

Senate Committee Services

Summary of Select 2013 Interim Activities



January 2014



TO: Washington State Senators and Other Interested Persons

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

SUBJECT: Senate Committee Services Summary of Select 2013 Interim Activities

DATE: January 10, 2014

We are pleased to provide this Summary of Select 2013 Interim Activities for your reference during the 2014 Legislative Session. The report summarizes many of the activities undertaken by the Senate's standing committees during the 2013 Interim.

I believe that you will find the electronic version of this document to be most useful. The electronic version contains dozens of electronic hotlinks to the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for bills, task force websites, and interim and final reports related to the interim projects. We will continue to update the electronic version of this document during this legislative session as additional reports or documents may become available. The most recent version can be found at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/Documents/Reports/InterimActivities/2013InterimProjects.pdf>.

Please contact Cheri Randich at 786-7772 or Cheri.Randich@leg.wa.gov if you would like to receive a hard copy of this document.

In addition to the items included in this report, Senate Committee Staff have also worked on numerous other projects, issues, and requests of each member of the Senate. Please feel free to contact individual staff if you need any additional information about those projects.

We hope that you find this report of great use and look forward to your comments or suggestion on how we may improve upon it. If you have other requests or questions, or need assistance on any issue, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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Senate Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development Committee

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TITLE: Providing Water for Rural and Domestic Uses

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Two Washington State Supreme Court decisions, the Lemire decision issued August 15, 2013, and the Swinomish decision issued October 3, 2013, have overshadowed ongoing Department of Ecology (DOE) water resource work. The first case held that DOE does not have to prove that the conditions of a landowner's property are a proximate cause of water pollution. The statutory requirement is a showing of substantial potential to violate the water pollution control act. The second case held that DOE's statutory authority to allow impairment of in-stream flows when overriding considerations of public interest are served is not sufficient to support a 2006 amendment that established limited water reservations to a 2001 in-stream flow rule.

Counties have not produced legislative alternatives to a 2011 Washington Supreme Court case that requires counties to determine that water proposed to be supplied by a permit-exempt well is both physically available and legally available before the county approves a permit for the development. Counties met on this issue this summer. DOE proposed a guidance document for counties this summer but it is not finalized.

REFERENCES: N/A

STAFF CONTACT: Diane Smith

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7410

TITLE: Database for Animal Disease Traceability

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: In July 2013, CERB authorized \$881,000 from the State Public Facility Construction Loan Revolving Account to the Department of Agriculture for its Animal Disease Traceability program. This money will, in part, fund computerization of the existing animal identification data and enable compatibility with the federal rule governing interstate livestock movements. Underlying this effort is the need to improve the quality of data and the speed of its retrieval in the case of any potential epidemic arising in the livestock population. Some of these epidemics may cross species barriers, potentially affecting human populations.

REFERENCES: [3ESSB 5054-SEC. 309\(3\) \(2013\)](#), [ESSB 5035-SEC. 3247 \(2013\)](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Diane Smith

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7410

TITLE: Monitor Agricultural Fee Work Group

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: In November 2013, the Fee Work Group issued its final report. The work group focused on fees that do not fully reimburse Washington State Department of Agriculture's cost of providing services in the Food Safety program. The report

explains a combination of proposed fee increases that has the potential to increase fee revenue by an estimated and approximate \$262,500 per year, or \$525,000 per biennium. The work group had to make some decisions in coming to this estimate and some of those decisions might be characterized as policy decisions. In addition, the Federal Food Safety and Modernization Act, beginning its implementation this year, will have significant impacts on fees necessary in Washington State. This is an as yet unquantifiable impact.

REFERENCES: [3ESSB 5034-SEC.309 \(2013\)](#),
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/AWRD/Documents/FeeWkGrpFinalRpt.pdf>

STAFF CONTACT: Diane Smith

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7410

TITLE: Monitor Honey Bee Work Group

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Work Group had one organizational meeting in 2013. Substantive work is scheduled for 2014.

REFERENCES: [ESSB 5882-SEC. 305 \(2013\)](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Diane Smith

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7410

Senate Commerce & Labor Committee

2013 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Business and professional licensing

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Staff researched and compiled licensing information for regulated professions in Washington including numbers of current licensees, licensing requirements, renewal requirements, and historical licensing fee information.

REFERENCES: N/A

STAFF CONTACT: Jessica Stevenson

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7465

TITLE: I-502 implementation

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: I-502 was passed by Washington voters in the 2012 general election. The initiative legalized the recreational use of marijuana and tasked the Liquor Control Board (LCB) with regulating and licensing the production, distribution, and sale of recreational marijuana. Throughout 2013 committee staff attended meetings convened by the LCB as part of the rule making process. Staff also prepared an issue paper on I-502 for use by members and legislative staff who need more information.

