



## Summaries

Study Mandates & Other Scheduled Committee Projects	
<b>Performance Audits of Tax Preferences</b> <i>Report: Aug 2013 and Jul 2014</i> Directive: EHB 1069 (2006)	Based on a ten-year schedule developed by the Citizen Commission for Performance Measurement of Tax Preferences, JLARC staff review approximately 20 tax preferences each year. Staff: <a href="mailto:John.Woolley@leg.wa.gov">John.Woolley@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool</b> <i>Report: Sep 2013</i> Directive: E2SHB 2673 (2006)	LIFT is a state program designed to help local jurisdictions fund public infrastructure projects, which are in turn intended to foster economic development. The Legislature directed JLARC to review the LIFT program every five years, beginning in 2013. Staff: <a href="mailto:Peter.Heineccius@leg.wa.gov">Peter.Heineccius@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Performance Audit of Workers' Compensation Claims Management: Progress Report</b> <i>Report: Dec 2013</i> Directive: EHB 2123 (2011)	JLARC will provide a status report to the Legislature on its performance audit of the workers' compensation claims management system. Staff: <a href="mailto:John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov">John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Competency to Stand Trial: Phase Two</b> <i>Report: Jan 2014</i> Directive: SSB 6492 (2012)	In this second of two required reports, JLARC will determine if state hospitals have met targets to reduce the time required to assess a defendant's competency to stand trial. Staff: <a href="mailto:Eric.Thomas@leg.wa.gov">Eric.Thomas@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Review of How WSDOT Assesses Highway Preservation and Maintenance Needs—Phase 1</b> <i>Report: Jan 2014</i> Directive: ESSB 5024 (2013)	JLARC will conduct a review of the methods and systems used by WSDOT to develop asset condition and maintenance service level needs and subsequent funding requests for highway preservation and maintenance programs. Phase 1 will provide an overview of the methods and systems used by WSDOT to estimate highway maintenance and preservation needs and costs. Staff: <a href="mailto:Mark.Fleming@leg.wa.gov">Mark.Fleming@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Analysis of K-12 Health Benefits: Briefing Report</b> <i>Report: Jan 2014</i> Directive: ESSB 5940 (2012)	JLARC has a number of assignments from 2012 legislation on this topic, including reporting on progress by school districts and their benefit providers in achieving the goals and performance expectations established in the bill, recommending affordability targets, and providing rank-ordered performance grants to districts reducing co-payments. This status update will focus on information collection efforts. Staff: <a href="mailto:John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov">John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Higher Education Performance and Tuition Setting Authority/Opportunity Scholarship and Opportunity Expansion Programs: Briefing Report</b> <i>Report: Jan 2014</i> Directive: E2SHB 1795/ESHB 2088 (2011)	These audits will focus on the impact of tuition setting authority and the Opportunity Scholarship and Opportunity Expansion programs on student access, affordability, and institutional quality. This briefing report will focus on information collection efforts. Staff: <a href="mailto:John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov">John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov</a>

<b>Task Force on Data and Metrics for Tax Preference Performance Statements</b> <i>Report: Jan 2014</i> Directive: ESSB 5882 (2013)	The Legislative Auditor is to advise the Legislature on appropriate data and metrics that should be included in tax preference performance statements to evaluate new, extended, or expanded tax preferences.  Staff: <a href="mailto:Keenan.Konopaski@leg.wa.gov">Keenan.Konopaski@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Forensic Accounting Audit of the Columbia River Crossing Project</b> <i>Report: April 2014</i> Directive: ESSB 5024 (2013)	JLARC is contracting with the State Auditor's Office to conduct a forensic accounting audit of the Interstate 5/Columbia River Crossing project. The audit will determine whether the state has been overcharged for architectural and engineering services, charged for services that are beyond the scope of the original contract, or charged for unauthorized services.  Staff: <a href="mailto:John.Woolley@leg.wa.gov">John.Woolley@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>University of Washington Alternative Public Works Sunset Review</b> <i>Report: Sep 2014</i> Directive: SSB 6355 (2010)	JLARC will conduct a sunset review of the alternative process for the University of Washington to award contracts for the building of university buildings and facilities for critical patient care or specialized medical research.  Staff: <a href="mailto:Mark.Fleming@leg.wa.gov">Mark.Fleming@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Gas Vapor Registration/Inspection Fee Program for Gas Stations</b> <i>Report: Dec 2014</i> Directive: ESSB 5024 (2013)	JLARC is to study the registration and inspection fee programs that regulate gas stations and other businesses that emit gasoline vapors. These programs are administered by the Department of Ecology and air pollution control authorities.  Staff: <a href="mailto:Zane.Potter@leg.wa.gov">Zane.Potter@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Review of How WSDOT Assesses Highway Preservation and Maintenance Needs—Phase 2</b> <i>Report: Dec 2014</i> Directive: ESSB 5024 (2013)	JLARC will conduct a review of the methods and systems used by WSDOT to develop asset condition and maintenance service level needs and subsequent funding requests for highway preservation and maintenance programs. Phase 2 will examine whether the methods and systems WSDOT uses for estimating highway preservation and maintenance needs and costs are consistent with industry practices and other appropriate standards.  Staff: <a href="mailto:Eric.Thomas@leg.wa.gov">Eric.Thomas@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Public Lands: Operating Costs, Benefits, and Impacts on Economic Vitality</b> <i>Report: Jan 2015/April 2015</i> Directive: ESSB 5035 (2013)	A three-part study of public recreation and habitat lands: <b>Part 1</b> Review of the operating budget impacts of recreation and habitat land acquisitions by WDFW, DNR, and the State Parks and Recreation Commission over the past ten years (Jan 2015); <b>Part 2</b> Review of estimated economic benefits and costs from acquisitions of recreation and habitat lands – The study must review and summarize the available literature describing and quantifying the economic benefits and costs of public recreation and habitat lands; and evaluate the reliability and validity of measures used by federal and state agencies to estimate the economic benefits of recreation and habitat lands (Jan 2015); and <b>Part 3</b> Analysis of differences in public land ownership among Washington's 39 counties, and evaluation of the hypothesis that higher amounts or percentages of acres of public lands in certain categories are detrimental to measures of economic vitality in the county (April 2015).  Staff: <a href="mailto:Rebecca.Connolly@leg.wa.gov">Rebecca.Connolly@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Performance Audit of Workers' Compensation Claims Management</b> <i>Report: Jun 2015</i> Directive: EHB 2123 (2011)	This audit report, the final report of a three-report process, will present the conclusions and any recommendations from JLARC's performance audit of the workers' compensation claims management system.  Staff: <a href="mailto:John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov">John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov</a>

