



Washington State Senate 2025 Interim Committee Meeting Schedules and Workplans

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

May 2025

2025 Senate Interim Plans

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Agriculture & Natural Resources COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
September/ October	Tour	North Central Washington/ Eastern Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest health and wildfire resiliency • Conservation district programs • Beaver management • Wolf management
October	Work session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Natural Resources update
December Assembly Days	Work session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish and Wildlife organizational review

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Organizational Structure	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Jeff Olsen 360-786-7428 Elena Becker 360-786-7493
References: Chapter 475, Laws of 2023 Sec 308(32)(b)	
<p>The William D. Ruckelshaus Center submitted an organizational review of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to the Legislature on December 19, 2024. The report contains three broad recommendations for the Legislature to consider regarding the agency’s governance structure including maintaining the status quo, establishing WDFW as a cabinet agency, or implementing reforms. Staff will research historical changes to the organizational structure and the committee will conduct a work session to review options. Staff will draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Department of Natural Resources Update	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Jeff Olsen 360-786-7428 Elena Becker 360-786-7493
<p>The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages state trust and aquatic lands, conducts wildland fire management, oversees the harvest of timber on state and private lands, and works to make forests healthier through forest resiliency efforts. Several policy changes to wildland fire management, forest resiliency, and trust land management have been enacted over the past few years. DNR will provide an update on the implementation of policies and programs under the direction of the Lands Commissioner including the trust land transfer program, wildland fire suppression and forest resiliency, carbon storage, and encumbered lands.</p>	

Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought

Completion Date: December 2025

Staff: Jeff Olsen 360-786-7428

References: RCW 90.86

The Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought may convene at the call of the chair when a drought advisory or drought emergency order is in effect or when the chair determines, in consultation with the Department of Ecology (Ecology), it is likely such an order will be issued within the next year. When a drought conditions order is in effect, Ecology must provide the committee with at least monthly reports describing drought response activities of Ecology and other state and federal agencies.

The committee is authorized to make recommendations to the Legislature on budgetary and legislative actions to improve the state's drought response programs and planning.

If a drought advisory or drought emergency order is declared, committee staff will provide support to the committee, assist as directed by members of the committee, and draft legislation as requested.

Business, Financial Services & Trade COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
September/ October	Tour	Seattle/Port of Seattle	• Trade and/or tourism
December Assembly Days	Work session	Olympia	• To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Trends in the Regulation of Fintech Products	
Completion Date: September 15, 2025	Staff: Clint McCarthy 360-786-7319 John Kim 360-786-7453
References: SB 5280 (2025), SSB 5328 (2025), HB 1464 (2025), ESSB 5968 (2024)	
<p>Staff will research changes made in other states and at the federal level concerning the regulation of fintech services and products such as earned wage access, cryptocurrency kiosks, and home equity sharing agreements.</p> <p>Staff will provide members with materials showing how certain fintech products are being regulated in states other than Washington as of Fall 2025.</p>	

Insurance Regulation	
Completion Date: September 15, 2025	Staff: John Kim 360-786-7453
References: SSB 5331 (2025); WAC 284-19	
<p>Staff will inventory Washington Insurance Code statutes authorizing the imposition of fines and review other states' laws that authorize their insurance commissioners to order the payment of restitution in enforcement actions.</p> <p>Staff will review the history and current status of the Washington Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan and compare it with other states' FAIR plans and property insurers of last resort. Staff will discuss national trends, particularly in states where FAIR plans have seen significant growth.</p>	

Tribal Gaming Compacts	
Completion Date: December 31, 2025	Staff: Clint McCarthy 360-786-7319
References: RCW 9.46.360	
<p>Within thirty days after receiving a proposed compact from the Director of the Gambling Commission, one standing committee from each house of the legislature (currently the Senate Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade Committee and the House Regulated Substances & Gaming Committee) must hold a public hearing on the proposed compact and forward the respective comments to the Gambling Commission.</p> <p>Committee staff will monitor the trends related to the tribal compacts.</p>	

Early Learning & K-12 Education COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
December Assembly Days	Work session	Olympia	• Artificial intelligence in the classroom

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Early Learning and K-12 Education Legislatively Created Groups with Legislative Members	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Ailey Kato 360-786-7434 Alex Fairfortune 360-786-7416 Elena Becker 360-786-7493
References: ESB 6620, Sec. 3 (2016) ; 2SHB 2737, Sec. 1 (2020) ; E2SSB 5828, Sec. 3 (2007) ; 2SSB 5973, Sec. 2 (2009) ; SHB 2455, Sec. 2 (2004) ; HB 2402 (2020) ; SSB 5248 (2009) ; ESHB 2049 (2025), Sec. 3 ; SSB 6428, Sec. 15 and 17 (1992) ; 2SHB 1013, Sec.4 (2023) ; HB 1679, Sec. 1 (2023)	
<p>The Legislature has created a number of councils, committees, task forces, work groups, and advisory groups with legislators as members. Committee staff will provide research and support to the individual legislators serving on these groups as requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual School Safety Summit • Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group • Early Learning Advisory Council • Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee • Financial Education Public-Private Partnership • Graduation: A Team Effort Partnership Advisory Committee • Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children • K-12 Funding Equity Work Group • State Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families • Work-Integrated Learning Advisory Committee and Subcommittee • Work Group to Address the Needs of Students in Foster Care, Experiencing Homelessness, or In or Exiting Juvenile Rehabilitation Facilities 	

Parental Rights in K-12 Education Update	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Ailey Kato 360-786-7434
References: Title 28A RCW ; Chapter 43.06B ; Title 392 WAC	
<p>During the 2022 interim, staff initially identified and categorized state law, rules, and model policies that refer to and require certain actions involving parents, guardians, and families. These references were formatted into a table and organized into certain categories.</p> <p>Staff will continue to review recently passed legislation for actions involving parents, guardians, and families and add any references to the table.</p>	

Alternative Learning Experience Overview	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Alex Fairfortune 360-786-7416 Elena Becker 360-786-7493
References: Chapter 28A.232 RCW ; Chapter 392-550 WAC	
<p>The Alternative Learning Experiences (ALE) Program is a funding and instructional model for providing basic education where some or all of the coursework instruction takes place independent from the regular classroom setting or schedule. ALE is available to all public school districts and public charter schools in Washington State and may range in scope and scale from a single course to a full-time designated school site.</p> <p>ALE is funded based on the Running Start non-vocational rate, which is the statewide average rate for students in grades 9-12. This funding rate is the same regardless of the ALE course type. In 2025, HB 2050 created an ALE adjustment to local effort assistance funding calculations for those school districts with more than 33 percent of students enrolled in ALE courses.</p> <p>Staff will summarize current laws and rules regarding ALE programs, as well as historical audit reports published by the Washington State Auditor's Office. Staff will gather data from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Auditor's Office to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the types of students being served by ALE programs and their reasons for enrollment, if known; • the types of services ALE students receive beyond the program of basic education; • the methods used to access online and remote instruction and the technology necessary to facilitate this access; and • the number of school districts that offer unique, district-based curriculum versus off the shelf programs from non-district providers. <p>Staff will consult with stakeholders to compile examples of programs that exist in each ALE category defined in statute. Staff will contact the State Board of Education to discuss the ways that mastery-based education pilot projects use the ALE model, and gather feedback about recommended changes. Staff will summarize data and feedback that results from agency and stakeholder outreach and draft legislation as directed by members.</p>	