REFERENCES: N/A

STAFF CONTACT: Edith Rice

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7444

Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee

2013 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Legislative Task Force on Career Education Opportunities

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Committee staff provided support to the Task Force at meetings and co-drafted a preliminary report of findings by the Task Force members regarding how education that supports career readiness may be better integrated into secondary education opportunities for all students. The report can be found at the website listed below.

REFERENCES: [3ESSB 5034 - SEC. 719](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/jointcommittees/CEOTF/Pages/default.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: Katherine Taylor

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7434

TITLE: Teacher/Principal Evaluation

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Legislation passed in 2010 required the development, piloting, and implementation of four-level rating evaluation systems for Washington's classroom teachers and principals. The evaluation systems must describe performance on a continuum that indicates the extent to which the criteria have been met or exceeded by the classroom teacher or principal. When student growth data showing a change in student achievement between two points in time is available for consideration in addition to student assessment data for principal evaluations, and available and relevant to the teacher and subject matter of the classroom teacher being evaluation, ratings must be assigned based on multiple measures of data. Pilots were conducted during the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years in eight school districts. All classroom teachers and principals must be evaluated using the four-level rating evaluation systems no later than the 2015-16 school year.

Committee staff researched and summarized the progress the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction has made in rolling out the four-level evaluation system, including the disbursement of training funds to school districts implementing the evaluation system. Some states and large urban school districts use "value-added" analysis in educator evaluations. A value-added analysis is a statistical method of measuring the impact schools and individual teachers have on students' academic progress rates from year to year. Committee staff researched the value-added methodology and produced a memorandum outlining its application, strengths and potential drawbacks, and its prevalence in other states.

REFERENCES: [E2SSB 6696 \(2010\)](#), [ESSB 5895 \(2013\)](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EDU/Documents/2014/TPEPImplementationMemo.pdf>
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EDU/Documents/2014/ValueAddedAnalysisMemo.pdf>

STAFF CONTACT: Eric Wolf

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7405

TITLE: Common Core State Standards and Assessments; and Next Generation Science Standards and Assessments

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Committee staff researched and compiled information regarding how Washington and other states are transitioning to the Common Core state standards (CCSS) in English language arts and mathematics, and the Next Generation science standards (NGSS).

REFERENCES: [ESHB 1410 \(2011\)](#), [EHB 1450 \(2013\)](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EDU/Documents/CommonCoreNextGenerationStandardsMemo.pdf>

STAFF CONTACT: Susan Mielke

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7422

TITLE: Joint Select Committee on Article IX Litigation

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Washington State Supreme Court issued its decision in *McCleary v. State*, on January 5, 2012. The Court found that the State has failed to meet its paramount constitutional duty in Article IX of the State Constitution by consistently providing school districts with a level of resources that falls short of that necessary to provide all students with an opportunity to access a program of basic education. The Court acknowledged that promising reforms had been passed by the Legislature (ESHB 2261 in 2009) which, if fully funded, will remedy deficiencies in the K-12 funding system. The Court deferred to the Legislature's chosen means of discharging its constitutional duty but retained jurisdiction to help facilitate progress in the State's plan to fully implement the reforms by 2018. In 2012 the Legislature created the Joint Select Committee on Article IX Litigation (HCR 4410) to facilitate communication with the Washington Supreme Court on the school funding litigation. The Court ordered the Legislature to file a report after each operating budget is signed that summarizes legislative actions taken to implement the reforms and achieve compliance with Article IX. This year's report was filed with the Court on August 29, 2013, and can be found at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/AIXLJSC/Documents/ArticleIX2013Report-ReceivedByCourt.pdf>.

REFERENCES: [HCR 4410 \(2012\)](#), [ESHB 2261 \(2009\)](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Susan Mielke
Lorrell Noahr

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7422
786-7708

Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee

2013 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Energy Independence Act (I-937)

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Approved by voters in 2006, the Energy Independence Act, also known as Initiative 937, requires electric utilities with 25,000 or more customers to meet targets for energy conservation and for using eligible renewable resources. There have been numerous legislative attempts to amend I-937. The first two amendments were passed in 2012:

- authorizing the Department of Commerce to issue advisory opinions on whether a proposed electric generation project or conservation resource qualifies under I-937 (SSB 6414);
- authorizing the limited use of qualified biomass energy to meet eligible renewable energy targets (ESSB 5575).

During the 2013 regular session, the Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee heard ten bills amending I-937, three of which were signed by the Governor:

- allowing certain slow-growing utilities to purchase I-937 compliant electricity from the Centralia coal plant (SB 5297);
- authorizing qualifying multi-state utilities to count as an eligible renewable resource any renewable resource it owns, other than freshwater, if the resource is in a state where it serves retail customers (SSB 5400); and
- allowing facilities that capture and use methane to generate electricity to collect both renewable energy credits and carbon reduction credits (HB 1154).

