (WSP)**

**COMPLETION DATE:**    December 2012

**STAFF:** Amanda Cecil  
786-7429

**REFERENCES:**            [ESHB 2190 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will monitor and report to legislators as necessary on the progress of the Washington State Patrol's technology project to convert its existing communication system to a narrowband. Committee staff will monitor the progress and provide input. Committee staff will also attend bimonthly project update meetings.

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**PROJECT:**                    **Toll-Setting Governance Structure for Columbia River Crossing Project**

**COMPLETION DATE:**    December 31, 2012

**STAFF:** Kim Johnson/Kelly Simpson  
786-7472/786-7403

**REFERENCES:**            [ESSB 6445 Sec. 4 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** During the 2012 regular session, the Legislature conditionally authorized tolls on the Interstate-5 Columbia River Crossing project (CRC project). As part of the authorizing legislation, the Washington Transportation Commission was permitted to enter into agreements with the Oregon Transportation Commission regarding the mutual or joint setting, adjustment, and review of toll rates for the CRC project. Given the construction and funding timelines published by the Washington State Department of Transportation, it is likely that the two state Commissions will engage in toll-setting governance discussions during the 2012 interim. Committee staff will monitor and report to legislators as necessary on the progress of the work of the two Commissions regarding proposed toll-setting structures. Additionally, STC staff will monitor the work of the Joint Transportation Committee's CRC project legislative oversight subcommittee as it relates to the toll-setting governance discussions.

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**PROJECT:**                    **Aviation Division Relocation and Search & Rescue Role Analysis**

**COMPLETION DATE:**    December 2012

**STAFF:** Hayley Gamble  
786-7452

**REFERENCES:**            [ESHB 2190-SEC. 204.5 & 212..2 \[vetoed\] \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The 2011-2013 transportation budget directs the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) to evaluate the most appropriate organization for the aviation search and rescue program, currently operating from the Department of Transportation's (DOT's) Aviation Division. Meetings will be held with individual stakeholders and all stakeholders will be invited to participate in group meetings in Olympia. The study will be supported by a staff workgroup comprised of staff from the JTC and House and Senate Transportation Committees. Additionally, although language directing DOT to submit a report on moving the Aviation Division headquarters from Arlington to Olympia was vetoed, a study and report on this issue are being conducted and will be completed prior to the next legislative session. Committee staff will participate in both the staff workgroup evaluating the search and rescue program and the review of the location of the Aviation Division headquarters, monitor these studies, and assist with draft legislation as appropriate.

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**PROJECT:** REAL ID Act Compliance

**COMPLETION DATE:** January 01, 2013

**STAFF:** Kim Johnson  
786-7472

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5087 \(2007\) C 85 L 07](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** The REAL ID Act of 2005 (Act) prohibits Federal agencies from accepting a driver's license or personal identification card issued by a U.S. State for any official purpose unless the license or card has been issued by a state that meets the requirements set forth in the Act. The Act also authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to grant states extensions of time to meet the requirements of the Act if the state provides adequate justification for noncompliance. On January 29, 2008, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) promulgated a final rule implementing the requirements of the Act. The rule specifies what provisions must be in place in order for a state to be considered in "full compliance" with the Act and sets a deadline. DHS has extended the full compliance date a number of times since the Act passed. The current deadline is January 15, 2013. During some recent Congressional hearings, DHS indicated that it will not extend the full compliance date again. Washington is currently not in full compliance with the Act. Staff will monitor whether DHS or Congress takes any further actions to extend the full compliance deadline. Staff will also attend meetings and briefings by affected state agencies on REAL ID Act compliance. Staff will prepare any legislation requested by members to address compliance with the Act.

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### **Committee Meeting Schedule – 2012 Interim**

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

November	Full Committee	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
Legislative Assembly Time TBA	Public Hearing		

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# Senate Ways & Means Committee

## Work Plan Summary – 2012 Interim

**PROJECT:** 2013 Citizen's Guide to the Budget

**COMPLETION DATE:** January 2013

**STAFF:** Kellee Keegan  
786-7716

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

**DESCRIPTION:** The Senate Ways & Means Committee and Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee (LEAP) will publish 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 2013 Legislative Session.

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**PROJECT:** 2012 Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Elise Greef/ Susan Mielke  
786-7708/786-7422

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

**DESCRIPTION:** The Ways & Means and Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee 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.

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**PROJECT:** 2013 Legislative Guide to Washington State Property Taxes

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing

**STAFF:** Dianne Criswell/Dean Carlson  
786-7433/786-7305

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

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will update the Legislative Guide to Washington State Property Taxes to reflect recent changes. The guide serves as a resource for members, legislative staff, and the general public.