Institutional Education Update	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Alex Fairfortune 360-786-7416
References: SHB 1827 (2025) , SHB 1701 (2023) , E2SHB 1295 (2021) , ESHB 2116 (2020)	
<p>In 2020, ESHB 2116 established a temporary task force on Improving Institutional Education Programs and Outcomes (IIEPO Task Force). The IIEPO Task Force was charged with examining various issues, including goals and strategies for improving the coordination and delivery of education services to youth involved with the juvenile justice system. The December 2020 final report of the IIEPO Task Force included 17 recommendations in 12 categories.</p> <p>In 2021, E2SHB 1295 established numerous new and modified duties for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), and the State Board of Education (SBE) related to the provision of public education to youth in or released from secure facilities. OSPI and DCYF provided an interim report in December 2021, and a final report in December 2022. OSPI and DCYF's final report included 10 recommendations.</p> <p>In 2023, SHB 1701 established the Joint Select Committee on Governance and Funding for Institutional Education. This committee was directed to examine and evaluate revisions to statutes, funding formulae, funding sources, and operating and capital budget appropriation structures as necessary to assign the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) with the responsibility for the delivery and oversight of basic education services required by SHB 1701. The Joint Select Committee concluded its operations and reported its findings and recommendations in December 2024.</p> <p>In 2025, through SHB 1827, the institutional education duties of SPI were modified, and the implementation timeline was extended to September 1, 2028. OSPI must publish annual progress reports by December 15 each year through 2027.</p> <p>Staff will provide a summary of recent reports on institutional education.</p>	

Overview of Worksite Learning and Laws Related to Working Minors	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Elena Becker 360-786-7493
References: SHB 1121 (2025) ; HB 1722 (2025) ; HB 1167 (2025) ; ESHB 1414 (2025) ; ESHB 1644 (2025) ; 28A.700 RCW ; 392-600 WAC ; WAC 392-410-315 ; 296-125 WAC .	
<p>Federal and state laws impose restrictions on the employment of minors under 18 years of age. These laws relate to career and technical education (CTE) programs and work-based learning, which are further regulated by agency rules.</p> <p>During the 2025 legislative session, several bills concerning working minors were enacted. These bills can be separated into the following three categories: those that expand work opportunities for minors, those that direct research and recommendations, and those that create additional regulations and penalties related to working minors.</p> <p>Staff will summarize laws and rules related to working minors and K-12 education. Staff will summarize related bills from the 2025 legislative session.</p>	

Federal Action Related to Early Learning and K-12 Education	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Ailey Kato 360-786-7434
References: Presidential executive orders, policies, and memoranda	
<p>The Trump administration has issued a number of executive orders, policies, and memoranda related to early learning and K-12 education. These federal actions have addressed civil rights law including Title IX, school discipline, diversity, equity, and inclusion; school choice; artificial intelligence; and federal funding.</p> <p>Staff will track and summarize federal action related to early learning and K-12 education and sample related litigation.</p>	

Environment, Energy & Technology COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
July	Tour	Grant County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour one or more of the following facilities: energy generation, electric transmission, data center
September	Work session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
December Assembly Days	Work session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFAS-current research on toxicology • Safer products updates

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

DATE	COMMITTEE/ TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
October/ November	Joint Committee on Energy Supply, Energy Conservation, & Energy Resilience	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Electric Transmission	
Completion Date: December 30, 2025	Staff: Kim Cushing 360-786-7421
References: ESSB 5466 (2025)	
<p>In 2025, the Legislature considered ESSB 5466 that established a Washington Electric Transmission Authority to, among other duties, support the expansion of and upgrades to the electric transmission system and be a state-wide resource for transmission.</p> <p>Committee staff will provide information on transmission planning currently occurring in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest region and will research technical definitions for emerging transmission technologies. Staff will draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Review of Plastic Carryout Bag Policies	
Completion Date: December 30, 2025	Staff: Alicia Kinne-Clawson 360-786-7407
References: ESHB 1293 (2025), ESSB 5323 (2020)	
<p>In 2020, the Legislature passed ESSB 5323, establishing minimum thickness and fee standards for reusable plastic bags and prohibiting the use of single-use plastic carryout bags.</p> <p>Beginning on January 1, 2026, the minimum thickness for plastic bags was set to increase along with the per-bag fee.</p> <p>Also passed in 2025, ESSB 1293 delays the increase in the minimum thickness of reusable plastic carryout bags until January 1, 2028. A report was due to the Legislature by December 31, 2024, regarding the effectiveness of the restrictions on reusable plastic bags.</p> <p>Staff will review and inventory actions other states have taken or considered related to restrictions on plastic carryout bags as well as current research on the effectiveness of these policies in reducing plastic consumption, waste, and litter.</p>	

Health & Long-Term Care COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
July	Work Session	Olympia	• To be determined
October	Tour	Snohomish County	• Continuum of long-term care services and preparing for future needs
December Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia	• To be determined

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
September	Joint Select Committee on Health Care and Behavioral Health Oversight/ Work Session	Olympia	• To be determined
December Assembly Days	Joint Select Committee on Health Care and Behavioral Health Oversight/ Work Session	Olympia	• To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Tour	
Completion Date: October 2025	Staff: Greg Attanasio 360-786-7410 Julie Tran 360-786-7283
<p>The Health & Long-Term Care Committee will tour long-term care facilities to better understand the continuum of long-term care services, access to long-term care services for individuals on Medicaid, and the challenges facing providers and the state when preparing for future needs.</p> <p>As requested by senators, legislation may be developed based on lessons learned from the tour.</p>	

Joint Select Committee on Health Care and Behavioral Health Oversight	
Completion Date: December 2026	Staff: Greg Attanasio 360-786-7410
References: SSB 5121 (2023)	
<p>Several agencies and entities have a role in implementing health care policy in Washington, including the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, the Department of Health, the Department of Social and Health Services, the Health Care Authority, and the Health Benefit Exchange. The Joint Select Committee on Health Care and Behavioral Health Oversight will provide oversight between these agencies and organizations and hold hearings on relevant topics.</p> <p>Committee staff and the House Health Care and Wellness Committee staff will jointly staff the Joint Select Committee.</p>	

The Universal Health Care Commission	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Greg Attanasio 360-786-7410
References: SB 5399 (2021)	
<p>The Universal Health Care Commission was established to create immediate changes in Washington's health care access and delivery system and to prepare the state for the creation of a universal health care system for all Washington residents through a unified financing system once the necessary federal authority becomes available. The Health Care Authority staffs the Commission.</p> <p>The Commission submits annual reports to the Governor and the Legislature detailing its progress and identifying opportunities to advance the goal of universal coverage.</p> <p>Committee staff will monitor the Commission on behalf of the Health and Long-Term Care Committee.</p>	

Health Cost Transparency Board	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Greg Attanasio 360-786-7410
References: 2SHB 2457 (2020) & 2ESHB 1508 (2024)	
<p>The Health Cost Transparency Board is responsible for the analysis of total health care expenditures in Washington, identifying trends in health care cost growth, and establishing a health care cost growth benchmark. The Board must provide analysis of the factors impacting these trends in health care cost growth and must identify those health care providers and payers that are exceeding the health care cost growth benchmark.</p> <p>The Board must also conduct an annual survey of underinsurance in the state and a survey of insurance trends among employers. The Board must submit an annual report to the Legislature and annually hold a public hearing related to discussing the growth in total health care expenditures.</p> <p>Committee staff will monitor the Board on behalf of the Health & Long-Term Care Committee.</p>	