There is a continuing interest in amending I-937; for example, the recognition of efficiency upgrades to the federal hydropower system, the promotion of additional conservation, and the alignment of renewable purchases with the actual need for power. Many of these changes are being advocated by citizens and businesses in Eastern Washington.

In order to gather more information on the changes being sought and the reasons behind them, the committee held a public hearing on September 16, in Richland, Washington. About 85 people attended. Most of the testimony asserted that utilities bear increased costs when they are required to purchase renewable energy despite their adequate supplies of hydropower. Others supported I-937 stating it plays a role in reducing carbon emissions.

REFERENCES: [SSB 6414 \(2012\)](#), [ESSB 5575 \(2012\)](#), [SB 5297 \(2013\)](#), [SSB 5400 \(2013\)](#), [HB 1154 \(2013\)](#)

STAFF CONTACT: William Bridges

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7416

TITLE: Climate Legislative Executive Workgroup

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The 2013 Legislature passed Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5802 (the Act), which created the Climate Legislative and Executive Workgroup (CLEW). The CLEW membership consists of Governor Jay Inslee and four members of the Legislature: Senator Doug Ericksen (42nd District), Senator Kevin Ranker (40th District),

Representative Joe Fitzgibbon (34th District), and Representative Shelly Short (7th District). Also appointed to the Workgroup are five alternates: Senator Sharon Brown (8th District), Senator Annette Cleveland (49th District), Representative Jake Fey (27th District), Representative Jessyn Farrell (46th District), and Representative Liz Pike (18th District).

The Act requires CLEW to recommend a state program of actions and policies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that, if implemented, would ensure achievement of the state's emissions targets set in RCW 70.235.020. Recommendations must be supported by a majority of the Workgroup's four legislative members in order to be included in the Workgroup's report, which was due by December 31, 2013.

The Workgroup held ten open meetings from May to December 2013, and held three public hearings: October 16, 2013, in Spokane; October 23, 2013, in Seattle; and December 13, 2013, in Olympia. The Workgroup heard testimony from over 200 members of the public expressing their views and providing ideas on approaches to reducing Washington's GHG emissions. In addition, over 7,000 written comments were received either by e-mail or at these hearings, and about 1,500 postcards were received. All written comments are posted on the Governor's website.

The Workgroup is now deliberating on its recommendations.

REFERENCES: [E2SB 5802 \(2013\)](http://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/economy/climateWorkgroup/default.aspx)
<http://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/economy/climateWorkgroup/default.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: William Bridges **CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7416

TITLE: Fish Consumption Standards

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Department of Ecology (department) is developing rules for water quality standards and human health based water quality standards that will be partly based on fish consumption. The department held Water Quality Policy Forums on the rule development, which was open to all interested persons. A Delegates' Table consisting of a core group of the policy forum provides the department with issues and concerns from their respective communities. In addition, the Governor established an informal Fish Consumption Rate Advisory Group to inform him about tribal, local government, and business concerns. The Committee held two work sessions: September 23 and November 22 on water quality standards that included updates on rule development and briefings on the criteria for human health based standards. Draft rules are expected early 2014.

REFERENCES: N/A

STAFF CONTACT: Jan Odano **CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7486

TITLE: Hanford Nuclear Reservation Tour

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Hanford Nuclear Reservation houses radioactive and hazardous wastes from the creation of plutonium for atomic bombs during World War 2 and the Cold War. Much of this waste is held in underground storage tanks. During the 2013 Legislative Session, the Committee was briefed about the status of leaking underground storage tanks and provided an update on waste retrieval, treatment, and monitoring. The Committee

toured the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, with the United States Department of Energy providing a tour of the waste treatment plant; leaking underground storage tanks; vitrification plant; and historic B Reactor. The Committee toured the Hanford Nuclear Reservation on September 17, 2013.

REFERENCES: N/A

STAFF CONTACT: Jan Odano

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7486

Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee

2013 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Uninsured Motorists

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: With few exceptions, no person may operate a motor vehicle subject to registration under Chapter 46.16A RCW in this state unless the person is insured under a motor vehicle liability policy. Some are concerned about drivers who operate motor vehicles without the requisite insurance coverage.

Staff organized and attended stakeholder meetings to assess the feasibility of adopting policies which increases access to insurance coverage while ensuring proper monitoring and enforcement of such coverage.

REFERENCES: N/A

STAFF CONTACT: Edward Redmond

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7471

Senate Governmental Operations Committee

2013 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Recall Campaigns and Recall Elections

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Washington law provides that all elected public officers except judges are subject to recall by voters. A recall is commenced when a voter files a charge alleging malfeasance, misfeasance, or violation of the oath of office. If the charge is determined to be sufficient by a superior court judge and a sufficient number of signatures are then collected on recall petitions, voters are given the opportunity to vote on whether to recall the official from office. If a majority of voters approve the recall, the official is discharged from office and a vacancy is created. Committee staff researched proposals to revise the grounds and process for recall of elective officers in Washington. Staff compiled material concerning recall standards in Washington and other states, including constitutional provisions, statutes, case law, policy analysis, and historical material.

