

House of Representatives Office of Program Research

2022 Interim Plans

Office of Program Research
Washington House of Representatives
Jill Reinmuth, Director

June 2022

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
October 6 (AM)	TBD	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on Funding for Housing and Homelessness Programs and Utility Assistance - Update on Funding for Business Assistance - Update on Funding for Food Assistance Programs 	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on Funding for Refugee and Immigrant Assistance and Resettlement, Including for Refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine - Update on Funding for Digital Equity Programs - 2023 Session Budget Preview 	Full Committee

To view specific meeting dates and times, please visit:
<http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx>

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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Update on Funding for Housing and Homelessness Programs and Utility Assistance

The state's operating budget includes appropriations related to addressing housing issues and homelessness in Washington, including responding to COVID-19. The Appropriations Committee (Committee) will receive an update on how additional funding in the 2021-23 biennial and 2022 supplemental operating budgets for housing and homelessness programs and services, as well as utility assistance, is being implemented. (One work session)

Update on Funding for Business Assistance

COVID-19 and responses to the virus affected businesses and organizations in a variety of ways. The Committee will receive an update on how additional funding (primarily federal) in the 2021-23 biennial and 2022 supplemental operating budgets for business assistance is being implemented. (One work session)

Update on Funding for Food Assistance Programs

The state's operating budget includes appropriations related to food and food assistance programs, including to help address COVID-19 and its many impacts. The Committee will receive an update on how additional funding in the 2021-23 biennial and 2022 supplemental operating budgets for food assistance programs is being implemented. (One work session)

Update on Funding for Refugee and Immigrant Assistance and Resettlement, Including for Refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine

The state's operating budget includes appropriations related to refugee and immigration programs and services. The Committee will receive an update on how additional funding in the 2021-23 biennial and 2022 supplemental operating budgets for programs and services assisting refugees and immigrants, including those from Afghanistan and Ukraine, is being implemented. (One work session)

Update on Funding for Digital Equity Programs

The state's operating budget includes appropriations related to encouraging and facilitating the availability of high speed and reliable digital services throughout Washington. COVID-19 and responses to the virus affected people and organizations in a variety of ways, including working and going to school virtually from home, and businesses and organizations operating remotely. Different areas of the state and different populations, such as low-income persons, may have less access to reliable, high-speed digital services. The Committee will receive an update on how additional funding in the 2021-23 biennial and 2022 supplemental operating budgets for digital equity programs and services is being implemented. (One work session)

2023 Session Budget Preview

The Committee will receive an update on the budget outlook after the September and November revenue forecasts and estimated maintenance level changes. The Committee will also receive a preview of budget related items that may come before the Legislature in the 2023 session. (One work session)

CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
November	TBD	Work Session	- Broadband - Behavioral Health Facilities	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- School Construction	Full Committee, Joint with Education Committee

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CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Broadband

The Capital Budget Committee (Committee) will receive a briefing from the Department of Commerce about broadband infrastructure grants that were funded in the 2021-23 and 2022 Supplemental Capital Budgets. The briefing will include a status update on how much of the grant funding has been awarded, the projects funded, and the plan for any remaining funding. (One work session)

Behavioral Health Facilities

The Committee will receive an update from the Department of Social and Health Services and the University of Washington on the design and construction of behavioral health facilities. The Department of Commerce will provide information on the demand, location, and project phases for the different types of behavioral facilities funded through the capital budget. (One work session)

School Construction

The Committee and the Education Committee will consider issues related to school construction funding, including current practices, considerations related to facility design, and the development of guiding principles for revised funding and financing proposals. The committees will hold a joint work session in December. (One work session)

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
October	TBD	Work Session	- Child Care and Prekindergarten for Children with Disabilities	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Juvenile Record Sealing	Full Committee
December	TBD	Work Session	- Early Learning Workforce Including Community Pathways and Equivalencies	Full Committee

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CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Child Care and Prekindergarten for Children with Disabilities

The Children, Youth and Families Committee (Committee) will discuss and review: (1) the developmental prekindergarten programs offered by school districts, including the funding sources used for those programs; and (2) the Working Connections Child Care special needs rate. (One work session)

Juvenile Record Sealing

The Committee will discuss and review the current juvenile record sealing process and consider proposals to modify that process. (One work session)

Early Learning Workforce Including Community Pathways and Equivalencies

The Committee will discuss and review early learning workforce issues including options for providers to meet staff qualification requirements through community-based training, experience-based competency, and alternative credentials. (One work session)

