

SENATE COMMITTEE SERVICES

2009 Interim Work Plan and Meeting Schedule



Note: Meeting dates and times are revised as information becomes available at <http://www1.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/Default.htm>

September 1, 2009

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Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7411

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
10/02/09 10:00 am	Full Committee Work Session	Senate Hearing Room 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing on findings and recommendations by the Ruckelshaus Center and involved stakeholder groups pursuant to SSB 5248 (2007). 2. Update on guidelines for anaerobic digesters developed pursuant to SSB 5797 (2009).
December Legislative Assembly 12/03-04/09	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing by the Department of Ecology and the Stock-Water Work Group. 2. Other topics to be announced.

Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7420

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
10/01/09 3:30 pm	Full Committee Work Session	SHR 1	<p>Updates on the work required by legislation passed in the 2009 Legislative Session.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI): The Quality Education Council (ESHB 2261), Data Governance Group (ESHB 2261), Early Learning program recommendation (ESHB 2261), and Achievement Gap Oversight Group (2SSB 5973). 2. OSPI and the Department of Early Learning: Efforts of Superintendent Dorn and Director Hyde to fulfill the request of the Governor when she vetoed the early learning provision in ESHB 2261. 3. The Office of Financial Management on the development and phase-in of a prototypical Schools Funding Formula (ESHB 2261). 4. The State Board of Education on a performance accountability system (ESHB 2261). 5. The Professiona Educator Standards Board on revised teacher standards and certification (ESHB 2261).
Oct. or Nov.	Full Committee	Kirkland	<p>The Committees will visit one of the "shovel ready" projects funded in the 2009 capital budget. A new Allied Health facility will be constructed on the campus of the Lake Washington Technical College (LWTC) for co-location of programs and use by LWTC and the Northeast King County Skills Center (a seven school-district consortium: Bellevue, Issawual, Kale Washington, Mercer Island, Northshore, Riverview and Snoqualmie Valley). The facility will house several employer identified high-demand programs of Allied Health and provide access to career training programs at one location where students can move from high school level classes thru advanced training and on into an industry. The Committee will receive a briefing from LWTC and the school districts involved in the joint venture.</p>
Oct. or Nov.	Full Committee K-12 Technology school district visits	Lk. Washington & Northshore	<p>The Committee will visit the Lake Washington school district to see how teachers are using PDAs to administer formative and diagnostic reading assessments to students, how the technology provides immediate assessment results, and how the results support the use of that data to guide the differentiation of instruction to meet individual student needs.</p> <p>At the Northshore school district the committee will learn about the district's mobile labs that allow for one-to-one ratio of computers to students for instruction.</p>

Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7420

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
December Legislative Assembly 12/03-04/09	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		

Senate Economic Development, Trade & Innovation Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7409

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
10/01/09 3:30 pm	Full Committee Work Session	SHR 3	1. Department of Commerce: Progress report on recommendations to the legislature. 2. Council on Aerospace: Update. 3. Clean Energy Leadership Council/Evergreen jobs: Update.
December Legislative Assembly 12/03-04/09	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	1. Update on the state's broadband efforts. 2. TBA

Senate Environment, Water & Energy Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7406

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September 17-18, 2009	Full Committee	Neah Bay	Tour/Briefing on Neah Bay rescue tug.
	Tour/Briefing		
10/01/09 8:00 am	Full Committee	Olympia	Tour/Briefing of award winning energy efficient homes.
	Tour/Briefing		
10/02/09 8:00 am	Full Committee Work Session	Senate Hearing Room 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing on carbon capture and storage. 2. Update on TransAlta Centralia Generation (TransAlta Coal Fired Power Plant Facility). 3. Update on TransAlta permit negotiations. 4. Update on E-Waste program.
December Legislative Assembly 12/03-04/09	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
Other Meetings:			
TBA	Stock Water Working Group	TBA	Review issues surrounding the use of permit-exempt wells for stock-watering purposes.
TBA	Legislative Council on River Governance	Spokane	Four-state discussion on water issues relating to the Columbia River.

Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7408

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
10/02/09 8:30 am	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	Economic trends for 2010
December Legislative Assembly 12/03-04/09	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7432

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
08/21/09 TBA	Full Committee TBA	Renton	Tour of the King County Elections facility.
October Legislative Assembly 10/01-02/09	TBA	Olympia	Cancelled
December Legislative Assembly 12/03-04/09	TBA	Olympia	TBA
Other Meetings:			
TBA	Joint Selet Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs TBA	TBA	TBA
09/30/09 1:30 pm	Joint Select Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs Work Session	SHR 1	1. Review of and bill status on 2009 legislation. 2. Issue updates: a. Veterans' Legislative Coalition. b. Department of Veterans' Affairs. c. Governor's Advisory Committee on Veterans Affairs. d. Military Department. 3. Housing issues for Veterans and Military Personnel.
December Legislative Assembly 12/03-04/09	Joint Select Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs TBA	Olympia	TBA

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7456

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
07/23/09 10:00 am	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	Health Care Reform Discussion.
10/01/09 3:30 pm	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	National health care reform.
December Legislative Assembly 12/03-04/09	Full Committee TBA	Olympia	TBA

Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7415

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	Pipeline issues in Higher Education.
10/02/09 8:00 am	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	Review of institutional responses to 2009 - 2010 budget challenges.
December Legislative Assembly 12/03-04/09	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	The Higher Education Coordinating Board reports on system design and tuition.

Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7414

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
10/02/09 10:00 am	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report on reconfiguration of the Mental Health Division and the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse at the Department of Social and Health Services. 2. Report on the results of the Residential Time Summary report by the Administrative Office of the Courts. 3. Presentation on the housing issues as they affect persons involved in the child welfare and criminal justice systems.
December Legislative Assembly 12/03-04/09	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA
Other Meetings:			
September 2009	Joint Children's Legislative Oversight Committee Work Session	Olympia	Report by the Child Welfare Transformation Design Committee.
10/01/09 6:00 pm	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	First report by the Child Welfare Transformation Design Committee. (Created under Second Substitute Senate Bill 2106.)
December 2009	Joint Children's Legislative Oversight Committee Work Session	Olympia	Report by the Child Welfare Transformation Design Committee.