REFERENCES: N/A

STAFF CONTACT: Sam Thompson

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7413

TITLE: Ruckelshaus Center Report on Public Records Requests to Local Governments

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Public Records Act (PRA) is the major statutory framework for disclosure of records generated, used, or maintained by government agencies. Enacted in 1972 as part of Initiative 276, the PRA requires that all state and local government agencies make all public records available for public inspection and copying unless certain statutory exemptions apply.

A proviso in the 2013-15 operating budget appropriated \$25,000 for the William D. Ruckelshaus Center (Center) to collaborate with local governments, the media, and other stakeholders and produce a report to the Legislature regarding public records requests made to local governments. The proviso required that the report include information on recommendations related to balancing open government principles with concerns related to interfering with the work of local governments.

Committee staff monitored the report's development and publication, collaborated with Center staff, and provided research and information as needed to members interviewed for the report. On December 13, 2013, the Center submitted a report to the Legislature highlighting the need to track resources spent fulfilling public records requests and the suggestion of a stakeholder summit on public records issues.

REFERENCES: [3ESSB 5034 \(2013\)](http://www.leg.wa.gov/documents/legislature/ReportsToTheLegislature/Ruckelshaus%20PRA%20Situation%20Assessment%2012-13-13_5d4abfdf-5370-4ae4-b63d-31ec81aec6b4.pdf)
http://www.leg.wa.gov/documents/legislature/ReportsToTheLegislature/Ruckelshaus%20PRA%20Situation%20Assessment%2012-13-13_5d4abfdf-5370-4ae4-b63d-31ec81aec6b4.pdf

STAFF CONTACT: Sam Brown

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7470

TITLE: Growth Management Act Review

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Growth Management Act (GMA) is the comprehensive land use planning framework for county and city governments in Washington. Enacted on the last day of special session in 1990 and in subsequent legislation in 1991, the GMA establishes numerous planning requirements for counties and cities obligated by mandate or choice to fully plan under GMA.

Committee staff reviewed previous years' legislation; contacted various stakeholders to discuss their areas of concern within the GMA; and developed a list of areas in the GMA in which stakeholders feel improvements or clarifications might be made. The list included areas in the GMA that are most often litigated, the need for funding to conduct updates and improve infrastructure, and possible safe harbor options for local governments.

The Committee held a work session/public hearing on the GMA in Black Diamond, WA. There are two master planned developments being built in Black Diamond, covering over 1,500 acres that will bring in an additional 6,050 residential units to Black Diamond. The Committee heard comments from stakeholders and members of the public about the development in Black Diamond.

REFERENCES: [ESB 6094 \(1997\)](#), [SSB 5399 \(2013\)](#)
http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2013110066

STAFF CONTACT: Karen Epps

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7424

Senate Health Care Committee

2013 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Several agencies and entities have a roll 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 Oversight provided oversight between these agencies and organizations by monitoring each entities activities and requesting information relating to planning and implementation of the Health Benefit Exchange, Office of the Insurance Commissioner insurance plan approvals, and Medicaid Expansion.

The Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight held one meeting on October 15, 2013. The Committee received an update from the Health Benefit Exchange that included information on participating health insurance companies and plan rates for 2014. It also received an update on the Health Insurance Market from Washington State Insurance Commissioner, Mike Kriedler.

Finally, the Committee heard from the Health Care Authority on Medicaid Expansion, including the number of anticipated exchange-assisted enrollments, trends in managed care, and coordination of care efforts.

REFERENCES: [ESSCR 8401 \(2013\)](#), [ESHB 1947 \(2013\)](#), [3ESSB 5034 \(2013\)](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/jointcommittees/hcojsc/Pages/default.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: Kathy Buchli
Mich'l Needham

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7488
786-7442

TITLE: Prior Authorization Work Group

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Prior authorization is the requirement that a health care provider seek approval of a drug, procedure, or test before seeking reimbursement from an insurer. Pursuant to legislation passed in 2009, the Office of the Insurance Commissioner has designated a lead entity (OneHealthPort) to develop processes, guidelines, and standards to streamline health care administration, including the prior authorization process. Legislation passed in 2013 created a prior authorization work group co-chaired by the chairs of the Health Committees in the House and Senate.

The Prior Authorization Work Group held two meetings, one on September 11, 2013, and one on October 15, 2013. The Work Group reviewed the work products of the lead entity and existing prior authorization requirements, and discussed methods to streamline the prior authorization process for prescription drugs, medical procedures, and medical tests. At the final meeting members were requested to submit recommendations and the co-chairs sent recommendations to the group for consideration. Work on proposed recommendations continues.