CIVIL RIGHTS & JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Centralized Firearms Background Check System	Full Committee

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**CIVIL RIGHTS & JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE WORKPLAN**

Centralized Firearms Background Check System

Legislation enacted in 2020 required the Washington State Patrol (WSP) to establish and operate a centralized firearms background check system and also created a Washington Background Check Advisory Board (Advisory Board) to oversee the WSP's Firearms Background Check Unit and the operation of the firearms background check system. The Committee will receive a report from the WSP on the implementation plan and progress in establishing the centralized firearms background check system. (One work session)

COLLEGE & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Institutional Administrative and Financial Transparency	Full Committee

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COLLEGE & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Institutional Administrative and Financial Transparency

The Committee intends to review the history of Washington's higher education employment and financial accounting structures to better understand the current landscape. This will involve reviewing the sources of funding that higher education institutions receive, the state's governance over those sources, and the reporting of and internal processes that higher education institutions use. It will also include reviewing the employee classification systems, including categories and definitions of positions across institutions, to better analyze staffing levels at different institutions. (One work session)

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

1. Joint Higher Education Committee

COMMERCE & GAMING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
November	TBD	Work Session	- Task Force Updates - Problem Gambling	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Cannabinoid Products	Full Committee

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COMMERCE & GAMING COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Task Force Updates

The Commerce and Gaming Committee (Committee) will receive updates from the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force and the Joint Legislative Task Force on Problem Gambling. (One work session)

Problem Gambling

The Committee will receive an update from the Health Care Authority on the Washington State Problem Gambling Program and learn from the Washington Indian Gaming Association about education, awareness, and treatment program services provided under tribal governments' responsible gambling programs. (One work session)

Cannabinoid Products

The Committee will receive an update from the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board on regulatory and enforcement activities related to cannabinoid products, including products containing delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol or other cannabinoids that are synthetically derived from hemp. (One work session)

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Small Business Assistance - Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development	Full Committee

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COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Small Business Assistance

The Committee will receive updates on the status of small business assistance programs in Washington, including current challenges and opportunities relating to private sector partnerships, start-up assistance, and main street programs. (One work session)

Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development

The Committee will engage with stakeholders to examine the state of outdoor recreation and related tourism in Washington, review impacts to economic development, and discuss options for supporting the growth of the outdoor recreation economy across the state. (One work session)

CONSUMER PROTECTION & BUSINESS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Emerging Topics in Consumer Protection and Business and Updates From Agencies on Enacted Legislation and Ongoing Policy Issues	Full Committee

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CONSUMER PROTECTION & BUSINESS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Emerging Topics in Consumer Protection and Business and Updates From Agencies on Enacted Legislation and Ongoing Policy Issues

The Consumer Protection and Business Committee will examine policy considerations related to emerging topics in consumer protection and business, and legislation it considered during the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions, including: (1) organized retail theft; (2) the use of credit scoring in insurance; (3) impacts to consumers resulting from off-site package management companies; and (4) the use of collection agencies for public debt. The Committee will also invite agencies to discuss ongoing policy issues, implementation of recently enacted legislation, and proposals for new legislation. (One work session)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
June 9 9:00 a.m.	Virtual	Work Session	- Education Data for Policymaking	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- School Construction	Full Committee, Joint With CB

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Education Data for Policymaking

The Committee will consider the role of education data in policymaking, including intersections with data from the early learning, higher education, and workforce sectors, and receive an overview of the Education Research and Data Center and its ongoing duties. (One work session)

School Construction

The Education Committee (Committee) and the Capital Budget Committee will consider issues related to school construction funding, including current practices, considerations related to facility design, and the development of guiding principles for revised funding and financing proposals. The committees will hold a joint work session in December. (One work session)

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
September	TBD	Work Session	- Fossil Fuel Use in Buildings - Efforts to Improve Product Lifecycle Management and Increase Recycling	Full Committee
November	TBD	Work Session	- Climate Policy Implementation - Air Quality Monitoring	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Environmental Justice Policy Implementation - Climate Policy Implementation	Full Committee

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ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Fossil Fuel Use in Buildings

Efforts in Washington and other states are underway to reduce the greenhouse gas emission profile of new and existing buildings. In addition, building codes and other regulatory policies are beginning to consider the negative indoor air quality effects of fossil fuel combustion. The Environment and Energy Committee (Committee) will receive an update on the implementation of building decarbonization programs in Washington, and similar efforts in other states. (One work session)