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**PROJECT: Operating and Capital Budget Development and Analysis of Agency and Governor Budget Requests**

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing **STAFF:** Senate Way & Means Committee Staff  
786-7715

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will prepare for development of the 2013-15 operating and capital Senate budget proposals by (1) working with the Office of Financial Management and House Ways & Means staff in creating an agreed-upon carry forward level of previous budgets; (2) reviewing 2013-15 agency budget requests; (3) evaluating the Governor's budget proposal submitted in December 2012; and (4) creating various budget policy options related to member interests.

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**PROJECT: Legislative Budget Notes**

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing **STAFF:** Senate Ways & Means/House Ways & Means/LEAP Staff  
786-7715/786-7155/786-6111

**REFERENCES:** NA

**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 budget. 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.

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

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing **STAFF:** Megan Atkinson/Michael Bezanson/Elise Greef/Jenny Greenlee/Richard Ramsey/Tim Yowell  
786-7715

**REFERENCES:** NA

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

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

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing **STAFF:** Maria Hovde  
786-7710

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

**DESCRIPTION:** The Legislative Advisory Committee is required by law to meet at least once annually to provide advice to the GET Committee and the State Actuary regarding administration of the GET program including, but not limited to, pricing guidelines, the tuition unit price, and the unit payout value. Additionally, a proviso in the enacted 2012 supplemental operating budget directs the advisory committee to review the impact of differential tuition rates on the funded status and future unit price of the GET program and to make a recommendation by January 2013 to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature regarding how differential tuition should be addressed in order to maintain the ongoing solvency of the GET program. Legislative staff will provide assistance to the advisory committee as necessary.

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**PROJECT:** Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Funding

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing **STAFF:** Elise Greef/Dean Carlson/Dianne  
Criswell/Susan Mielke  
786-7715/786-7422

**REFERENCES:** [HB 2824 \(2012\)](#)

**DESCRIPTION:** In 2012, the Legislature created a joint task force on education funding that will make recommendations for fully funding basic education programs, including the requirements of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2261 and Substitute House Bill 2776 which were enacted in the 2009 and 2010 sessions, respectively. The task force will consist of four members of the Senate, four members of the House of Representatives, and three individuals appointed by the Governor. Legislative staff — along with staff from the Office of Financial Management, the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, and other agencies as necessary — will assist with staffing the task force and will provide background and technical assistance to the group.

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**PROJECT:** 4 Year Budget Outlook

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing **STAFF:** Bryon Moore/Dean Carlson/  
Steve Jones  
786-7715

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 6636 \(2012\)](#)

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

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**PROJECT: Economic and Revenue Forecast (Staff) Workgroups**

**COMPLETION DATE:** Ongoing **STAFF:** Dean Carlson/Bryon Moore  
786-7715

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will monitor changes and trends and provide input regarding the assumptions that go into the creation of the Economic and Revenue Forecast that is produced by the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (ERFC). Participants are staff from the Senate, the House, Employment Security, Department of Revenue, and Department of Licensing and the workgroups are facilitated by the ERFC.

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**PROJECT: New Capital Budget Development System**

**COMPLETION DATE:** November 2012 **STAFF:** Brian Sims/Maria Hovde/  
Richard Ramsey/Sherry McNamara  
786-7715

**REFERENCES:** NA

**DESCRIPTION:** Committee staff will participate with staff from the House Capital Budget Committee and the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP) to design and test a new computer system for capital budget development. The new system will replace the old BuildSum system and will increase functionality of budget development and reporting in time for the 2013-15 biennial budget development cycle.

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**Committee Meeting Schedule – 2012 Interim**

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

June 28, 2012 9:00 am	Legislative Advisory Committee to the Guaranteed Education (GET) Committee  Work Session	Olympia, WA	Agenda items to be announced.
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Date TBA Time TBA	Caseload Forecast Council Technical (Staff) Workgroups  Work Session	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
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**Other Meetings:**

Date TBA Time TBA	Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Funding  Work Session	Location to be announced.	Agenda items to be announced.
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Date TBA  
Time TBA

Economic and Revenue  
Forecast (staff)  
Workgroups  
Work Session

Location to be  
announced.

Agenda items to be  
announced.

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## **Additional Electronic Resources**

[Senate Website](#)

[Senate Committee Services Website](#)

[Bills Passed During the 2012 Regular Legislative Session](#)

[Bills Passed During the 2012 First and Second Legislative Session](#)

[TVW Archives](#)