REFERENCES: [E2SSB 5267 - SEC. 206 \(2013\)](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Mich'l Needham

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7442

TITLE: Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Aging and Disability Issues

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Created in the 2013-15 operating budget, the Joint Legislative and Executive Committee on Aging and Disability Issues was tasked with developing a strategy to build capacity to meet the demands of Washington's elderly and disabled populations. This included improving the efficiency of long-term care services and supports, making caregiver supports available, promoting the use of technology and chronic care management, developing specialized resources, and providing housing and transportation options. The Committee held two meetings, one on September 25, 2013, and one on November 4, 2013, and produced an Interim Report on December 10, 2013, that outlines its Work Plan for 2014.

During the 2013 interim, the Committee heard information on state services for the aging population, including funding and demographic data; progress of Department of Social and Health Services and Health Care Authority initiatives to inventory long-term care resources and demographic data; adult protective services; options for promoting financial security; and options for long-term services and supports.

The Interim Plan report of the Committee plans for five meetings during the 2014 interim. Meetings will be held on health and aging, workforce quality, and protection from elder abuse and exploitation, and financial security time is also provided for discussion of items for the Final Report which is due December 10, 2014.

REFERENCES: [3ESSB 5034 \(2013\)](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/ADJLEC/Documents/JLEC%20report%20December%202013.pdf>
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/ADJLEC/Pages/default.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: Kathy Buchli

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7488

TITLE: Aspen Institute's Excellence in State Public Health Law Program

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Aspen Institute is holding a series of meetings during 2013 and 2014 to explore public health issues within several selected states, including Washington. Washington's program included Legislators from the House and the Senate, legislative staff, the Secretary of the Department of Health, staff from the Governor's Office and staff from the Department of Health and the Attorney General's Office. The emphasis on the Washington program was public health issues relating to obesity and supporting hospitals to become breastfeeding friendly.

Staff is working with stakeholders to develop legislation to encourage and support hospitals in becoming breastfeeding friendly. Legislation is expected to be introduced during the 2014 session.

REFERENCES: N/A

STAFF CONTACT: Kathy Buchli
Bonnie Kim

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7488
786-7316

Senate Higher Education Committee

2013 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Joint Higher Education Committee

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: In 2012 the Legislature established the Joint Higher Education Committee (Committee) to review the work of the Washington Student Achievement Council (Council) and provide legislative feedback; engage with the Council and the higher education community to create greater communication, coordination, and alignment between the higher education system and expectations of the Legislature; and provide recommendations for the higher education policy, including proposed legislation, to the higher education and fiscal committees of the Legislature. The Committee consists of four senators (Senators Bailey, Becker, Frockt, and Kohl-Welles), and four representatives (Representatives Haler, Seaquist, Wylie, Zeiger). The Committee is staffed by Senate Committee Services and the House of Representatives Office of Program Research.

The Committee met on September 16 and November 19 to elect co-chairs, adopt committee procedures, and discuss the Council's 10-year roadmap.

REFERENCES: [E2SHB 2483 \(2012\)](http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2013090061)
[http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2013090061](http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2013110076)
http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2013110076

STAFF CONTACT: Kim Cushing
Maria Hovde

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7421
786-7710

TITLE: Internships

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Committee staff reviewed federal and state law that impacts student internships, researched current internship opportunities and resources at Washington State colleges and universities, and analyzed possible legislative options for fostering additional internship opportunities. A key theme that emerged was that compiling information on internships proved difficult due to the segmented nature of current data, and that remedying this could provide opportunities for students, schools, and employers to better seek out and participate in internship programs. Staff summarized the research and analysis in the attached report.

REFERENCES: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/HIE/Documents/Internships2013Rpt.pdf>

STAFF CONTACT: Kim Cushing

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7421

TITLE: Tour/Briefing of University Center of North Puget Sound and Boeing's Everett Manufacturing Facility

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Members of the committee visited Everett Community College for a meeting with various stakeholders to discuss the University Center of North Puget

Sound. Members were briefed on 2SSB 5636, enacted in 2011, which gave management and leadership of the Center to Washington State University, directed establishment of a strategic plan for the Center to meet the academic needs of the region, and directed development of an engineering program.

Washington State University presented the completed strategic plan and its plans for future development of the Center, which include an additional 26 new programs of study by the conclusion of academic year 2020-21. The Committee also received input from a panel of community and higher education leaders regarding future expansion plans for the Center and how it could serve the needs of the community. Members took a walking tour of the future location of the campus's Advanced Manufacturing Education Training Center.

Members of the Committee also met with representatives of the Boeing Company's engineering and government relations departments and were briefed on the current market outlook of the aerospace industry and Boeing's workforce needs. Members received a tour of the Everett manufacturing facility, including the 747, 767, 777, and 787 production lines.