Efforts to Improve Product Lifecycle Management and Increase Recycling

The Department of Ecology is beginning to implement minimum recycling content requirements for certain plastic products, and other minimum recycled content requirements have previously been proposed in legislation to apply to other categories of products. In addition programs that establish producer legal-financial obligations for post-consumer or end-of-life product management have been proposed in Washington and other states for a number of products, including batteries, mattresses, and paper and packaging materials. The Committee will receive an update on such programs in Washington and other states. (One work session)

Climate Policy Implementation

The Department of Ecology is in the process of beginning to implement multiple new climate laws enacted in the past few years, including the Climate Commitment Act, the Clean Fuels Program, the Zero Emission Vehicle Program, and laws restricting emissions of hydrofluorocarbons and other refrigerants. The Department of Commerce is carrying out certain responsibilities in support of state decarbonization goals, including evaluating low-carbon facility siting and the residential heating assistance program. The Committee will receive an update on these efforts. (Two work sessions)

Air Quality Monitoring

Under the Climate Commitment Act and related budget provisos, additional air quality monitoring will be carried out, with particular attention to overburdened communities. The Committee will receive updates on these efforts, which relate to both ongoing state agency environmental justice implementation and climate law implementation. (One work session)

Environmental Justice Policy Implementation

As a result of laws passed in 2021, new obligations pertaining to the consideration of environmental justice in government decision-making were established for seven state agencies, and a new environmental justice council was created. The Committee will monitor and receive updates on the initial implementation of these new state efforts on environmental justice. (One work session)

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

1. Joint Committee on Energy Supply and Energy Conservation

FINANCE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
June 27 12:00 p.m.	Virtual	Work Session	- Washington Tax Policy: Economic Success and Business Competitiveness	Full Committee
Late September/ early October	TBD	Work Session	- Washington Tax Policy: Economic Well-Being and Household Financial Stability	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Tax Structure Work Group - November Economic and Revenue Forecast	Full Committee

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FINANCE COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Washington Tax Policy: Economic Success and Business Competitiveness

The “Washington Business Competitiveness Study: Redefining Success in Washington State: 3 Keys to Quality Growth” report from the Lieutenant Governor's Office will be presented and discussed through a tax policy lens. Though the 2020 preliminary report to the Tax Structure Work Group indicated variables other than tax structure or tax burden play vital roles, and potentially more potent or more consistent roles, in explaining economic competitiveness, stakeholders consistently point to business competitiveness as a reason to change tax policy. The Finance Committee (Committee) will explore this tension. The Department of Commerce will be invited to present on programs that are responsive to the report. Other presenters may be invited and possible topics that may be explored include examining local economic development and tax mechanisms such as local infrastructure project areas, tax increment financing, etc. (One work session)

Washington Tax Policy: Economic Well-Being and Household Financial Stability

Washingtonians’ economic well-being is influenced by a wide range of factors but underpinning all of it is the state’s tax code. This is often noted by stakeholders asking for changes to tax policy to increase or dedicate revenue to certain programs, or changes to tax policy to increase or decrease tax responsibility for various taxpayers. The Committee will examine the current state of economic well-being of Washingtonians through a tax policy lens, and what programs and data sources we do and do not have to best support and measure economic well-being. This may include, but is not limited to, updates from the Department of Revenue on the implementation of the Working Families Tax Credit program, the State Treasurer's office on their study on racial wealth gaps, the Department of Social and Health Services on the outcome of the Guaranteed Basic Income Study, and the Department of Commerce on programs seeking to increase access to homeownership. The Committee may examine tax mechanisms to increase access to affordable housing. (One work session)

Tax Structure Work Group

Created by the Legislature to identify options to make Washington's tax code more equitable, adequate, stable, and transparent, the Tax Structure Work Group (TSWG) continues its multi-year work. The TSWG includes members from both caucuses in the House of Representatives and the Senate as well as representatives of the Office of the Governor, the Department of Revenue, the Washington Association of Counties, and the Association of Washington Cities. The TSWG has overseen the development of several models to evaluate potential revenue alternatives. During this interim, the TSWG will develop proposed legislation and associated modeling. The Committee will receive a briefing on the work the TSWG has done during the past year. (One work session)

November Economic and Revenue Forecast

In preparation for the 2023 session, the Committee will receive a briefing on the November economic and revenue forecast as adopted by the Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council. (One work session)

HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Mid-Level Dental Providers	Full Committee

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HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Mid-Level Dental Providers

The Committee will hold a work session to discuss the experiences of tribal facilities using mid-level dental providers and the potential for expanding their use in other types of facilities across the state. (One work session)

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

1. Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight
2. Joint Select Committee on Planning for Aging and Disability

HOUSING, HUMAN SERVICES & VETERANS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
October	TBD	Work Session	- Impacts of Rent Increases - Service Delivery	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Guaranteed Basic Income - Homeownership - Emerging Issues	Full Committee

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HOUSING, HUMAN SERVICES & VETERANS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Impacts of Rent Increases

The Housing, Human Services and Veterans Committee (Committee) will consider the impacts of rent increases on tenant housing stability and evictions. (One work session)

Service Delivery

The Committee will receive an update from the Department of Social and Health Services on the delivery of services offered through the Economic Services Administration, including telephone access to services. (One work session)

Guaranteed Basic Income

The Committee will receive a briefing on the feasibility study of a basic income pilot program in Washington, including recommendations and an implementation plan, conducted by the Department of Social and Health Services and the Poverty Reduction Work Group. (One work session)

Homeownership

The Committee will receive an update from the Homeownership Disparities Work Group, including any budget, policy, or legislative recommendations. The Committee will also receive an update on the Homeownership Assistance Fund. (One work session)

Emerging Issues

The Committee will consider emerging housing, human services, and veterans issues. The Committee will hear from stakeholders and review potential legislation for the 2023 session. (One work session)

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

1. Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force
2. Joint Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs

LABOR & WORKPLACE STANDARDS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
September	TBD	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workers' Compensation System Modernization Report - Adult Entertainer Advisory Committee Report - Janitorial and Domestic Services Industries - Warehouse Safety - Labor Market Update 	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Underground Economy Study - Voluntary Quits and Unemployment Insurance - Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) - Agricultural Workforce Issues 	Full Committee

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LABOR & WORKPLACE STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Workers' Compensation System Modernization Report

The 2021-23 Operating Budget appropriated moneys from the Accident Account and Medical Aid Account for the Department of Labor and Industries to replace its workers' compensation information system with more modern technology. The Labor and Workplace Standards Committee (Committee) will receive a briefing on quantifiable deliverables accomplished in fiscal years 2020 and 2021. (One work session)

Adult Entertainer Advisory Committee Report

Legislation enacted in 2019 created the Adult Entertainer Advisory Committee (AEAC) to continue addressing safety issues of adult entertainers. The AEAC issued a report in November 2020 containing recommendations for legislative action. The Committee will be briefed on the AEAC's report. (One work session)

Janitorial and Domestic Services Industries

The Committee will explore current issues across the janitorial and domestic services industries, including safety and wage and hour issues. The Committee will receive a briefing on the 2022 Washington State Janitorial Workload Study by the Department of Labor and Industries and a briefing on municipal development of employment standards for domestic workers. (One work session)

Warehouse Safety

Legislation introduced in the 2022 session related to the use of quotas and safety in certain warehouse distribution centers. The Committee will receive a briefing on the issues underlying this proposed legislation. (One work session)

Labor Market Update

Recent events have led to shifts in employment and workforce dynamics, such as a record level of resignations as reported by the United States Department of Labor. The Committee will receive a labor market briefing from the Employment Security Department on current trends within several industries, including trucking, education, and healthcare, and hear perspectives on issues related to recruiting and retaining necessary employees. (One work session)

Underground Economy Study

By December, the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (Institute) will complete a study on the nature and scope of the underground economy in the construction industry. The Committee will receive a briefing on the Institute's report, which will include information on the extent of and projected costs to the state and workers of the underground economy. (One work session)

Voluntary Quits and Unemployment Insurance

The Committee has considered legislation in recent sessions that would expand the bases for voluntarily leaving employment for various caregiving responsibilities while retaining eligibility for unemployment insurance. The Committee will receive an update on available data on voluntary quits for caregiving responsibilities and current policy. (One work session)

Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML)

Legislation enacted in the 2022 session created a number of new reporting requirements related to premiums and actuarial assessments of the Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) program. The Committee will receive a preliminary update from the Employment Security Department on available data for the PFML program. (One work session)