**Senate Judiciary Committee
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009**

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7455

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
10/02/09 8:00 am	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	1. Ban on assault weapons. 2. Wage theft. 3. Other possible topics to be announced.
December Legislative Assembly 12/03-04/09	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA

Senate Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7426

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
06/29/09	Joint with House Commerce & Labor	Olympia	1. Review of 2009 gambling legislation. 2. Review of regulation of card rooms. 3. Update on problem gambling services. 4. Update on federal internet gambling legislation.
10:00 AM	Work Session		
10/02/09	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
10:00 am	Work Session		
December Legislative Assembly 12/03-04/09	Full Committee	Olympia	
	Work Session		
Other Meetings:			
TBA	Joint Task Force on the Underground Economy	TBA	Three-four task force meetings to be scheduled throughout the interim.
	Work Session		

Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7419

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
09/17/09 All Day	Full Committee TBA	Eastern Olympic Peninsula	Eastern Olympic Peninsula Parks, Fish, and Wildlife Tour.
10/01/09 Afternoon	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA
December Legislative Assembly 12/03-04/09	Full Committee TBA	Olympia	TBA

Senate Transportation Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7300

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
10/01/09 1:30 pm	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	1. Federal stimulus update. 2. 2009 construction season update. 3. Ferry vessel construction update. 4. Department of Licensing licensing service office reorganization update.
December Legislative Assembly 12/03-04/09	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA
Other Meetings:			
3-5 Meetings	State Route 520 Workgroup	TBA	TBA
07/07/09 1:00 pm	Joint Transportation Committee	Seattle	TBA
07/30/09 1:00 pm	Joint Transportation Committee	Seattle	TBA
09/02/09 1:00 pm	Joint Transportation Committee	Seattle	TBA
10/02/09 TBA	Joint Transportation Committee	Olympia	TBA
11/10/09 1:00 pm	Joint Transportation Committee	Seattle	TBA
12/02/09 1:00 pm	Joint Transportation Committee	Olympia	TBA

Senate Ways & Means Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2009

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7715

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
10/01/09 1:30 am	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	Update on fiscal status of Washington State and local government.
December Legislative Assembly 12/3-4/09	Full Committee TBA	Olympia	TBA
Other Meetings:			
09/30/09 Afternoon	School Construction Funding, Jt. Task Force Work Session	Olympia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selection of Chair. 2. Confirmation of meeting agendas. 3. 2007-09 Joint Task Force on School Construction Funding. 4. 2009 Task Force: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Changing the state funding assistance ratio used in the school construction assistance grant program formula. b. Methods to accommodate specialized program space or unique building circumstances. c. Account for regional cost differences in the school construction assistance grant program formula.
09/30/09 2:30 PM	Pension Funding Council Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation and recommendations on long term economic assumptions by Matt Smith, State Actuary. 2. Public testimony.
10/27/09 Morning	School Construction Funding, Jt. Task Force Work Session	Olympia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changing the state funding assistance ratio used in the school construction assistance grant program formula. 2. Methods to accommodate specialized program space or unique building circumstances. 3. Account for regional cost differences in the school construction assistance grant program formula.
12/02/09 Afternoon	School Construction Funding, Jt. Task Force TBA	Olympia	TBA

Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Protecting the Viability of Agricultural Land and Critical Areas

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Bob Lee

Reference: SSB 5248 (2007)

Description: Legislation enacted in 2007 instructed the Ruckelshaus Center to hold meetings with stakeholder groups to develop recommendations on protecting the viability of agriculture while also protecting critical areas as required by the Growth Management Act. The 2007 legislation put on hold the scheduled update of county and city ordinances until July 1, 2010. During this time, the Center is to hold meetings to develop an approach to resolve the issues. The Center is required to issue a final report of findings and legislative recommendations to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by September 1, 2009.

Staff will monitor the meetings of stakeholders. The committee will schedule a briefing by the Ruckelshaus Center and involved stakeholder groups during the committee assembly on October 1st and 2nd.

Project: Animal Health and Identification Systems

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Sam Thompson

Reference: SB 5956, HB 2086 (2009)

Description: The National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is an animal health surveillance program administered by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) in cooperation with some state governments, Native American tribes, and private entities. Employing databases and tracking devices, NAIS is intended to enable officials to quickly trace and locate livestock and other animals potentially exposed to communicable disease. Federal law does not mandate participation in NAIS. Nonetheless, some states have required producers to participate in some components of the program. Other states, responding to varied concerns raised by NAIS opponents, have enacted legislation prohibiting state agencies from mandating producer participation. Proposed 2009 Washington legislation sought to prohibit state officials from mandating or coercing participation in NAIS or a state animal identification system. Testimony raised questions about potential impacts on long-standing animal health programs. Acknowledging opposition to NAIS, USDA has conducted hearings throughout the nation regarding the program and may consider changes. Staff will monitor federal and state developments concerning NAIS and provide analysis to members.

Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Other Projects:

Project: **Stock Water Work Group**

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Bob Lee

Reference: ESHB 1244 (2009)

Description: The decline since 1945 in the number of hogs, sheep, and dairy cows, has generated concern from the agricultural businesses in Washington State. The number of farms that produce livestock products for sale has also decreased over this same period of time.

In 1945 the state population was 2.0 million; the state population is projected to increase from the current 6.7 million to 8.5 million in 2030 and 10.7 million in 2050. In light of the downward trend in livestock numbers, concerns have been expressed about the adequacy of water for production of milk, eggs, meat, and other livestock products to satisfy the needs of a growing urban population.