Long-Term Care Worker Continuing Education Training Workgroup	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Julie Tran 360-786-7283
References: SB 5811 (2024)	
<p>The Department of Health and Social Services must convene a workgroup to review existing available continuing education courses offered to long-term care workers. The workgroup will provide input and recommendations for the inclusion of topics relevant to individual providers caring for a family member to be incorporated into the development of new continuing education courses.</p> <p>By July 1, 2025, the contracted training entity must submit a continuing education training course development plan to the Legislature. Beginning September 1, 2025, the contracted training entity must prioritize the development of courses that address the identified topics and the development plan during the continuing education course update and development. The Department of Health and Social Services staffs the workgroup.</p> <p>Committee staff will monitor the workgroup on behalf of the Health and Long-Term Care Committee.</p>	

Prescription Drug Affordability Board	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Greg Attanasio 360-786-7410
References: SB 5532 (2022)	
<p>The Prescription Drug Affordability Board was created to monitor and mitigate unsupported price increases of prescription drugs. The Board's duties include identifying drugs that may be subject to an affordability review, conducting affordability reviews on selected eligible drugs, and determining whether a prescription drug is unaffordable for Washington consumers, and if a drug is found to be unaffordable, potentially setting an upper payment limit.</p> <p>To date, the Board has created a list of eligible drugs for review, and is currently in the process of narrowing down the list of eligible prescription drugs to a shortlist of drugs that will be selected for affordability reviews.</p> <p>Committee staff will monitor the Board on behalf of the Health and Long-Term Care Committee.</p>	

Higher Education & Workforce Development COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
September	Tour	Seattle	• Artificial intelligence workforce
December Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia	• To be determined

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
December	Joint Higher Education Committee/ Work Session	Olympia	• To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Monitor Impacts on State Education Data Related to Postsecondary Education	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Kellee Gunn 360-786-7429
<p>Staff will monitor and report on impacts to education data collection related to policy decisions at the federal level.</p> <p>Staff will meet with the Education Research Data Center, and other stakeholders, to understand what legislators may need to consider so schools, districts, institutions, colleges and state agencies can continue to collect and manage the data. Staff will provide a summary of relevant issues on current data collection, and what stakeholders suggest for improvement on future data collection.</p>	

Virtual Mental Health Services	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Kellee Gunn 360-786-7429
<p>Staff will work with the Washington Student Achievement Council, and other stakeholders, to understand how virtual mental health services are provided to postsecondary students in Washington State. Staff may conduct additional research on how virtual mental health services are provided in other states.</p> <p>Staff will summarize findings in a report to committee members.</p>	

Impacts of State Funding on Certain Postsecondary Access Programs	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Ben Omdal (360) 786-7442
<p>Staff will monitor certain postsecondary access programs, and others, whose funding was negatively impacted due to recent budget decisions. Staff may attend meetings convened by stakeholders, nonprofit organizations, institutions, and others to understand impacts to students, communities, and institutions.</p>	

Housing COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
July 24	Tour/Work session	Battle Ground (tour)/ Olympia/Hybrid (work session)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building housing to scale
September	Work session	Olympia/Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing and decreasing barriers to constructing affordable housing
December Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia/Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed-use property development • Building Code Council update • Covenant homeownership update

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

DATE	COMMITTEE/TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
To be determined	Covenant Homeownership Program Oversight Committee	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
To be determined	Covenant Homeownership Program Oversight Committee	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
To be determined	Covenant Homeownership Program Oversight Committee	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Mixed-Use Property Development	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Benjamin Omdal 360-786-7442 Melissa Van Gorkom 360-786-7491
References: ESSB 5161 (2025) Sec 204 (8) and Sec. 903 (12) (2025) ; ESSB 5167 (2025) Sec. 118 ; 3SHB 1491 (2025) ; HB 1757 (2025)	
<p>In 2024, the Legislature directed the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) to contract with a national expert on developing inclusive, mixed-income, mixed-use transit-oriented housing to complete a review of development conditions in cities in King, Pierce, Spokane, Clark, and Snohomish counties by December 15, 2025. The review must look at comprehensive plans, local tax and fee programs and development regulations and include examples of local and national best practices for developing affordable and workforce housing near transit. In 2025, the Legislature required cities planning under the Growth Management Act to allow new residential and mixed-use development within a station area at certain transit-oriented development (TOD) densities, authorized a new 20-year Multi-Family Property Tax Exemption program, and reduced transit impact fees if TOD affordability requirements are met. The JTC study must also analyze these TOD supply and affordability strategies and include any recommendation on how it may be most effectively implemented by local governments.</p> <p>In 2025 the Legislature also directed the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to report to the Legislature by December 1, 2025, a review of retail or commercial properties with substantial potential for redevelopment as residential or mixed-use properties providing market rate and affordable housing supply, and to identify state or local legislative actions that would reduce cost and accelerate delivery of new housing supply.</p> <p>Staff will monitor reports to the Legislature on mixed-use development and provide any information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.</p>	

Housing Development Regulations	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Benjamin Omdal 360-786-7442
References: ESSB 5167 (2025) Sec. 1115 (101) and (122) ; SHB 1353 (2025) ; E2SHB 1096 (2025) ; ESB 5471 (2025) ; E2SSB 5148 (2025)	
<p>In recent years the Legislature has considered a variety of legislation to address housing availability and affordability, many of which require updates to comprehensive plans and development and zoning regulations or other official controls cities have for building and lot requirements.</p> <p>In 2025, the Legislature directed the Department of Commerce (Commerce) to report to the Legislature by June 30, 2025, regarding the funding structures to preserve manufactured and mobile home communities as nonprofit or cooperatively run affordable housing projects. Commerce must also contract with the Housing Finance Commission to draft a plan with specific strategies to reduce the cost of starter homes for first time homebuyers, acquire publicly owned and other sites that can be dedicated to homeownership, identify other ways to enable first-time homebuyers to afford their home purchases, and encourage a variety of design and development options for starter homes.</p> <p>Staff will monitor the progress of the reports and provide any information, support, and drafting services to members as requested. Staff will also continue to monitor comprehensive plan updates to see how jurisdictions are incorporating recent legislative requirements and provide summaries of notable developments and address any area-specific questions for members as requested.</p>	

Covenant Homeownership Program	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Melissa Van Gorkom 360-786-7491
References: E2SHB 1474 (2023) ; ESSB 5167 (2025) Sec. 1115 (101) and (122) ; 2SHB 1696 (2025)	
<p>The Legislature established a Covenant Homeownership Program to provide down payment and closing cost assistance to economically disadvantaged classes of persons. The initial study published in March 2024 recommended implementing special purpose credit programs (SPCPs) for economically disadvantaged households with Black, Latino, Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islander, Korean, or Asian Indian borrowers. The original program provides down payment assistance as a zero-interest loan and customized amounts that would enable households with incomes at or below 100 percent of the area median income (AMI) to afford a modest-cost home in their county. The program began providing down payment and closing cost assistance to participants in July 2024.</p> <p>Beginning July 27, 2025, the program may provide down payment assistance to eligible households with incomes at or below 120 percent AMI and fully forgive a loan once the loan has been outstanding for at least five years for program participants who have a household income at or below 80 percent AMI. All other program participants must repay the loan or down payment and closing cost assistance at the time the house is sold. The Washington State Housing Finance Commission must provide an annual report to the Legislature on the progress of SPCPs by December 31, 2025.</p> <p>Staff will monitor committee meetings and provide information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.</p>	