Agricultural Workforce Issues

The Committee will explore relevant agricultural workforce issues through briefings from the Employment Security Department and by hearing perspectives from labor and industry regarding workforce needs. The Committee will also hear from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to learn how the Institute plans to structure the farmworker study funded by the 2022 supplemental operating budget. (One work session)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
May 3 11:15 a.m.	Virtual	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Government Procurement Reform - Racial Covenants in Real Estate Follow-Up - Growth Management Act Task Force Update 	Full Committee
September	TBD	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Government Resource Needs for Planning Under the Growth Management Act - Growth Management Act Task Force Update 	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of Department of Commerce Report on the Resources Needed by Local Governments to Ensure Compliance with the Growth Management Act - Growth Management Act Task Force Update - Planning for Affordable and “Middle” Housing 	Full Committee

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Local Government Procurement Reform

The Local Government Committee (Committee) will receive an update from the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board and other stakeholders on proposals to amend local government procurement statutes, to track diversity in procurement, and to increase the ability of businesses to access and participate in procurement. (One work session)

Racial Covenants in Real Estate Follow-Up

The Committee will hear an update on HB 1335, passed in 2021, which concerned unlawful racial covenants and restrictions in real estate and provided a process for such documents to be identified and removed from the chain of title. The Committee will hear from stakeholders about the implementation of the legislation since its passage, and on a recent Washington State Supreme Court case, *In re That Portion of Lots 1 & 2*, that involved the legislation. (One work session)

Growth Management Act Task Force Update

The Committee will receive an update on the Growth Management Act (GMA) Task Force convened by the Department of Commerce, including the scope of the Task Force's work, its meeting schedule, stakeholder involvement in the Task Force, the topics discussed at its meetings, its proposed recommendations, and its schedule for producing a final report to the Legislature. Once the preparation of the final report has begun, the Committee will review and discuss the report. (Three work sessions)

Local Government Resource Needs for Planning Under the Growth Management Act

The Committee will hear from stakeholders about the resources needed by local governments to meet new and existing elements under the Growth Management Act and the resources that are currently available to local governments. The Committee will also discuss how additional resources could be provided in the future. (One work session)

Review of Department of Commerce Report on the Resources Needed by Local Governments to Ensure Compliance with the Growth Management Act

The Committee will review the Department of Commerce's report, due in December of 2022, on the costs for local governments to revise their comprehensive plans to ensure compliance with the Growth Management Act. (One work session)

Planning for Affordable and "Middle" Housing

The Committee will review and discuss the possibilities for increasing affordable and "middle" housing options through local government planning and regulations in Washington, and for possible legislation on the topic in 2023. (One work session)

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
November	TBD	Work Session	- Comprehensive Sentencing Reform: Final Report of the Washington State Criminal Sentencing Task Force	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Recent National and State Crime Trends: Analyzing Current Evidence to Understand Root Causes and Identify Solutions - Victim-Centered Justice: Prioritizing the Interests of Victims in the Criminal Legal Process	Full Committee

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**PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE WORKPLAN**

Comprehensive Sentencing Reform: Final Report of the Washington State Criminal Sentencing Task Force

In 2019 the Legislature established the Washington State Criminal Sentencing Task Force (Task Force) and directed the William D. Ruckelshaus Center to facilitate its work to review state sentencing laws and provide recommendations for the purpose of: reducing sentencing implementation complexities and errors; improving the effectiveness of the sentencing system; and promoting and improving public safety. The Public Safety Committee (Committee) will receive a briefing on the final recommendations of the Task Force in anticipation of related legislation in the 2023 session. (One work session)

Recent National and State Crime Trends: Analyzing Current Evidence to Understand Root Causes and Identify Solutions

Reports of increases in crime have drawn significant public attention. The Committee will review recent crime trends, and will receive briefings from experts evaluating the factors underlying the prevalence and character of current crime across the state and nation. (One work session)

Victim-Centered Justice: Prioritizing the Interests of Victims in the Criminal Legal Process

The Committee will explore models for incorporating victim-centered and restorative justice principles in the criminal legal system. The Committee will receive briefings on the emerging research from practitioners and academics, and assess the effects of victim-centered practices on system and individual outcomes. (One work session)

RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURE, & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- 2023 Legislative Agenda	Full Committee

To view specific meeting dates and times, please visit:
<http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx>

To sign up for e-mail notifications, including updates to meeting dates and times, please visit:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WALEG/subscriber/new?>

For additional information, please contact Office of Program Research staff at 360-786-7339

RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURE, & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