A proviso was included in the operating budget for the creation of a multi-interest stock-water work group to be convened by the Department of Ecology. Staff will support Senate members of the committee appointed to the work group and will monitor work group meetings.

The committee will schedule a briefing by the Department of Ecology and involved interest groups at the December Legislative Assembly.

Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Program for Highly Capable Students

Completion Date: December 1, 2009

Staff: Susan Mielke

Reference: ESHB 2261 (2009)

Description: The Governor vetoed section 708 of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2261, which provided a funding safety net for the highly capable program, which in accordance with the legislation will become part of the definition of basic education by 2018. The veto message provides, among other things, that there is work to be done to establish standards, guidelines, and definitions for what constitutes a highly capable program and what the funding level should be for such a program. The committee staff will summarize the current Washington state definition, standards, rules, and funding amounts and sources for the public school program for highly capable students, including examples of different state and district programs. Additionally, the staff will review programs for highly capable students in other states and provide, in an easy to read format, a summary of the different definitions, standards, policies/guidelines, rules, funding sources and funding amounts for the programs. Lastly, staff will summarize any judicial review of program requirements, including eligibility, if available.

Project: Quick Reference Guide to Washington State K-12 Agencies, Associations, and Organizations

Completion Date: December 1, 2009

Staff: Juliana Roe

Description: Education has a plethora of agencies, associations, and organizations, all of which have coordinating acronyms. The committee staff will compile a list of the major agencies, associations, and organizations, their contact information, and a general description of what each does and how each is funded in one document so as to provide legislators and staff a quick reference guide from which to work.

Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Other Projects:

Project: **Legislative Workgroups, Task Forces, and Councils**

Completion Date: January 2, 2010

Staff: Kim Cushing/Susan Mielke/Juliana
Roe

Reference: ESHB 2261 (2009), SHB 1347 (2009), 2SSB 5973 (2009), 2SHB 2722 (2008), ESHB 2687 (2008)

Description: In 2009, the Legislature established four new legislative working groups. The Quality Education Council, which includes legislative members, was established to recommend and inform the ongoing implementation by the Legislature of an evolving program of basic education and financing, including development of a 10-year strategic plan. The Legislature replaced the Financial Literacy Public-Private Partnership with the Financial Education Public-Private Partnership, which includes legislative members, to seek out and determine the best methods of equipping students with the knowledge and skills they need to make decisions regarding their personal finances. The Legislature adopted the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children, which includes a commitment to maintain a State Council, with members from the legislative and executive branches, to coordinate the state's participation in, and compliance with, the Compact. The Legislature formed an Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee, with legislative members, to synthesize the findings and recommendations from the 2008 achievement gap studies into an implementation plan, and to recommend policies and strategies to close the achievement gap.

These efforts are in addition to the legislative workgroups and councils, created in previous sessions with on-going tasks addressing education issues: the dropout prevention, intervention, and retrieval state-level workgroup; and the Early Learning Advisory Council.

Committee staff will provide research and support to the legislators serving on the legislative groups and draft legislation as necessary.

Senate Economic Development, Trade & Innovation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Economic Development Planning and Performance at the Local Level

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Jack Brummel

Reference: SHB 1323 (2009), SHB 1825 (2009)

Description: In planning under the Growth Management Act, counties must establish policies for countywide economic development and employment, including consideration of the future development of commercial and industrial facilities. All counties designate an Associate Development Organization (ADO) for their county. All ADOs are to participate in the development of a countywide economic development plan, consistent with the state comprehensive plan for economic development produced by the Washington State Economic Development Commission. Regional planning efforts by ADOs are to include coordination with Workforce Development Councils and address assistance to industry clusters in the region. The Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development is to work with ADOs to develop performance measures. Committee staff will work with the department, counties, and ADOs to develop information on which counties have adopted economic development plans, whether ADOs are meeting their planning obligations, and whether ADO performance measures are consistent with statutory requirements. Legislation will be drafted as appropriate.

Project: Entrepreneurial and Innovation Programs

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Jack Brummel

Reference: SSB 5879 (2009), SB 5900 (2009)

Description: Competitive advantage increasingly is based on innovation and the generation of new businesses. Entrepreneurial activity is more important to state economic wellbeing than it was even a decade ago. Although only one in twenty entrepreneurial firms are high growth in terms of adding jobs, firms that survive the first few years create jobs and also often create innovative goods, services, and processes. Committee staff will identify entrepreneurial and innovation programs operating in the state, review how they are performing, and assess whether there is a state role for further development of such programs. Legislation will be drafted as appropriate.

Project: International Relations Subcommittee

Completion Date: October 2009

Staff: Jack Brummel

Description: During the 2009 Legislative session, the International Relations Subcommittee of the Economic Development, Trade, and Innovation Committee held a series of meetings regarding trade and international issues in Washington. Committee staff will develop a report with findings and recommendations drawn from the presentations. Legislation will be drafted as appropriate.

Senate Environment, Water & Energy Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Stock Water Working Group

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Karen Epps

Reference: E2SHB 1244 (2009)

Description: Committee staff will monitor meetings of various stakeholders studying the use of permit-exempt wells for stock-watering purposes. The Department of Ecology (DOE) must convene a stock water working group that includes Legislators, agricultural interests, environmental interests, and a representative from the attorney general's office, the DOE, and the Department of Agriculture. Additionally, affected federally recognized tribes are invited to send participants. The group must review issues surrounding the use of permit-exempt wells for stock-watering purposes and may develop recommendations for legislative action. The working group must report its activities and recommendations to the Governor and the appropriate legislative committees by December 1, 2009. Committee staff will provide assistance as necessary and draft legislation as directed.