Human Services COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
July 24	Tour	Aberdeen and Grays Harbor County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harbor Heights Juvenile Facility • Stafford Creek Corrections Center • Coastal Community Action Program
September/October	Work session	Olympia/Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child welfare
December Assembly Days	Work session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Department of Children, Youth, and Families Oversight Board	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Alison Mendiola 360-786-7488
References: 2E2SHB 1661 (2017) ; DCYF Oversight Board	
<p>In 2017, the Legislature created the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and the Oversight Board for DCYF. The purpose of the board is to monitor and ensure DCYF achieves the stated outcomes of chapter 6, Laws of 2017 3rd sp. sess., and complies with administrative acts, relevant statutes, rules, and policies pertaining to early learning, juvenile rehabilitation, juvenile justice, and children and family services. Members of the board include two senators and two representatives from the Legislature.</p> <p>In 2SSB 5331 (2021) early childhood court programs are directed to collect and review its data, including data related to race and ethnicity of program participants, to assess its effectiveness and share this data with the board. The board is to share this data and hold or offer to assist in holding statewide meetings to support alignment to the core components and statewide consistency.</p> <p>Staff will monitor meetings, update members on progress, and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Alison Mendiola 360-786-7488
References: E3SHB 1482 (2018) ; Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Task Force	
<p>This task force oversees the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and WorkFirst programs and works collaboratively to develop and monitor strategies to prevent and address adverse childhood experiences and reduce intergenerational poverty.</p> <p>Eight legislative members are appointed to the task force along with eight voting members from state agencies.</p> <p>Staff will monitor meetings, update members on progress, and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group	
Completion Date: December 30, 2029	Staff: Kelsey-anne Fung 360-786-7479
References: 2SHB 2737 (2020) ; 2SHB 1325 (2021) ; 2SHB 1890 (2022) ; ESHB 2256 (2024) ; Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group	
<p>The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group was established in 2016 and expires in 2029. The work group maintains six advisory subcommittees, including a new subcommittee added in legislation adopted in 2022. The work group is staffed by the Health Care Authority and will meet eight times in 2025.</p> <p>Staff will monitor work group meetings, update members on progress, and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Jail Modernization Task Force	
Completion Date: December 31, 2025	Staff: Kelsey-anne Fung 360-786-7479
References: ESSB 5187 (2023) ; ESSB 5950 (2024) ; Jail Modernization Task Force	
<p>The Jail Modernization Task Force was established in the 2023-2025 operating budget and continued in the 2025-2027 operating budget. The task force must review a report on jail characteristics from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, any legislation from the Criminal Sentencing Task Force, and any legislation from the Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards.</p> <p>The task force must also discuss, among other issues, employee retention and potential solutions, available diversion programs and their costs, impact of challenges, types of facilities needed to house those with behavioral health issues, and any necessary reforms. The task force must develop statewide jail modernization recommendations that include, at a minimum, identifying existing facilities in need of upgrades or remodeling and any need for building new facilities, and potential funding sources or mechanisms to make the recommendations feasible.</p> <p>The task force is staffed by the William D. Ruckelshaus Center. The initial meeting of the task force must be no later than December 1, 2024. The task force must report initial findings and recommendations to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature by July 1, 2025, and a final report by December 31, 2025. The task force will meet two times before July 2025.</p> <p>Staff will monitor meetings, update members on progress, and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Kelsey-anne Fung (360) 786-7479
References: Executive Order 15-03 ; Executive Order 20-02 ; Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice	
<p>The Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice, established in 2010, is the primary state advisory group for juvenile justice-related matters in Washington. The council is staffed by the Office of Juvenile Justice within the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. Members of the council include an appointed member from the Senate and House of Representatives. The council meets quarterly.</p> <p>Staff will monitor meetings and provide support to the legislative membership of the board.</p>	

Labor & Commerce Committee COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
June/July	Tour	• Olympia	• Workers' Compensation education session for committee members
September	Tour	• Pierce County	• Tour of cannabis facilities and vape products and retailers in Pierce County
Committee Assembly Days	Work Session	• Olympia	• To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Workers' Compensation Education Session for Committee Members	
Completion Date: June/July	Staff: Susan Jones 360-786-7404
<p>Legislation related to workers' compensation are referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee. The Department of Labor and Industries will provide an all-day session to allow Labor and Commerce committee members and staff to gain a deeper knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The foundational concepts and legal frameworks that Washington's workers' compensation system is built upon. • Core workers' compensation benefits and services. • How pivotal points in the claims administration process impact potential outcomes for injured workers. • How wage replacement and vocational rehabilitation benefits and insurance premiums are determined. <p>The session will provide an overview of key agency metrics and facts; the origins and evolution of the workers' compensation system; the rights and responsibilities of workers and employers; the state fund and self-insurance; the administrative process and its impact on outcomes for injured workers; wage replacement benefits, including how disability ratings and benefits are determined; the determination and funding of cost of living adjustments on wage replacement benefits; and vocational rehabilitation and return-to-work for injured workers.</p>	

Tour of Cannabis Facilities	
Completion Date: September	Staff: Susan Jones 360-786-7404 Marlon Llanes 360-786-7423
Reference: ESSB 5365 (2023) and RCW 70.155.100, RCW 70.155.110, and RCW 70.345.160	
<p>Legislation related to cannabis and vaping are often referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee. The Labor and Commerce Committee will tour several cannabis facilities and retailer of vape products in the Pierce County area to learn more about the cannabis industry and implementation of ESSB 5365 (2023), which included provisions increasing enforcement and penalties for selling vapor and other products to minors. The tour may include producer, processor, and retail facilities, as well as meeting with local public health practitioners.</p>	

Domestic Workers	
Completion Date: December	Staff: Susan Jones 360-786-7404
References: ESSB 5023 (2025)/HB 1531 (2025)	
<p>State law contains various labor and employment requirements and protections for employees, some of which have general application while others apply to specific industries. Some labor and employment standards contain specific exemptions for domestic workers or laborers working in and about private residences, depending on the circumstances. In 2025, the Legislature considered ESSB 5023 and its companion HB 1531, which established employment and labor protections for domestic workers. ESB 5023 passed the Senate but not the House.</p> <p>Staff will research other states' laws related to domestic workers. This will include which state agencies regulate domestic workers' issues; if and how education or outreach is provided to homeowners regarding their obligations; whether the laws include templates or model agreements between domestic workers and homeowners, access to workers compensation benefits, and paid leave; the laws implementation timelines; and how the state laws have impacted domestic workers. Staff will provide updates and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Wage Replacement for Undocumented Workers	
Completion Date: December	Staff: Susan Jones 360-786-7404 Marlon Llanes 360-786-7423
References: SSB 5626 (2025)	
<p>Washington and federal law restricts the payment of state unemployment insurance (UI) benefits to undocumented workers and workers not authorized to work in the United States at the time of filing the benefits.</p> <p>In 2025, the Legislature considered SSB 5626 and its companion SHB 1773, which establishes a Wage Replacement Program for workers who are ineligible for UI benefits because they are not authorized to work in the United States at the time the work was performed, or during the week for which they are seeking payments in the Program. The bills passed out of their respective policy committees but not the fiscal committees.</p> <p>In 2022, Colorado enacted a law creating a benefit recovery fund to provide recovery benefits for undocumented workers who meet certain requirements similar to UI and are not eligible for benefits for reasons related to the individual's authorization to work. The recovery benefits are paid through a third-party administrator.</p> <p>Staff will review the Colorado law, the funding for the program and its solvency, and discuss the law's implementation with the third-party administrator. Staff will discuss fiscal considerations for such a program in Washington with the Employment Security Department. Staff will provide updates and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Monitor Implementation of Legislation Relating to Adult Entertainers	
Completion Date: December	Staff: Susan Jones 360-786-7404
References: ESSB 6105, RCW 49.17.470, RCW 49.46.360, RCW 49.44.260, RCW 66.24.720	
<p>In 2024, the Legislature passed ESSB 6105 related to creating safer working conditions in adult entertainment establishments. The bill required certain training for establishment employees, additional safety measures, limits on certain charges to entertainers, and allowing establishments to hold liquor licenses.</p> <p>Staff will monitor and review issues related to the implementation of the bill, and provide updates and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Paid Family and Medical Leave Rates