2023 Legislative Agenda

The Rural Development, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee will receive updates on current events, topics previously heard in committee, and other emerging issues in preparation for the 2023 session. (One work session)

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

1. Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought
2. Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Resource Mitigation
3. Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Supply

STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ranked Choice Voting and the Washington Presidential Primary - Review and Analysis of Ballot Rejection Rates - State Contracting: Update on Procedures, Practices, and Performance - Office of Equity Update 	Full Committee

To view specific meeting dates and times, please visit:
<http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx>

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For additional information, please contact Office of Program Research staff at 360-786-7105

STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Ranked Choice Voting and the Washington Presidential Primary

The State Government & Tribal Relations Committee (Committee) will invite ranked choice voting experts to discuss the logistics of implementing ranked choice voting, including for the presidential primary. The Committee will invite major political parties to provide updates on national and state rules on presidential primaries. (One work session)

Review and Analysis of Ballot Rejection Rates

In the 2020 Supplemental Budget, the Office of the State Auditor was directed to conduct a performance audit of ballot rejection rates for the 2020 general election. The audit report was released in February 2022, and it revealed that the ballots of people of color and young people were more likely to be rejected. In addition, in the 2022 Supplemental Budget, the University of Washington Evans School of Public Policy and Governance was directed to review and analyze the data used by the Office of the State Auditor in its audit. The Committee will invite the Office of the State Auditor to discuss its performance audit, as well as invite representatives of the Evans School to discuss its review and analysis of the audit data. (One work session)

State Contracting: Update on Procedures, Practices, and Performance

The Committee will invite the Department of Enterprise Services to provide an update of the Department's activities in the past year regarding state contracting, including an update of its activities to increase the number of contracts awarded to women- and minority-owned businesses and its outreach to those communities. (One work session)

Office of Equity Update

The Committee will invite the Office of Equity to provide an update of the Office's activities in the past year to carry out its statutory duties, including a discussion of its Pro-Equity Anti-Racism Plan & Playbook. (One work session)

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Plan to Address Surge in Vehicle Crashes - Rail Safety Oversight Inventory - Interstate Bridge Replacement—Report - Impacts of Inflation and Other External Pressures on the Highway Construction Program 	Full Committee

To view specific meeting dates and times, please visit:
<http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx>

To sign up for e-mail notifications, including updates to meeting dates and times, please visit:
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For additional information, please contact Office of Program Research staff at 360-786-7145

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Action Plan to Address Surge in Vehicle Crashes

The Transportation Committee (Committee) will review the data and analysis regarding a noteworthy increase in vehicle crashes since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Statistics show that the number of serious crashes in 2020 and 2021 was higher than at any point since 2006 and 2007. The Traffic Safety Commission (TSC), which is responsible for planning, implementing, and evaluating a statewide traffic safety program, is developing a near-term action plan with recommendations to address the recent surge in traffic deaths resulting from the crashes. The Committee will receive a presentation from the TSC on the action plan data, analysis, findings, and recommendations. (One work session)

Rail Safety Oversight Inventory

The Committee will review rail safety oversight roles and responsibilities in Washington agencies, as compared to those in agencies in other states. In the 2021-23 Transportation Budget, the Legislature tasked the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) with preparing an inventory of such roles and responsibilities, including information related to safety oversight, coordination, communication, and enforcement of laws and regulations relating to passenger and freight rail. The Committee will receive a presentation by the UTC on its inventory and findings. (One work session)

Interstate Bridge Replacement—Report

The Committee will monitor the work and progress of, receive updates from, and consider recommendations by the Joint Oregon-Washington Legislative Action Committee (JLAC) regarding the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) project. The Committee will also receive a briefing on the report of the JLAC activities due to the Legislature in August 2022, which includes a description of the locally preferred alternative ultimately identified as part of the IBR project. (One work session)

Impacts of Inflation and Other External Pressures on the Highway Construction Program

The Committee will continue to monitor external pressures on the Highway Construction Program at the Department of Transportation (DOT) relating to inflation, materials supply slowdowns and strikes, and COVID-19 pandemic-related disruptions. Recognizing such pressures, the Legislature allocated additional new funds in the Move Ahead WA funding package in the 2022 session for the purpose of maintaining the schedule of commitments made as part of the Connecting Washington package in 2015. The Committee will receive a briefing from the DOT on the status of the delivery and cost of Highway Construction Program projects from funding packages. (One work session)