REFERENCES: [2SSB 5636 \(2011\)](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Maria Hovde
Eric Wolf

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7710
786-7405

Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee

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TITLE: Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Statewide Coordinating Committee

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The purpose of this Committee was to oversee the implementation of the Washington State Model Protocol for CSEC at pilot sites around the state. Such oversight included examining the practices and recommendations of local task forces as well as hearing reports on the protocol and data collection. Staff has monitored the progress of the Committee throughout the interim. In October 2013, the Committee heard reports from task forces in Tri-Cities, Yakima County, Spokane County, Whatcom County, and King County. These communities identified needs such as funding to provide training to advocates, housing for children, and education for schools and the hospitality industry. Other recommendations included changing Child Protective Services policy so that a CSEC allegation would trigger an automatic investigation, developing a risk assessment tool or "red flag" cheat sheet to help identify CSEC, and reducing demand for CSEC in our communities. All recommendations are being considered for a report due to the Legislature on June 30, 2014.

REFERENCES: [SSB 5803 \(2013\)](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Joan Miller

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7784

TITLE: Joint Task Force on Child Care Improvements for the Future

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Task Force met several times during the interim, including a meeting held on the east side of the state in Walla Walla. The Task Force received information from the Department of Early Learning, the Department of Social and Health Services, and other experts and stakeholders on barriers and opportunities for integrating existing child care programs and improving the continuity and stability of child care. The Task Force submitted a report and recommendations to the Legislature in December 2013. The Task Force was staffed by both House and Senate staff.

REFERENCES: [2SSB 5595 \(2013\)](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Shani Bauer

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7468

TITLE: CMS Action Concerning Regional Support Network Procurement

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: In July 2013, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) sent a letter claiming that Washington's regional support network (RSN) contracts were not "validly procured" and asked Washington to submit a corrective action plan to either restructure RSN payments to RSNs or place the RSN contracts out for competitive bid. Staff reviewed the legal authority underpinning this federal government action and provided advice and assistance as requested by members related to these developments and ongoing communications with CMS.

REFERENCES: N/A

STAFF CONTACT: Kevin Black

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7747

TITLE: Certificate of Rehabilitation Workgroup

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: SSB 5565 established a workgroup to explore options, including a certificate of rehabilitation, to address the impact of founded findings of abuse or neglect on the ability of rehabilitated individuals to gain employment or care for children. The workgroup met six times and filed a report recommending that the Legislature not create a Certificate of Rehabilitation process. The report explains that changes underway at the Children's Administration make the need for a Certificate of Rehabilitation less pressing, while creation of an independent board to administer the certificate would be a complicated and expensive process.

REFERENCES: [SSB 5565 \(2013\)](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Kevin Black

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7747

Senate Law & Justice Committee

2013 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Eminent Domain

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Eminent domain is the government's power to acquire private property for public use by paying the property owner just compensation. The Washington State Constitution forbids the government from using eminent domain to take private property for private use except for a few expressly stated exceptions. These exceptions include private ways of necessity, and drains, flumes, or ditches on or across the lands of others for agricultural, domestic, or sanitary purposes. In 2013, SB 5014 was introduced, but was not enacted. The bill defined permissible purposes for eminent domain to include streets, roads, highways, street and road lighting systems, traffic signals, transportation corridors and rights of way, utility corridors and rights of ways, water systems, storm and sanitary sewer systems, sewage treatment facilities, landfills, park and recreational facilities, and schools. The Committee held a work session to discuss eminent domain issues related to SB 5014 on November 22, 2013.

REFERENCES: [SB 5014 \(2013\);](#)
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/CMD/Handler.ashx?MethodName=getdocumentcontent&documentId=5RwrZfMVQ1Q&att=false;>
https://app.leg.wa.gov/CMD/Handler.ashx?MethodName=getdocumentcontent&documentId=QxUrN5_8XfY&att=false;
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/CMD/Handler.ashx?MethodName=getdocumentcontent&documentId=mxhwfHae34M&att=false;>
http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2013110083

STAFF CONTACT: Tim Ford

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7423

TITLE: Guardianships

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Guardianship is a legal arrangement where someone can handle the affairs of another. Guardians must not only perform their duties of care with the utmost of honor, but they must also attempt to do so in a manner that maintains the highest degree of dignity for the person who becomes dependent upon them. The guardian faces a myriad of challenges including the need to work with family members who may have differing ideas about what is right for the ward and various responsibilities not unlike those associated with running a small business. In 2013, SB 5694 was introduced, but was not enacted. The bill would have modified provisions relating to the appointment, qualification, removal, and duties of guardians in order to improve protections for incapacitated adults and would have required the administrator for the courts and a long-term care ombudsman to publish information regarding professional and lay guardians. The Committee held a work session to discuss guardianship issues related to SB 5694 on November 22, 2013.