Completion Date: December

Staff: Susan Jones 360-786-7404

References: SSB 5292 (2025)

The Paid Family and Medical Leave program (PFML) provides partial wage replacement to employees on leave for specified family and medical reasons. The program is funded through premiums paid by employers and employees. The program is administered by the Employment Security Department (ESD). The premiums are calculated based on a formula. If the calculated rate exceeds a rate necessary to maintain a three-month reserve at the end of the following rate collection year, the rate must be set at the minimum rate necessary to close the rate collection year with a three-month reserve. In addition, the rate must not exceed 1.2 percent.

In 2022, the Legislature created the Office of Actuarial Services within ESD. The Office is required to report annually to the PFML Advisory Committee on the experience and financial condition of the account, and the lowest future premium rates necessary to maintain solvency of the account in the next four years while limiting fluctuation in the premium rates. The 2024 report recommended in part, further exploration of adopting actuarial premium rates and shifting to an actuarial rate setting approach.

The Legislature also required the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC), in consultation with ESD, to conduct a performance audit analyzing the implementation of the PFML program. For PFML rates, the JLARC report recommends the program use a forward-looking rate-setting approach that is based on actuarial estimates of future revenues and benefit costs; and maintain a financial reserve to cover shortfalls.

In 2025, the Legislature considered SSB 5292, which required ESD to set the PFML premium rate based on the Office of Actuarial Services annual report, not exceed 1.2 percent, and required the Office's report to provide for a rate to close the rate collection year with a three-month reserve in 2030, in addition to the current requirement to maintain a four-year solvency. The statutory formula used to calculate the rate was eliminated under the bill. The bill passed the Senate and the House policy and fiscal committees, but not the House floor.

Staff will monitor the PFML advisory committee with respect to premium discussions, work with agencies and the Governor's office on issues related to the recommendation of JLARC, and review any new reports related to PFML premiums. Staff will provide updates and draft legislation as requested.

Monitor Labor and Commerce Related Committees, Work Groups, and Other Meetings	
Completion Date: December	Staff: Susan Jones 360-786-7404 Jarrett Sacks 360-786-7448 Marlon Llanes 360-786-7423
<p>The Legislature has created several work groups and advisory groups. Staff will observe and monitor the following groups and their meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee• Construction Advisory Committee• Liquor and Cannabis Board• Long-Term Services and Supports Advisory Committee• Paid Family and Medical Leave Advisory Committee• Prevailing Wage Advisory Committee• Public Employment Relations Commission• Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee• Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act Advisory Committee• Washington State Apprenticeship & Training Council• Workers' Compensation Advisory Committee	

Law & Justice COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
June	Work session	Olympia/Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tort liability • Parole • DNA and wrongful convictions
September	Work session	Mill Creek/Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eviction process • Telecommunication wire cuts
December Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia/Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hate crimes hotline update • Child support work group

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Involuntary Treatment Act	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Ryan Giannini 360-786-7285
References: Chapter 10.77 RCW ; 2SHB 1359 (2025)	
<p>The Legislature passed 2SHB 1359 which established a task force to review laws related to criminal insanity and competency to stand trial. The task force must conduct a comprehensive review of existing law to identify barriers to administration, fairness, efficiency, and public safety; consider terminology and language changes to improve clarity, reduce stigma, and improve coherence between legal and medical terminology; and make recommendations to remove barriers to diversion programs, promote effective treatment, and increase services that would facilitate safe hospital discharges.</p> <p>The task force must report its findings to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2026.</p> <p>Staff will monitor meetings and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Fabricated Depictions of Minors	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Ryan Giannini 360-786-7285
References: ESSB 5105 (2025); SHB 1999 (2024)	
<p>In 2024, the Legislature passed SHB 1999 which created new criminal offenses and civil causes of actions related to fabricated depictions of identifiable minors and fabricated intimate images. In 2025, ESSB 5105 was introduced by the Legislature. ESSB 5105 primarily expands child pornography offenses to include fabricated depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct that are obscene, regardless of whether a depicted minor is identifiable.</p> <p>During public testimony on ESSB 5105, First Amendment constitutional concerns were raised. Federal and state courts continue to hear cases related to the issue of fabricated depictions of minors and pornography in general.</p> <p>Staff will continue to monitor developments in case law and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Best Practices Advisory Group	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Ryan Giannini 360-786-7285
References: RCW 43.10.801; 2SHB 1028 (2023)	
<p>In 2023, the Legislature passed 2SHB 1028 which, in part, codified the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Best Practices Advisory Group within the Office of the Attorney General to review best practice models for managing all aspects of sexual assault investigations and for reducing the number of untested sexual assault kits in Washington State.</p> <p>The advisory group researches the best practice models both in the state and from other states for collaborative responses to victims of sexual assault from the point the sexual assault kit is collected to the conclusion of the investigation and prosecution of a case. It also provides the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recommendations on any existing gaps in Washington and resources that may be necessary to address those gaps; • researches and makes recommendations on increasing access and availability of critical sexual assault nurse examiner services; • monitors testing of the backlog of sexual assault kits and the supply chain and distribution of kits; • monitors implementation of state and federal legislative changes; • collaborates with the Legislature, state agencies, medical facilities, and local governments to implement reforms; and • makes recommendations for reforms to prevent sexual assault and improve the experiences of sexual assault survivors in the criminal justice system. <p>The advisory group reports its findings to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 15th of each year.</p> <p>Staff will monitor meetings and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Human Trafficking Task Force	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Ryan Giannini 360-786-7285
References: RCW 7.68.350 ; ESSB 5884 (2015)	
<p>In 2015, the Legislature passed ESSB 5884 which established a task force against the trafficking of persons.</p> <p>The task force measures and evaluates the resource needs of victims and survivors of human trafficking and the progress of the state in trafficking prevention activities; identifies available federal, state, and local programs that provide services to victims and survivors of trafficking; make recommendations on methods to provide a coordinated system of support and assistance to persons who are victims of trafficking; and reviews the statutory response to human trafficking, analyze the impact and effectiveness of strategies contained in the current state laws, and make recommendations on legislation to further the state's antitrafficking efforts. The task force must report its findings to the Governor and Legislature as needed.</p> <p>Staff will monitor meetings and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Tribal Extradition

Completion Date: December 31, 2025

Staff: Joe McKittrick 360-786-7287

Reference: [HB 1829](#) (2025)

Indian tribes are recognized as unique aggregations possessing attributes of sovereignty over both their members and their territory. The interplay between tribal governments and federal, state, and local governments is a complex system of treaties, statutes, and government-to-government agreements.