Project: Reclaimed Water and Impairment

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Karen Epps

Reference: SSB 5504 (2009), E2SSB 6117 (2007), ESHB 2884 (2006)

Description: In 2006, the Legislature required the Department of Ecology (DOE) to adopt rules for reclaimed water use, in coordination with Department of Health, and in consultation with the Rules Advisory Committee (RAC). In 2009, the Legislature passed Substitute Senate Bill 5504 that requires the DOE to review comments from the RAC and Reclaimed Water and Water Rights Advisory Committee and submit a recommendation to the Legislature on the impairment requirements and the standards for reclaimed water, as well as the positions of the stakeholders on those issues. Committee staff will monitor the RAC and the Reclaimed Water and Water Rights Advisory Committee and provide an update to the Legislature.

Project: Storm Water Regulation

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Karen Epps/Jan Odano

Description: A combination of federal, state, and local laws govern storm water management in Washington. The federal Clean Water Act establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program to regulate wastewater discharges from point sources to surface waters. The Department of Ecology administers a state program regulating discharges from certain commercial, industrial, or municipal operations to ground or to publicly-owned treatment plants. Local governments have responsibility under federal and state law to manage storm water and authority under state law to construct and operate storm water management systems. Committee staff will review federal statutes, state statutes, local regulations, other states' statutes, and case law, and provide a summary of the statutes and issues.

Senate Environment, Water & Energy Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Renewable Energy Credits

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: William Bridges

Description: Approximately 25 states have renewable portfolio standards (RPS), which generally require electric utilities to supply a specified percentage of their power from renewable energy sources. Utilities may satisfy their RPS requirements by purchasing renewable energy credits or RECs. Under Washington's I-937, a REC is a tradable certificate of proof of at least one megawatt hour of an eligible renewable where the generation facility is not powered by fresh water. Staff will prepare a primer explaining how RECs work under I-937, including an explanation of any possible legal issues surrounding them.

Project: Climate Change Preparation and Adaptation Actions

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Jan Odano

Reference: E2SSB 5560 (2009)

Description: Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5560 requires the Department of Ecology and other agencies to develop an integrated climate change response strategy. Committee staff will monitor the development of the strategy by the agencies. In addition, staff will research and review efforts by other states and countries that have adopted climate change adaptation and preparation actions. Staff will provide a summary of relevant actions and progress on the implementation of these activities.

Project: Product Stewardship Monitoring and Research

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Sam Thompson

Reference: SSB 5543, ESSB 6428 (2006)

Description: Product stewardship, a concept requiring manufacturers to plan for and possibly finance recycling or disposal of their products at the end of their useful lives, has been proposed as a means to reduce environmental impacts of discarded products. Advocates seek to promote manufacturing of products designed to use fewer harmful substances, to be more durable, reusable and recyclable, and to be made from recycled materials. In 2006, Washington enacted legislation requiring computer and television manufacturers to finance and implement a system for collecting, transporting, and recycling their discarded products. Similar legislation has been proposed for other products, including items containing mercury, pharmaceutical items, carpeting, paint, and batteries. A "framework" system that could generally apply to many products has also been proposed. Staff will monitor work by advocacy groups and others regarding these evolving proposals and conduct research concerning pertinent enactments in other jurisdictions.

Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Inspection of Rental Properties

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Alison Mendiola, Diane Smith

Reference: SSB 5495 (2009)

Description: A program of inspection of rental property by the City of Pasco was upheld by a judicial decision in 2007. In 2009, legislation proposed to limit this decision by amending the Residential Landlord Tenant Act to prohibit a local government from requiring a landlord to pay for the inspection of the landlord's rental property with reference to local building codes. Other jurisdictions are considering programs similar to Pasco's. Testimony during session did not bring clarity to the issues raised by the legislation.

Committee staff will determine the facts underlying the issues and explore the issues that include the following: what does the Pasco inspection program entail; what programs are other jurisdictions proposing; what public policies are involved; what are the positions of the interest groups; and what policy choices appear to be available that could arguably be defended under the recent judicial decision. If directed by members, legislation will be prepared for the 2010 session.

Project: Taxation of Credit Unions and Banks in Washington

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Diane Smith, Harjeet Gill

Reference: ESHB 1669 (2009); SB 5579 (2009); RCW 39.58.010(2)

Description: One element of the statutory definition of a public depository in RCW 39.58.010(2) requires that the financial institution not claim exemption from payment of sales tax. This requirement prevents credit unions from meeting the definition of public depositories. Legislation in the 2009 session proposed removal of this distinction. Part of the debate concerning legislation enacted in 2009 that amended the same statute concerned the same issue: whether credit unions may qualify as public depositories. The factual basis for decision-making was blurred by conflicting testimony.

Committee staff will research and report on the tax status of credit unions and banks in the state of Washington as well as in comparison to that of other states in the context of public depositories. If directed by members, legislation will be prepared for the 2010 session.

Project: Usage-Based Automobile Insurance

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Diane Smith

Reference: SSB 5708 (2009)

Description: Usage-based automobile insurance is a relatively new product. It raises many issues including personal privacy; public disclosure; voluntary, incentive-driven reduction of pollutants and carbon emissions; operational disincentives for commuting and consequent home-location decision-making; affordability of insurance; actuarial validity in comparison to credit scoring; and competition among insurers.

Committee staff will explore these issues and draft legislation as directed.

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Agricultural Structures

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff: Karen Epps

Reference: SB 5120 (2009)

Description: Permit and inspection fees for new agricultural structures should not exceed the direct and indirect costs associated with reviewing permit applications, conducting inspections, and preparing specific environmental documents. The State Auditor must conduct a performance audit of the reasonableness of building and inspection fees in eight counties. In conducting the audit, the State Auditor must establish and consult with a county government advisory committee consisting of members of local governments and other interested parties as determined by the State Auditor. The State Auditor must report to the appropriate legislative committees by December 31, 2009. Staff will monitor the progress of the audit, review the report, and draft legislation as requested by members.