<b>Planned Work in 2013-15 on Future Biennia Studies</b>	
<b>Medicaid Fraud Sunset Review</b> <i>Report: Sep 2015</i> Directive: ESSB 5978 (2012)	JLARC will conduct a sunset review of the processes established in the Health Care Authority and the Attorney General's Office to combat Medicaid fraud. Staff: <a href="mailto:Rebecca.Connolly@leg.wa.gov">Rebecca.Connolly@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Analysis of the Unemployment Insurance Training Benefits Program</b> <i>Report: Nov 2015</i> Directive: EHB 1091 (2011)	JLARC will complete an evaluation of the training benefits program administered by the Employment Security Department. The program allows eligible individuals to receive additional weeks of unemployment benefits while they are in approved training. Staff: <a href="mailto:Ryan.McCord@leg.wa.gov">Ryan.McCord@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Use of Lodging Tax Revenues by Municipalities</b> <i>Report: Calendar Year 2015</i> Directive: ESHB 1253 (2013)	This on-going assignment requires JLARC to collect and report on the use by municipalities of lodging tax revenues for tourism purposes. JLARC is to report each biennium, with the first report due in Calendar Year 2015. Staff: <a href="mailto:Mark.Fleming@leg.wa.gov">Mark.Fleming@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Analysis of K-12 Health Benefits</b> <i>Report: Dec 2015</i> Directive: ESSB 5940 (2012)	JLARC has a number of assignments from 2012 legislation on this topic, including reporting on progress by school districts and their benefit providers in achieving the goals and performance expectations established in the bill, recommending affordability targets, and providing rank-ordered performance grants to districts reducing co-payments. Staff: <a href="mailto:John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov">John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Washington Health Care Exchange: Understanding Options for K-12/Higher Ed Part-time Employees</b> <i>Report: Phase 1, Dec 2015</i> Directive: ESSB 5034 (2013)	Multi-part study will first review what data is available and what analysis can be completed to understand the benefit packages for part-time employees, and costs associated with those benefits, through the Exchange and existing K-12 and Higher Education health benefit plans. Staff: <a href="mailto:Keenan.Konopaski@leg.wa.gov">Keenan.Konopaski@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>K-12 Health Benefits: Performance Grants Distribution Process</b> <i>Report: June 2016</i> Directive: ESSB 5940 (2012)	Based on the progress by school districts and their benefit providers in achieving the goals and performance expectations established in the bill, and subject to funding, JLARC is to provide rank-ordered performance grants to districts reducing co-payments. Staff: <a href="mailto:John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov">John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Department of Enterprise Services: Service Delivery Options Study</b> <i>Report: Dec 2017</i> Directive: ESSB 5931 (2011)	JLARC is to audit one section of the government reorganization and streamlining bill of 2011. Specifically, the section establishes a process for the Department of Enterprise Services and OFM to follow in reviewing activities that might be performed more cost effectively by the private sector. Staff: <a href="mailto:Mark.Fleming@leg.wa.gov">Mark.Fleming@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Higher Education Performance and Tuition Setting Authority/Opportunity Scholarship and Opportunity Expansion Programs</b> <i>Report: Dec 2018</i> Directives: E2SHB 1795/ESHB 2088 (2011)	These audits will focus on the impact of tuition setting authority and the Opportunity Scholarship and Opportunity Expansion programs on student access, affordability, and institutional quality. Staff: <a href="mailto:John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov">John.Bowden@leg.wa.gov</a>
<b>Mercury Containing Lights Stewardship Program Sunset Review</b> <i>Report: Sept 2024</i> Directive: ESHB 2246 (2014)	A sunset review of the mercury-containing lights product stewardship program. JLARC staff will work with Ecology and participants to ensure data is available to conduct the sunset review in 2024. Staff: <a href="mailto:Zane.Potter@leg.wa.gov">Zane.Potter@leg.wa.gov</a>