HB 1829, passed by the Legislature in 2025, implements the recommendations of the Tribal Warrants Implementation Work Group ahead of the effective date of the act which gives state law enforcement the ability to enforce tribal warrants.

Staff will monitor the implementation of HB 1829 and the rollout of the tribal warrants act focusing on issues that arise that were not addressed or considered by the work group.

Firearm Laws Summary

Completion Date: December 31, 2025

Staff: Joe McKittrick 360-786-7287

References: [HB 1163](#) (2025)

Over the previous five years, the Legislature has passed a suite of bills concerning the purchase, sale, and possession of firearms and related items including prohibitions on manufacture, importation, and distribution of large capacity magazines, limits on the open carry of weapons at public demonstrations and the State Capitol, and most recently, a new permit to purchase firearms system.

Staff will draft a summary of Washington firearm laws through 2022. The summary will address, among other topics, eligibility to possess firearms, sale and transfers of firearms, restoration of firearm rights, firearms and domestic violence, and select Washington and federal supreme court case law.

Destruction of Critical Telecommunications Infrastructure

Completion Date: December 31, 2025

Staff: William Bridges 360-786-7312

References: [RCW 9A.48.070](#); [RCW 9A.56.040](#); and chapter [19.290](#) RCW

The high value of scrap copper is driving rising rates of copper wire theft, which has led to thieves indiscriminately cutting optical fiber lines in their search for copper. Cutting optical fiber adversely affects the interconnected telecommunications infrastructure, such as voice communications and broadband, cellular, and satellite services. It can also cause outages of critical public services, such as 911 calls, and jeopardize the systems used to monitor and control the electrical grid. Repairing these damaged optical fiber lines costs thousands of dollars.

In 2013, the Legislature created a licensing system for scrap metal businesses and expanded criminal penalties for metal theft and malicious mischief, but those measures have proven inadequate to address the current problem. Private and public telecommunications carriers and metal recyclers are seeking additional action from the Legislature, which may include new legislation.

Staff will consult with stakeholders to explore legislative options to address this problem, plan a work session on this topic, and draft legislation as requested.

Local Government COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
September	Tour	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local culvert project • State parks • Agritourism
October	Work session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local government process, codes, and regulations modifications needed to facilitate development to meet population growth • Hearing examiner workforce
December Assembly Days	Work session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lot splitting, unit lot subdivisions, and subdivisions

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Local Codes and Regulations - Consistent Terms	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: John Kim 360-786-7453
<p>Local governments define terms in their comprehensive plans, development regulations, and local codes. Those terms may be defined differently in different jurisdictions, making it challenging for citizens who provide services or operate businesses in multiple jurisdictions.</p> <p>Staff will review the comprehensive plan, development regulations, and local codes for a few jurisdictions and develop a table of defined terms from those jurisdictions that are inconsistent with the definitions of those terms in the other jurisdictions reviewed. Additionally, staff will draft legislation as directed.</p>	

Subdivisions	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Karen Epps 360-786-7424
References: <i>SB 5633 (2025)</i> , <i>ESB 5559 (2025)</i> , <i>E2SHB 1096 (2025)</i>	
<p>Subdivisions and short subdivisions are the divisions or redivisions of land into additional lots, tracts, parcels, sites, or divisions for the purpose of sale, lease, or transfer of ownership. Unit lot subdivision refers to the division of a parent lot into separately owned unit lots.</p> <p>The Legislature passed <i>ESB 5559 (2025)</i> requiring cities and towns fully planning under the Growth Management Act to adopt or enact procedures for unit lot subdivisions by certain deadlines, and set specific requirements for the procedures. The Legislature also passed <i>E2SHB 1096 (2025)</i> requiring cities include an administrative review process for a lot split in their development regulations. Additionally, legislation was introduced to create a new chapter related to the subdivision of land.</p> <p>Staff will review implementation of recently passed legislation, monitor stakeholder discussions, and draft legislation or amendments to current legislation as directed.</p>	

Development Pressures on Salmon Habitat	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Karen Epps 360-786-7424 John Kim 360-786-7453
References: <i>SB 6143 (2024), SB 5306 (2023), SB 5727/HB 1838 (2022), HB 1735 (2023)</i>	
<p>The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, located within the Recreation and Conservation Office, is responsible for coordinating the state strategy to allow for salmon recovery to reach healthy, sustainable population levels. Part of that responsibility is to coordinate and assist in the development, implementation, and revision of regional salmon recovery plans as part of the statewide strategy for salmon recovery.</p> <p>One of the recommended actions included in the Governor's Salmon Strategy Update is the protection and restoration of vital salmon habitat, including working with local jurisdictions to fully enforce current regulatory protections.</p> <p>Staff will review comprehensive plans of a few cities and counties that have fully functioning habitat and compile information about their current regulatory practices to protect that habitat. Additionally, staff will draft legislation as directed.</p>	

Permitting of Salmon Restoration Projects	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Karen Epps 360-786-7424
References: <i>E2SHB 1382 (2021), HB 1775 (2024), SB 5922 (2024), SB 5155 (2025), SSB 5157 (2025)</i>	
<p>In 2013, a U.S. District Court issued an injunction ordering the state to increase its efforts in removing culverts blocking or impeding fish passage in Puget Sound and the Chehalis River basins in Washington. The court ordered the state to replace the culverts with the worst impacts on fish habitat by 2030. This injunction was upheld by the Ninth Circuit in 2016, and by an equally divided U.S. Supreme Court in 2018. Local governments are not a party to the case, but they have local culverts blocking or impeding fish passage. According to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), there are approximately 17,000 barriers confirmed to affect salmon or steelhead, including just under 7000 county or city barriers.</p> <p>In 2021, the Legislature established a Habitat Recovery Pilot Program (HRPP) to promote and implement habitat restoration projects determined to contribute to the recovery of watersheds throughout the state. The HRPP expires in 2025,</p> <p>In 2024, the Legislature eliminated civil liability for property damage resulting from habitat projects performed by a regional fishery enhancement group, under certain conditions.</p> <p>Staff will review the Fish Barrier Removal Board comprehensive fish barrier removal strategy, the statewide salmon recovery strategy update, and permitting requirements for local culvert projects and salmon habitat restoration projects. Additionally, staff will coordinate a committee tour to see a local culvert project and draft legislation as directed.</p>	

State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections
COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
September	Work session	Yakima County/ Yakama Indian Reservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal voting • Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs • Military’s work with federally-recognized tribes • Overview of federal budget cuts impacting federally recognized tribes
December Assembly Days	Work session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal actions impacting federal and state elections • Impacts of federal funding on overall state operations and agencies • Overview of state contracting requirements, performance, and collaborative opportunities • Office of Equity updates