Project: Boards and Commissions

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff: Sharon Swanson

Reference: ESB 5995 (2009)

Description: Engrossed Senate Bill 5995 requires the Legislature to identify criteria to evaluate advisory boards, committees, and commissions that may be eliminated or consolidated and for agencies to identify new, less costly, and more effective opportunities to ensure a broad range of citizen participation is provided. Additionally, the legislation requires that all reasonable efforts be made to ensure that channels are maintained for vital input from the citizens of Washington.

Project: Creating the Office of the Citizen Advocate

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Alison Mendiola

Reference: SB 5456 (2009)

Description: Staff will work with the prime sponsor to address concerns raised during the 2009 Legislative session. Specifically, staff will work to address concerns about the costs associated with creating an Office of Citizen Advocate and concerns about how best to consolidate existing ombudsman programs.

Project: Department of Information Services

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Karen Epps

Description: Washington agencies contract with individuals and companies outside of state government to provide certain goods and services, including information services. The state's purchasing authority is generally organized into categories based on the type of service. The Department of Information Services (DIS) is the lead agency for the purchase of information services, including data processing, telecommunications, office automation, and computerized information systems. DIS was formed through the consolidation of the state's four independent data processing and communications systems in 1987. The legislative intent in creating DIS was to make government information and services more available, accessible, and affordable. Committee staff will look at spending on current information services and see if any additional savings can be accomplished.

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Internet Voting

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Alison Mendiola

Reference: SB 5522 (2009)

Description: Committee staff will work with the prime sponsor to address concerns about the security of internet voting, the cost to implement a system, and oversight of internet voting.

Project: Public Records Request

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff: Sharon Swanson

Reference: SB 5249 (2009), SB 5250 (2009)

Description: Committee staff will work with stakeholders to find a balance between the need to keep public records affordable but ensure unpaid balances do not accrue indefinitely. An additional concern that will be addressed is to facilitate communication between the public and state agencies regarding the scope of a request to avoid excessive copies and costs.

Project: Sunshine Committee

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Alison Mendiola

Reference: SSB 5435 (2007)

Description: In 2007, the Legislature created the Public Records Exemption Accountability Committee known as the Sunshine Committee (Committee), to review all public records exemptions and make annual recommendations to the Legislature whether to maintain the exemption, modify the exemption, schedule it for sunset review at some later time, or terminate the exemption. Staff will continue to attend the quarterly meetings of the Committee and provide summaries to legislative members. Additionally, staff will draft any resulting legislation for the 2010 session.

Project: Top Two Primary

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff: Sharon Swanson

Reference: SB 5681 (2009)

Description: Committee staff will work with the prime sponsor and interested parties to clean up the relevant statutes to reflect the top-two primary system and remove references to pick-a-party. Additional changes are necessary to address inconsistencies and omissions in current statutes.

Other Projects:

Project: Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs

Completion Date: Permanent Committee

Staff: Sharon Swanson

Reference: RCW 73.04.150

Description: The Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs is a 16-member committee empowered to study and make recommendations to the Legislature on veterans' issues, active military forces issues, and national guard and reserve component issues. During the 2009 interim, the JCVMA will appoint co-chairs and determine the date, location, and agenda for public hearings.

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Health Care Reform

Completion Date: January 1, 2010

Staff: All Health Staff

Description: Currently Congress is debating legislation that seeks to change health care delivery nationally. The Senate Health and Long-Term Care Committee will convene meetings to discuss the evolving federal health care legislation and its potential impacts on the state's current public and private health care delivery system. Invited stakeholders will discuss major elements of the legislation including private and public insurance options, costs and quality proposals, administrative changes, informational technology, payment reforms, workforce demands, and other major elements under review. Staff will organize stakeholder discussions, provide briefings, and develop policy options in response to federal changes.

Project: Health Professional Workforce Review

Completion Date: January 1, 2010

Staff: Edith Rice/Dorine Coleman

Description: Staff will review health professional shortages from two perspectives- overall shortages of specific health care professions and geographic shortages in "underserved areas." Staff will review education, recruitment, and retention barriers to maintaining an adequate supply of health professionals. Staff will also review the state's reciprocity policies, both for out of state and foreign licensees.

Project: School Health

Completion Date: January 1, 2010

Staff: Rhoda Donkin

Description: The Comprehensive School Health Taskforce completed two years of work in 2008 with 25 recommendations for improving the health of kids in schools. Staff will follow-up on proposals to remove barriers restricting school health centers from billing for services. Staff will also review progress on nutrition standards in schools.

Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Monitor the Higher Education Coordinating Board

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) is working on implementing the statewide strategic master plan for higher education. Included are studies regarding tuition setting and higher education system design recommendations to establish growth parameters for Washington's higher education institutions during the next decade and beyond. The HECB system design study will help the state determine how to meet student and employer demand in the most strategic manner possible. New guidelines to determine when and where to locate new campuses and higher education centers are needed, along with recommendations for any new investments in eLearning that could help expand access to higher education. Staff will closely monitor these efforts.

Project: Monitor the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: Staff will monitor the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges' efforts to implement legislation passed during the 2009 Legislative Session.

Project: Monitor the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: Staff will monitor the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board's efforts to implement legislation passed during the 2009 Legislative Session.

Project: Shared Governance

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: Four-year college faculty have been asking the Legislature to expand their governing boards to include a faculty representative for a number of years. Legislators have requested more information regarding the present roles of faculty in governance, whether other states have considered this, and if so, the success and challenges of doing so. Staff will consult Washington faculty who are advocating for the legislation, contact resources in other states with experience with faculty on governing boards, and summarize the literature on the matter to produce a summary of the issue for use by legislators in their decision-making.

Project: Tuition Philosophy

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: Some states have formal tuition philosophies and policies articulated in their state constitutions or codes, but Washington does not. During the last legislative session, questions were raised regarding whether those philosophies and policies actually affected college tuition in those states. Senate staff will study formal and informal tuition policies in other states focusing on the relationships between the policy/philosophy, tuition and fees, financial aid, state support, and enrollments for each of the states. Staff will contact each of the state sources for information and consult relevant in-state parties as appropriate.

Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Child Welfare Design Transformation Committee

Completion Date: Ongoing Staff: Jennifer Strus

Reference: 2SHB 2106 (2009)

Description: Second Substitute House Bill 2106 created the Child Welfare Transformation Design Committee to plan for the implementation of performance based contracts in two demonstration sites, one in eastern Washington and one in western Washington. In these two sites the provision of child welfare services will be provided by agencies with whom DSHS has performance based contracts. The demonstration sites must be ready to go no later than July 1, 2012.

Staff will provide assistance to the Committee and monitor its work.

Project: Comprehensive Technical Re-write of Chapter 13.34 RCW

Completion Date: December 2009 Staff: Jennifer Strus

Description: The dependency statutes have been amended over the years in a generally unplanned fashion resulting in statutory sections that are overly long and difficult to understand. The purpose of the re-write is to restructure chapter 13.34 so that the statutes are easier to read and particular items easier to find.

Project: Homelessness Workgroup

Completion Date: December 2009 Staff: Shani Bauer

Reference: SSB 5219 (2009) (focus of the workgroup is narrower than the bill)

Description: Several members of the Committee will convene a small workgroup to review homelessness issues related to individuals with criminal backgrounds or mental health issues. Possible focuses for the group include an inventory of current programs for these populations as well as how to incentivize landlords to provide housing to at risk individuals.

Project: Study of the Feasibility of Closing State Institutional Facilities

Completion Date: November 1, 2009 Staff: Shani Bauer/Jennifer Strus

Reference: SHB 1244 (2009)

Description: Substitute House Bill 1244, the operating budget, directs the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to study the feasibility of closing state institutional facilities, including facilities operated by the Department of Corrections (DOC), and facilities operated by the DSHS Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) (Green Hill school and Maple Lane school). OFM is to hire a consultant to assist them with this study. OFM is to report to the Governor and the Legislature with a recommendation and plan to eliminate 1580 beds in DOC and 235 beds in JRA by November 1, 2009.

Staff will monitor the study and recommendations.

Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Suspension of Medicaid Benefits for Inmates of Jails, Prisons & Mental Hospitals

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Kevin Black

Reference: SSB 6024 (2009)

Description: Last interim, DSHS developed a five-year plan to institute suspension of Medicaid benefits for inmates of jails, prisons, and mental hospitals and to enhance the expedited eligibility determination program for the same population. Substitute Senate Bill 6024 was passed in furtherance of this plan.

Staff will monitor the further development and implementation of the DSHS plan.

Project: Vulnerable Adults

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Kevin Black

Reference: SSB 5639 (2009)

Description: Substitute Senate Bill 5639 created new criminal sanctions, sentencing enhancements, reporting requirements, training and a public database of abuse findings. The bill did not pass but contains several items of interest to the legislature.

Staff will work with stakeholders on refining the legislation for the 2010 session.

Senate Judiciary Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Drug Overdose Bill Workgroup

Completion Date: November 2009

Staff: Juliana Roe

Reference: SB 5516 (2009)

Description: SB 5516 would provide some protection from prosecution for people who believe they are witnessing a drug-related overdose and seek medical attention for that person. Some specific concerns were raised during the 2009 legislative session and staff will arrange meetings to discuss these concerns and possibly develop new legislation.

Project: False Claims Act

Completion Date: November 2009

Staff: Lidia Mori

Reference: SB 5144 (2009)

Description: State and local governments make numerous payments to individuals and businesses in connection with governmental contracts, programs, and services. False claims for payment may go undiscovered and a private citizen is not able to initiate an action, on behalf of an injured state governmental entity, against another party submitting a false claim for payment. Senate Bill 5144 allows a private party to initiate an action on the governmental entity's behalf. Staff will look into the concerns voiced with regard to Senate Bill 5144 and draft new legislation as directed.

Project: Marijuana Reclassification Workgroup

Completion Date: November 2009

Staff: Juliana Roe

Reference: SB 5615 (2009)

Description: Under current law, any person found guilty of possession of 40 grams or less of marijuana is guilty of a misdemeanor which is punishable by not more than 90 days in jail or by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by both imprisonment and fine. Senate Bill 5615 was introduced last session which would make possession of 40 grams or less of marijuana or paraphernalia by person over 18 years of age a class 2 civil infraction and impose a \$100 penalty. Based on the fiscal note, this change could result in a savings upwards of thirteen million dollars. Staff will meet with stakeholders and produce new legislation as directed.

Project: Online Agreements

Completion Date: November 2009

Staff: Kim Johnson

Description: Research the current status of the law pertaining to "online agreements." Concern has been voiced regarding the fact that people enter in to them by clicking on the "yes, I read the terms and agree" and then the entity changes the terms without providing notice and a chance to withdraw from the agreement. Draft legislation as directed.

Senate Judiciary Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Professional Counselors

Completion Date: November 2009

Staff: Kim Johnson

Description: Rules governing confidentiality and testimonial privilege vary widely for mental health counselors, attorneys, and other professionals. Staff will arrange and monitor meetings pertaining to this topic and facilitate development of consistent and complimentary rules to govern confidentiality and testimonial privilege for the entities specified.

Project: Public Hazards

Completion Date: November 2009

Staff: Lidia Mori

Reference: SB 5886 (2009)

Description: A "public hazard" is defined as a condition of a product that has caused, or can be reasonably expected to cause, death or serious bodily harm, or other serious harm to a person unaware of the condition. Sometimes, during the course of litigation involving a public hazard, confidentiality provisions are included in court orders or settlement contracts. Confidentiality provisions limit the possession or disclosure of information about an alleged hazard to the public. SB 5886 would have established new procedures governing when confidentiality provisions may be entered or enforced. Some people believe current law is adequate. Staff will meet with stakeholders and research the concerns regarding Senate Bill 5886. New legislation will be drafted as directed.