REFERENCES: [SB 5694 \(2013\);](#)
http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2013110083

STAFF CONTACT: Tim Ford

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7423

Senate Natural Resources & Parks Committee

2013 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Derelict vessels bill implementation & stakeholder process

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: In 2002 the Legislature established what has become known as the Derelict Vessel Removal Program (DVRP), which is administrated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Under the program certain state agencies and local governments, including DNR, have the authority to take custody and dispose of abandoned or derelict vessels on aquatic lands within their jurisdiction.

In 2013 the Legislature passed ESHB 1245 which made a number of changes to the DVRP which include making permanent a temporary \$1 surcharge on vessel registrations set to expire on January 1, 2014; authorizing a voluntary vessel turn-in program to accept high risk vessels; and requiring an owner obtain a vessel inspection prior to selling a vessel that is over 65 feet long and 40 years old. The bill also directed DNR to oversee a stakeholder process to evaluate and recommend additional options which relate to vessel owner responsibility and enhancing opportunities for deconstructing derelict vessels and transforming them into a viable scrap metal product.

Senate committee staff monitored the implementation of ESHB 1245; assisted in providing policy staff support for the stakeholder process established in the bill; and provided information, support, and drafting services to members as requested.

REFERENCES: [HB 1245 \(2013\)](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Curt Gavigan

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7437

Senate Trade & Economic Development Committee

2013 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Tax Appeal Process

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The American Bar Association adopted the Model State Administrative Tax Tribunal Act in 2006. The model legislation's purpose is to increase public confidence in the fairness of the state tax system by providing an independent agency with tax expertise to resolve disputes between government agencies collecting taxes and taxpayers. Core objectives of the Model Act include that prior to paying a tax in dispute every taxpayer can obtain a hearing of record, in a forum completely independent of the tax collector, before a judge that is a tax expert.

The Committee had a work session on the current tax appeal process in Washington, received a briefing about the Oregon Tax Court, and also heard a presentation regarding the Model State Administrative Tax Tribunal Act. Garland Allen, co-author of the Model Act, provided remarks regarding the Model Act and the strengths and weaknesses of Washington State's current system.

REFERENCES: http://twv.org/index.php?option=com_tvoplayer&eventID=2013111062

STAFF CONTACT: Jeff Olsen

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7428

TITLE: Tourism

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Tourism is a significant sector in Washington's economy, bringing in economic activity from both national and international visitors. Recently, the state of Washington closed the Tourism Office in the Department of Commerce. During the 2013 session, stakeholders briefed the committee on the current state of the tourism industry and provided short and long-term funding recommendations. The 2013-15 budget includes \$1 million for the Washington Tourism Alliance to continue tourism activities.

Staff worked with stakeholders to evaluate options for long-term funding of tourism promotion in Washington. A work session was held in November to update committee members on the progress made by the tourism industry and the challenges that currently exist to identify long-term funding.

REFERENCES: http://www.twv.org/index.php?option=com_tvoplayer&eventID=2013111062
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/CMD/Handler.ashx?MethodName=getdocumentcontent&documentId=MQGbVgQ5GEM&att=false>

STAFF CONTACT: Edward L. Redmond

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7471

Senate Transportation Committee

2013 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Transportation Project Cost Drivers Study

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Joint Transportation Committee convened an advisory panel that included legislators, WSDOT, and representatives from the business and labor communities to study state level policies and practices relating to the planning, design, permitting, and construction of transportation projects. The study identified a number of potential legislative actions that could increase efficiency and reduce cost in the WSDOT construction program in the areas of project design, sales and use tax, prevailing wage, environmental review and permitting, and project delivery methods. Additionally, the potential cost savings for each recommendation was evaluated for potential cost impact.

REFERENCES: [ESSB 5024 - SEC. 204 \(1\) \(2013\)](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JTC/Pages/default.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: Clint McCarthy **CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7319
Kim Johnson 786-7472

TITLE: Road Usage Charge Assessment

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Transportation Commission in conjunction with the Washington State Department of Transportation is in the process of developing a business case and preliminary policies to transition the state gas tax to a road user assessment system of paying for transportation. To date this effort has included reviewing relevant reports and data related to models of road user assessments and methods of transitioning to a road user assessment system; analyzing the research to identify issues for policy decisions in Washington; making recommendations for the design of system wide trials; developing a plan to assess public perspectives and educate the public on the current transportation funding system and options for a new system; and determining the feasibility of transitioning from the gas tax to a road user assessment system. The business case evaluation and budget estimate to continue evaluating a road user assessment system was made available to the Governor and the Legislature on January 7, 2014.