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

DATE	COMMITTEE/ TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
June	Joint Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs/ Work Session	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of potential state impacts from federal decisions • Update from Puget Sound Veterans' Administration • Update on suicide prevention efforts for active duty members and veterans • Overview of potential impacts and changes to the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs' services • Update on Sentinel Landscape Project Potential legislation for 2026 session
October	Joint Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs/ Work session	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
December	Joint Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs/ Work session	Olympia/ Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
December	Legislative Oral History Committee/ Work session	Olympia/ Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Greg Vogel 360-786-7413 Danielle Creech 360-786-7412
References: Executive Order 80-02	
<p>The Governor's Office of Indian Affairs was established by Executive Order 80-02 in 1980. The office was assigned responsibilities including assisting the Governor with policy development; advising state agencies and departments concerning issues relative to the Indian tribes and organizations of Washington State; acting as a liaison between and to governments; providing assistance to Indian citizens; and advising the Governor regarding the effective role of state government in intergovernmental mechanisms that involve the participation of Indian tribal governments to better federal, local, state and tribal relations.</p> <p>While the office is tasked with duties in several statutes, there is no central statutory framework regarding its role and responsibilities.</p> <p>Staff will research the office's role and responsibilities throughout the Revised Code of Washington and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Artificial Intelligence Uses in Elections	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Greg Vogel 360-786-7413
References: ESSB 5152 (2023)	
<p>Federal law defines artificial intelligence (AI) as a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations, or decisions influencing real or virtual environments. Federal law further describes generative AI as the class of AI models that emulate the structure and characteristics of input data to generate derived synthetic content, which may include images, videos, audio, text, and other digital content. In 2023, the Legislature enacted ESSB 5152, requiring a disclosure of when any synthetic media of a candidate is used in an electioneering communication and creating a private cause of action for candidates whose voices or likenesses appear in synthetic media distributed without disclosure.</p> <p>Staff will research AI uses in elections and election processes, impacts of AI uses in elections, best practices around AI uses, and implementation of policies on AI uses, such as ESSB 5152, and will draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Emergency Powers	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Danielle Creech 360-786-7412
References: SB 5434	
<p>During the 2025 session, the Legislature considered SB 5434, concerning establishing balanced legislative oversight of gubernatorial powers during a declared emergency. The bill, as introduced, authorizes the Legislature to terminate a state of emergency, either through the passage of a concurrent resolution during the legislative session, or in writing by the majority and minority leaders of the senate, and speaker and minority leader of the house outside of the legislative session.</p> <p>Staff will research other states' legislative oversight of gubernatorial powers during a declared emergency and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Initiatives and Ballot Measures	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Greg Vogel 360-786-7413
References: SB 5382	
<p>During the 2025 session, the Legislature considered SB 5382, concerning requirements pertaining to signatures and addresses of ballot measure petitioners and petition signature gatherers. The bill, as introduced, requires signature gatherers circulating initiative and referendum petitions to sign declarations affirming eligibility of petitioners and requires the Secretary of State to verify residential addresses when verifying petition signatures.</p> <p>Staff will research best practices of other states relating to petition signature gathering requirements and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Building Naming	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Danielle Creech 360-786-7412
References: SB 5522	
<p>During the 2025 session, the Legislature considered SB 5522, concerning the naming process for buildings on the state capitol campus. The bill, as introduced, updates the definition of the capitol campus, modifies the membership of the State Capitol Committee and the Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee, and adjusts related responsibilities for capital projects on the capitol campus.</p> <p>Staff will research best practices for naming conventions and campus stewardship both historically and currently among other states and governments and draft legislation as requested.</p>	

Transportation COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
September	Work session	Yakima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal traffic safety issues • Possible site visits
October 16	Work session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
December Assembly Days	Work session	Olympia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

Alternative and Innovative Project Delivery Methods Study	
Completion Date: June 30, 2025; December 1, 2025	Staff: Brandon Popovac 360-786-7465 Danny Masterson 360-786-7454
References: ESSB 5161, Secs. 204(3) and 903(9) (2025)	
<p>The 2025 supplemental transportation budget directs the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) to review the alliance contracting procedure in its 2024 study on alternative and innovative project delivery methods for use by Washington State Department of Transportation projects. JTC must submit a final report on findings and recommendations from this phase of the study by June 30, 2025. In addition, the 2025-2027 biennial transportation budget directs JTC to continue the next phase of the 2024 study and provide a supplemental report by December 1, 2025.</p> <p>Staff will monitor the progress of this research, provide periodic updates, and draft any relevant legislation as requested.</p>	

Improving Driver Safety of Younger and At-Risk Drivers	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Brandon Popovac 360-786-7465 Bryon Moore 360-786-7726
References: ESHB 1878, ESSB 5161 Section 208(25)	
<p>The Legislature passed ESHB 1878, which expands driver training education requirements to obtain a driver's license to individuals at least 18 years of age, but under 22 years of age, with staggered implementation between January 1, 2027, and January 1, 2030. An applicant for an initial driver's license under the age of 25 is required to pass an online course on work zone and first responder safety, beginning May 1, 2026. The Department of Licensing (DOL) must report annually on the implementation of the new driver training education requirements, beginning January 1, 2026.</p> <p>ESHB 1878 also requires DOL to establish a program to expand education opportunities for driver training school instructors and a program to partner with tribal governments to provide young driver training education in tribal communities, beginning July 1, 2026, and to establish a program to provide vouchers to cover up to the average costs of driver training education courses for certain low-income drivers at least 15 years of age, but under 25 years of age, beginning January 1, 2027. DOL must develop a tribal partnership program implementation plan by January 1, 2026, and a voucher program policy framework and guidelines by December 1, 2025.</p> <p>The 2025-2027 omnibus appropriations act also provides \$300,000 to DOL for the implementation of additional actions in accordance with the recently completed evaluation of ways to implement an older and medically at-risk driver program.</p> <p>Staff will monitor implementation of the new driver training education requirements and progress and development of the respective programs, and their associated plans, provide periodic updates, and draft any relevant legislation as requested.</p>	

Transportation Revenue Forecasting	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Bryon Moore 360-786-7726 Hayley Gamble 360-786-7452
References: Chapter 390, Laws of 2023 (ESHB 1838), ESSB 5801, 2SSB 5802	
<p>In 2023, the Legislature created the Transportation Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (TERFC) to prepare six-year transportation revenue forecasts starting with the September 2024 quarterly forecast. The council is comprised of the following members: the directors of the Office of Financial Management and the Department of Licensing; the State Treasurer; and the chair and ranking member of the House and Senate Transportation Committees.</p> <p>Now that the transition phase of the transfer of forecasting responsibilities has been completed, TERFC is reviewing potential improvements in forecasting methodologies, processes, and presentation information. TERFC is also exploring the possibility of integrating information on revenues from the Climate Commitment Act into the transportation revenue forecast in some fashion.</p> <p>Additionally, ESSB 5801 created new taxes and increased a variety of existing taxes and fees dedicated to the transportation budget. In 2SSB 5802, a variety of changes were made to transportation resources, including dedicating 0.1 percent of the state sales and use tax to the Multimodal Transportation Account.</p> <p>Staff will monitor and provide input into the integration of all these changes into the transportation forecast process and will consult with relevant members to ensure legislative intent and expectations are met.</p>	

Joint Oregon-Washington Legislative Action Committee	
Completion Date: through 2025	Staff: Kelly Simpson 360-786-7403
References: RCW 47.01.505	
<p>In 2017, the Legislature established the Joint Oregon-Washington Legislative Action Committee to provide legislative oversight from both states regarding the construction of a new Interstate 5 bridge spanning the Columbia River.</p> <p>In recent years, the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program (IBR) has met certain milestones, including recommending a modified locally preferred alternative and publishing a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) disclosing the findings of the environmental evaluation. In 2025, it is anticipated that the IBR Program will publish the final SEIS, followed by an amended record of decision (ROD) in early 2026. Corridor construction could then begin in 2026. The project has received significant funding commitments from the state legislatures of Oregon and Washington, as well as from the federal government.</p> <p>As the project progresses toward a 2026 estimated construction start, staff will continue to provide periodic updates as requested.</p>	