Project: Relating to Delayed Sentencing

Completion Date: November 2009

Staff: Lidia Mori

Reference: SB 6067 (2009)

Description: Current law requires the court to impose a sentence within 40 days following a defendant's conviction, unless either party makes a showing of good cause or the court on its own motion extends the time period for conducting the sentencing hearing. SB 6067 would create a delayed sentencing option. The court, upon entry of a guilty plea, must continue the sentencing hearing for a period up to one year and order presentence release conditions if it determines the delayed sentencing option is appropriate. Staff will work on this proposal to address the concerns of Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and Washington Association of Sheriff's and Police Chiefs.

Project: Rules of Statutory Construction

Completion Date: November 2009

Staff: Juliana Roe

Description: SB 5152 sought to create a legislative task force to review issues relating to the potential codification of rules of statutory construction. The rules of statutory construction are a set of principles or guidelines that courts use when construing the meaning of statutes to particular facts in a case. Staff will assemble stakeholders for meetings and monitor discussions regarding which rules currently exist and identify those that should be codified.

Senate Judiciary Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation

Completion Date: November 2009

Staff: Lidia Mori

Description: The technique of suing people into silence has given rise to the acronym "SLAPP" suits or strategic lawsuits against public participation. Such lawsuits are intended to intimidate and silence critics by burdening them with the cost of a legal defense until they abandon their criticism or opposition. Staff will research how frequently such lawsuits are filed in Washington and what the outcome of such litigation has been. Legislation will be drafted as directed.

Senate Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Consumer Protection Issues

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Ingrid Mungia

Reference: SB 5283, SB 5860, SB 5860 (2009)

Description: Senate Bills 5283, 5860 and 5860 were introduced during the 2009 legislative session, all addressing consumer protection issues with wireless communications devices. The committee will examine consumer protection issues related to the regulation of wireless communications devices, including federal preemption, regulation in other states, and relevant judicial opinions.

Project: Human Trafficking Workgroup

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Kathy Buchli/Ingrid Mungia

Reference: E2SSB 5850 (2009)

Description: Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5850 requires labor recruitment agencies and domestic employers of foreign workers to provide a disclosure statement to foreign workers, not including those persons who hold an H-1B visa, who have been referred to or hired by a Washington employer. The legislation also authorized penalties for failure to provide the required statements, however, the penalty provisions were vetoed. The committee will convene a workgroup to examine exemptions for various industries and appropriate penalties for violating the legislation.

Project: Retrospective Rating Program

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Mac Nicholson

Description: In the 2007-2009 operating budget, the Legislature appropriated \$600,000 for a study of the retrospective rating plan, including an analysis of how risks are pooled, the effect on including worker premium contributions in adjustment calculations, incentives for accident and illness prevention, return-to-work practices, and other sound risk-management strategies that are consistent with recognized insurance principles. The study will also include recommendations for improvement to the retro program. During the 2009 session, the Labor, Commerce and Consumer Protection considered legislation that would make changes to the retrospective rating plan, and testimony at the hearing suggested the committee wait until the study was completed before pursuing changes to the program.

The committee will monitor the on-going study and review recommendations made by the workgroup.

Senate Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: **Workforce Training for Dislocated Workers**

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Mac Nicholson

Reference: ESHB 1906, E2SSB 5809 (2009)

Description: During the 2009 session, the Legislature passed two bills expanding training benefits for dislocated workers. Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1906 expanded training benefit program eligibility to include low-wage workers, military and National Guard personnel, and persons who are disabled. The legislation also requires a report to the Legislature by December 2009 and each year thereafter.

Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5809 created an incentive program for education and training of individuals enrolled in training for high-demand and certain other occupations. The legislation requires the Employment Security Department to periodically bring together representatives of agencies, workforce development councils, business, labor, and the Legislature to review development and implementation of the program.

The committee will monitor implementation of the legislation during the 2009 interim.

Other Projects:

Project: **Underground Economy Task Force**

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Kathy Buchli /Mac Nicholson

Reference: SHB 1555 (2009)

Description: The Joint Task Force on the Underground Economy, originally scheduled to expire on July 1, 2009, is extended to December 15, 2009, and the scope is extended beyond construction. In conducting its 2009 study, the task force may consider issues previously discussed by the task force and whether these issues need to be addressed in non-construction industries, the role of local governments in monitoring the underground economy, and the need to establish additional measures and benchmarks.

Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Land Preservation Mechanisms

Completion Date: January 1, 2010

Staff: Sherry McNamara

Reference: SHB 1957 (2009)

Description: Multiple state natural resource agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) have programs that deal with land acquisition and preservation. Substitute House Bill 1957 requires the RCO to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using various land preservation mechanisms, such as fee simple acquisitions, conservation easements, term conservation easements, and leases. Committee staff will monitor and review the development and recommendations of the RCO's evaluation.

Project: Natural Resource Agency and Program Organization

Completion Date: January 1, 2010

Staff: Curt Gavigan

Reference: SHB 1244 (2009)

Description: The Legislature has provided certain natural resource related authorities to multiple state agencies, including the Departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, and Ecology, the State Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Recreation and Conservation Office. These agencies each manage a variety of programs and consist of varying organizational structures. The 2009-2011 Omnibus Operating Budget directs the Governor to convene an interagency work group to identify consolidation opportunities within the natural resource agencies to improve service delivery and reduce costs. Committee staff will review the state's natural resource agency organizational structures, conduct research on the structures of natural resources agencies in other states, and monitor and review the development and recommendations of the work group.

Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: 2010 Citizen's Guide to the Transportation Budget

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Natalie Zukowski

Description: The Senate Transportation Committee and the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program staff publish a Citizen's Guide to the Transportation Budget. Members, legislative staff, and the general public use the guide to answer basic questions about the Washington State transportation budget. The guide is published on an annual basis because of changes in supplemental budget sessions. The guide will be updated before the 2010 Legislative Session.