REFERENCES: [ESSB 5024 - SEC. 205 \(3\) \(2013\)](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/TRAN/Documents/2013/WARUCBusinessCaseEvaluation.pdf>
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/TRAN/Documents/2013/WARUCBusinessCaseEvaluationAppendices.pdf>

STAFF CONTACT: David Ward **CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7341
Amanda Cecil 786-7429

TITLE: Tacoma Narrows Bridge Internal Refinance Study

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Tacoma Narrows Bridge Internal Refinance Study workgroup developed a tool to forecast future tolls on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge based on current forecasts and how various refinance strategies such as loans and/or subsidies from the motor vehicle account would reduce or maintain toll rates. The study results provide legislators with a better understanding of how toll rates on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge will escalate in future years and how loans and/or subsidies might impact future toll rates.

REFERENCES: [ESSB 5024 - SEC. 204 \(4\) \(2013\)](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JTC/Pages/default.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: Clint McCarthy **CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7319

TITLE: Surplus Property Proceeds Review

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Committee staff participated in a workgroup with staff from the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC), the House Transportation Committee, and the Department of Transportation (DOT) to review the surplus property process at DOT and provided recommendations to the JTC for possible changes to the process. Committee staff presented a draft report to the JTC in December 2013. Recommendations included internal DOT process changes and also potential changes to statute.

REFERENCES: [ESSB 5024 - SEC. 204 \(5\) \(2013\)](#)
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JTC/Meetings/Documents/Agendas/2013%20Agendas/July24/SurplusPropertyReviewOutlineAPPROVED.pdf>
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JTC/Pages/CurrentStudies.aspx>

STAFF CONTACT: Hayley Gamble **CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7452

Senate Ways & Means Committee

2013 Summary of Select Interim Activities

TITLE: Legislative Advisory Committee to the Guaranteed Education (GET) Committee

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: The Legislative Advisory Committee is required by law to meet at least once annually to provide advice to the GET Committee and the State Actuary regarding administration of the GET program including, but not limited to, pricing guidelines, the tuition unit price, and the unit payout value. As per statutory requirement, the Legislative Advisory Committee met in November, 2013, but did not make any formal recommendations. The Legislative Advisory Committee is planning to meet again in January, 2014.

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

STAFF CONTACT: Maria Hovde

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7710

TITLE: 2014 Citizen's Guide to the Budget

DESCRIPTION/FINDING/OUTCOME: The Senate Ways & Means Committee and Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee will publish an updated version of the Citizen's Guide to the Budget for the 2014 legislative session. The guide is published on an annual basis for use by members, legislative staff, and the general public to answer basic questions about the Washington State biennial budget. It is anticipated that the guide will be published the second week of session and will be available with the committee, as well as online.

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

STAFF CONTACT: Kellee Keegan

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7715

TITLE: 2014 Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance

DESCRIPTION/FINDING/OUTCOME: The Ways & Means and Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee updated the Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance. This document serves as a resource for members, legislative staff, and the general public. The document focuses on frequently asked questions regarding K-12 finance.

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

STAFF CONTACT: Lorrell Noahr

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7708

TITLE: 2014 Legislative Guide to Washington State Property Taxes

DESCRIPTION/FINDING/OUTCOME: Committee staff is updating the Legislative Guide to Washington State Property Taxes to reflect recent changes. The guide serves as a resource for members, legislative staff, and the general public. It is anticipated that the guide will be

published the second week of session and will be available with the committee, as well as online.

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

STAFF CONTACT: Dean Carlson
Juliana Roe

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7305
786-7438

TITLE: 2013-15 Legislative Budget Notes

DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME: Legislative fiscal staff in the Senate and House worked together with the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee staff to publish the Legislative Budget Notes (LBN) in the fall of 2013. The LBN 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 general public to determine the legislative intent behind the hundreds of policy changes embedded in the three major documents.

REFERENCES: http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/index_lbns.asp

STAFF CONTACT: Ways & Means
Committee Staff

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7715

TITLE: 4 Year Budget Outlook

DESCRIPTION: Beginning with the 2013-2015 biennium, Chapter 8, Laws of 2012, First Special Session (SSB 6636) required that budgets at time of passage be projected to be balanced for current and following biennia based on a maintenance level projection. Each November, the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (ERFC) must submit a budget outlook document for state revenues and expenditures for the General Fund and related funds for the current biennium and the next ensuing biennium. The ERFC must also prepare a budget outlook document for the Governor's proposed budget and for the budget enacted by the Legislature. Legislative fiscal staff participated in the State Budget Outlook Workgroup to produce the required outlooks and will continue to participate in the development of subsequent outlooks.

REFERENCES: <http://www.ercf.wa.gov/forecast/budgetOutlook.shtml>

STAFF CONTACT: Richard Ramsey

CONTACT NUMBER: 786-7412

Additional Electronic Resources

[Senate Website](#)

[Senate Committee Services Website](#)

[2013 Bills Passed During the Regular and Second & Third Special Sessions](#)

[TVW Archives](#)