Washington State Ferries - Vessel Procurement	
Completion Date: through 2025	Staff: Jenna Forty 360-786-7755
References: ESHB 2134 - Sec. 307 (2024); EHB 1846 (2023)	
<p>In 2023, the Legislature passed EHB 1846 which authorized procurement of up to five new hybrid diesel-electric, 160-auto ferries through a nationwide solicitation, with up to two contracts awarded. The 2025-2027 biennial budget provides approximately \$1.3 billion for hybrid diesel-electric vessels, and for the use of alternative financing mechanisms. In May, formal bids were submitted to build the vessels and Washington State Ferries is expected to sign a contract by the end of June.</p> <p>Staff will continue to monitor progress of the implementation of the legislation and provide regular updates to members.</p>	

Ways & Means COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECTS
October 16	Work Session	Olympia	• To be determined
December Assembly Days	Work Session	Olympia	• To be determined

COMMITTEE WORKPLANS

2025 Legislative Budget Notes	
Completion Date: June 2025	Staff: Committee staff
<p>Legislative fiscal staff in the Senate and House will work with the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP) staff to publish <i>Legislative Budget Notes</i> by fall 2025. <i>Legislative Budget Notes</i> is a publication that represents the official record of legislative action on the omnibus operating, transportation, and capital budgets. It is used by legislators, legislative staff, state agencies, and the public to determine the legislative intent behind the hundreds of policy changes embedded in the three major documents.</p>	

Four-Year Balanced Budget and Outlook	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Corban Nemeth 360-786-7736
<p>Beginning with the 2013-2015 biennium, SSB 6636 (2012) required budgets at the time of passage be projected to be balanced for current and following biennia based on a maintenance level projection. The Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (ERFC) must prepare a budget outlook document for the Governor's proposed budget and for the budget enacted by the Legislature.</p> <p>To assist ERFC, a State Budget Outlook Work Group was created, consisting of one staff person from the Office of Financial Management, the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program, the Office of the State Treasurer, ERFC, the Caseload Forecast Council, the Senate Ways & Means Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee.</p> <p>Staff will participate in the work group and provide technical assistance.</p>	

Caseload Forecast Council Technical Staff Work Groups	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Committee staff
<p>Staff will monitor changes and trends and provide input regarding caseload forecasts for entitlement programs for public schools, medical assistance, long-term care, developmental disabilities, foster care, adoption support, general assistance, corrections, juvenile rehabilitation, and the Working Families Tax Credit program. The caseload forecasts are used to develop the majority of the budgets for these programs.</p> <p>The work groups meet periodically and include staff from the Senate Ways & Means Committee, House Appropriations Committee, the Caseload Forecast Council, the Office of Financial Management, the Department of Social and Health Services, and other caseload-driven agencies.</p>	

Joint Committee on Employment Relations	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Amanda Cecil 360-786-7460
References: RCW 41.80.007	
<p>The Joint Committee on Employment Relations meets annually to consider matters related to collective bargaining with state employees. Each year, the Committee is expected to meet six times to consult with the Governor or the Governor's designee, and institutions of higher education, on matters related to collective bargaining with state employees conducted under the authority of RCW 41.80.007 and chapters 41.56, 47.64, and 74.39A.</p> <p>Staff will provide support to the committee and monitor activity.</p>	

Pension Funding Council	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Amanda Cecil 360-786-7460
References: RCW 41.45.030 and RCW 41.45.060	
<p>The Pension Funding Council is directed to meet annually. During odd-numbered years, the Council must adopt certain long-term economic assumptions that are used to establish pension rates in the subsequent year. During even-numbered years, the Council must adopt pension funding rates for the subsequent fiscal biennia.</p> <p>During the 2025 calendar year, the Council is expected to meet up to two times to adopt the long-term economic assumptions that will be used to set the pension funding rates for the 2027-29 biennium.</p> <p>Staff will provide support to the Council.</p>	

2026 Citizen’s Guide to K-12 Finance	
Completion Date: January 2026	Staff: Kayla Hammer 360-786-7305 Trevor Press 360-786-7446
<p>Committee staff will update the <i>Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance</i>. The guide is published after the passage of the biennial budget and serves as a resource for members, legislative staff, and the public to answer frequently asked questions regarding K-12 finance. The guide will be published at the start of the 2026 legislative session and will be available from committee staff, as well as online.</p>	

Budget Universe Poster	
Completion Date: December 2025	Staff: Kimmy Eide 360-786-7471 James Kettel 360-786-7459 Tianyi Lan 360-786-7432
<p>Every two years, after the passage of a biennial operating budget, staff prepare an updated budget universe poster. The poster offers key details about each functional area of government, including state expenditures, total expenditures, and staffing. Using the visual of planets within a universe quickly offers viewers a sense of scale. The poster includes larger planets—for areas like public schools, and smaller planets—for areas like judicial agencies. The poster is primarily intended for use by members and their staff. It is not uncommon, however, to also find the poster in conference rooms or other shared spaces.</p>	

2026 Legislative Guide to Washington State and Local Taxes	
Completion Date: January 2026	Staff: Jeff Mitchell 360-786-7438 Alia Kennedy 360-786-7405
<p>Staff will update the <i>Legislative Guide to Washington State and Local Taxes</i>. The guide serves as an overview of Washington’s full tax structure for members, legislative staff, and the public. The updated guide will reflect the changes made in the 2025 legislative session. The guide will be published at the start of the 2026 legislative session and will be available from committee staff, as well as online.</p>	

Local Government Finance and Distributions	
Completion Date: ongoing	Staff: Alia Kennedy 360-786-7405 Jeff Mitchell 360-786-7438
<p>The state distributes over a billion dollars each year to cities, counties, and other local governments. In recent years, staff have produced a reference guide of these state shared revenues, distributions, grants, and loan programs that benefit local governments. The guide is intended for use by members, legislative staff, local governments, and the public. The information is available at fiscal.wa.gov.</p> <p>Staff will continue working with the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program to update the reference guide and develop more complete information on the variety of forms of assistance to local governments, better search capabilities, and mapping tools.</p>	

Input-Output Model	
Completion Date: January 2026	Staff: Jeff Mitchell 360-786-7438 Tianyi Lan 360-786-7432
<p>An input–output (I-O) model is a quantitative economic model that shows the interdependencies between different sectors of a national or regional economy. I-O models can be used to create multipliers to estimate the change in output, income, and employment across industries due to a change in inputs in one or more specific industries. OFM has produced an I-O model and the related multiplier tables for many decades based on a combination of survey data and external data sources. It is updated every five years.</p> <p>During the 2024 interim, Senate Ways & Means Committee revenue staff created a Senate version of an Input-Output multiplier table/model that is based on federal economic data but regionalized to the state of Washington.</p> <p>Committee revenue staff will update the Senate model. Additionally, revenue staff will participate in a workgroup to assist OFM Forecasting and Research in the next update of its Washington I-O model.</p>	

Competitive Capital Budget Grant and Loan Programs	
Completion Date: July 2025	Staff: Michael Bezanson 360-786-7449
References: https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/CapitalGrantLoanPrograms	
<p>Capital budget staff and Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program staff will update the <i>Competitive Capital Budget Grant and Loan Program</i> website. The public webpage contains information about capital budget grant and loan programs for which individuals and organizations may apply. The page includes links to the grant and loan programs, amounts, approximate due dates, and other information.</p>	