



Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee

The Legislature's nonpartisan performance auditors

Legislator's Guide to JLARC

Need answers about government performance? Call JLARC.

JLARC is a legislative committee that works to improve state government performance.

- Membership is evenly split between the House and Senate, and between the parties.

**If it happens in state government, JLARC can evaluate it.
Any policy area. All state tax preferences.**

What can we learn from a JLARC study?

JLARC staff conduct performance audits, tax preference reviews, and sunset reviews. They answer questions like:

- Are agencies and programs run efficiently and effectively?
- How well do they deliver services and meet legislative intent?
- What improvements are needed?

Why JLARC?

We are nonpartisan legislative staff who serve the entire Legislature.

- State law and audit standards require us to be independent and to provide objective analysis based on evidence (Ch. 44.28 RCW).
- Our work is recognized nationally for its impact and analytical rigor.

How do I ask for a performance audit or study?

The Legislature assigns our studies through policy and budget bills.

- Have an idea for a study? Contact us. We can help members or legislative staff draft study language for a bill or budget proviso.
- We follow the same confidentiality protocols as Senate Committee Services (SCS) and the Office of Program Research (OPR).



Photos courtesy of Legislative Support Services

Contact us

Eric Thomas
Legislative Auditor
eric.thomas@leg.wa.gov
360-786-5182

Stephanie Hoffman
Deputy Legislative Auditor
stephanie.hoffman@leg.wa.gov
360-786-5297

Ryan McCord
Audit Director
ryan.mccord@leg.wa.gov
360-786-5186

leg.wa.gov/jlarc
[@WALegAuditor](https://twitter.com/WALegAuditor)

Watch your email for updates and newsletters

10/25

Senators

Leonard Christian
Keith Goehner
Bob Hasegawa
Liz Lovelett
Jesse Salomon, *Asst. Secretary*
Shelly Short
Keith Wagoner, *Vice Chair*
Vacancy

Representatives

Stephanie Barnard
April Berg
Jake Fey
Deb Manjarrez
Stephanie McClintock
Ed Orcutt, *Secretary*
Gerry Pollet, *Chair*
Shaun Scott

When does the Legislature learn the results?

Audits require documentation and quality control. Most take 12 to 18 months.

- Staff present reports to JLARC before session and during the interim.
- After we publish a study, we can brief you and present to committees.

What is my role with tax preference reviews?

The Legislature must approve a tax preference performance statement when it passes a new tax preference or when it expands or extends an existing preference.

The performance statement includes the Legislature's goals and how it wants to measure success.

- For example, a preference might aim to increase jobs or encourage investment in specific technologies. Measures might include targets for the employment or investment increase.
- JLARC staff use the performance statement to evaluate whether, and how well, a tax preference is meeting the Legislature's goals.

How are sunset reviews different?

Sunset reviews evaluate whether to end, continue, or change an agency or program. The Sunset Act specifies the questions JLARC staff will answer (Ch. 43.131 RCW).

To add a sunset review, a bill must add two sections to the Sunset Act. One sets an end date for the program or agency. The other repeals the underlying laws for the program or agency.

Improving state government, one study at a time

Department of Health Hospital Oversight



What we found
72% of inspections overdue, limited oversight of third-party reviews, poor data transparency

What we recommended
Specify and meet timelines, improve accountability

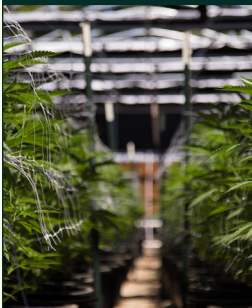
Customized Workforce Training Tax Preference



What we found
Declining use, training concentrated in one industry and four counties

What we recommended
Analyze how to reach all areas of the state and more industries

Liquor and Cannabis Board Cannabis Regulation



What we found
Cannabis production 2 to 3 times higher than sales, gaps in regulatory data

What we recommended
Improve data collection and information-driven regulation

K-12 Special Education Funding Formula



What we found
Funding formula not aligned with variation in student needs or district spending

What we recommended
Remove enrollment cap, adjust excess cost multipliers