Project: Aviation Planning Council

Completion Date: July 1, 2009

Staff: Amanda Cecil

Reference: ESSB 5352, Section 214 (2009)

Description: The 2009 transportation budget continued funding for the Department of Transportation (DOT) to support the work of the Aviation Planning Council. The Council was authorized in 2005 pursuant to legislation requiring a phased in long-term study of the State's aviation needs, both general aviation and commercial aviation. The final stage of the study includes the convening of a Governor appointed Aviation Planning Council, tasked with the following duties: (1) review DOT's statewide facilities & market analysis studies, (2) make recommendations regarding how to meet statewide aviation needs, and (3) make recommendations regarding where to place future commercial & general aviation airport facilities. Committee staff will monitor the work of the Council and assist with drafting legislation as directed.

Project: Credit Card Study

Completion Date: January 2010

Staff: Natalie Zukowski

Reference: ESSB 5352, Section 108 (2009)

Description: The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) will conduct a study of the cost of credit card payment options at the Department of Transportation. The study will analyze the cost per transaction using credit cards versus other methods of payment and cost savings or other potential benefits regarding the use of credit cards. JLARC will also review other state agencies and research other states' best practices regarding the use of credit card payment options. JLARC will report to the Legislature by January 2010. Committee staff will monitor and review the credit card study.

Project: Ferry Reservation System

Completion Date: November 1, 2009

Staff: Janice Baumgardt

Reference: ESSB 5352, Section 309(10) (2009)

Description: Among the projects appropriated in the 2009-11 biennium, the Department of Transportation is directed to develop a ferry reservation system after completing a pre-design study, presenting the study to the Joint Transportation Committee, and receiving legislative approval during the 2010 legislative session. Legislative staff will monitor the research and review the development of the pre-design study.

Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: I-90 Valuation Methodologies & Valuation Agreement

Completion Date: December 1, 2009

Staff: Hayley Gamble/Amanda Cecil

Reference: ESSB 5352, Sections 204(3) & 306(17) (2009)

Description: The Department of Transportation (DOT) and Sound Transit are directed to provide an independent analysis of methodologies to value the reversible lanes on Interstate 90. Report recommendations are due to the Joint Transportation Committee, Sound Transit and the Governor by November 1, 2009. Upon completion of the methodologies analysis the DOT and Sound Transit are directed to complete the valuation process no later than December 1, 2009. Committee staff will monitor, review and report on the progress of this process.

Project: Licensing Service Offices

Completion Date: On-going

Staff: Janice Baumgardt

Reference: ESSB 5352, Section 210 (2009)

Description: The Department of Licensing (DOL) was given authority to consolidate licensing service offices (LSOs) by closing up to twenty-five LSOs. Additionally, DOL was directed to make process change recommendations for increased efficiency and directed to develop various performance measurements. Committee staff will cooperate with DOL to receive updates on the consolidation efforts, process change recommendations, and the development of performance measurements.

Project: Project Delivery Oversight

Completion Date: On-going

Staff: Hayley Gamble/Janice
Baumgardt/Dory Nicpon/Natalie
Zukowski

Reference: ESSB 5352, Sections 305 through 310 (2009)

Description: The 2003 Nickel funding package and the 2005 Transportation Partnership funding package both established project specific lists for the expenditure of the new funds. The Department of Transportation is instructed to provide quarterly project reviews to the Legislature providing the status on each project in the project lists. Committee staff will monitor project implementation.

Project: Project Delivery Oversight

Completion Date: On-going

Staff: Dory Nicpon

Reference: ESSB 5352, Section 301 (2009)

Description: Funds were appropriated to the Washington State Patrol (WSP) for certain capital projects. Committee staff will cooperate with WSP to receive construction progress updates, and will monitor project implementation.

Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Regional Mobility Grants

Completion Date: On-going

Staff: Amanda Cecil

Reference: ESSB 5352, Section 222 (2009)

Description: The 2009 transportation budget provided funding for the Regional Mobility Grant program. Committee staff will monitor the program and work with staff from the Department of Transportation to analyze if a longer planning period is needed for capital projects. Staff will assist with drafting legislation as directed.

Project: Statewide Transportation Plan Update

Completion Date: December 1, 2010

Staff: Natalie Zukowski

Reference: ESSB 5352, Section 205 (2009)

Description: The Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) is required by statute to update a comprehensive and balanced statewide transportation plan. The plan must be consistent with the state's growth management goals and be based upon transportation policy goals adopted by the Legislature. The plan is required to reflect the priorities of government and address local, regional and statewide needs, including multimodal transportation planning. WSTC will report to the Legislature by December 1, 2010. Committee staff will monitor and review the statewide transportation plan update.

Project: Tax Preferences Work Group

Completion Date: On-going

Staff: David Ward/Amanda Cecil

Reference: EHB 1069 (2006)

Description: In support of the Citizen Commission for Performance Measurement of Tax Preferences, committee staff will participate in the review of certain transportation-related tax preferences and refunds to help identify and determine those that are a critical part of the structure of the transportation-related tax system.

Project: Toll Operations Costs

Completion Date: September 1, 2009

Staff: Hayley Gamble

Reference: ESSB 5352, Section 204(2) (2009)

Description: The Joint Transportation Committee will convene an independent review panel to review assumptions related to toll operating costs. The scope of the review shall be determined in consultation with House and Senate committee staff. A report is due to the legislative transportation committees by September 1, 2009. Committee staff will monitor, review and report on the progress of this process and assist with drafting legislation as directed.

Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Transportation Capital Budget and Fund Balance System Enhancements

Completion Date: On-going Staff: David Ward

Reference: ESSB 5352, Section 107 (2009)

Description: Committee staff will work with the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program, Office of Financial Management, the Department of Transportation, and House Transportation Committee staff on continued enhancements to the transportation capital budgeting and fund balance applications. The enhancements will include identification of common system and data elements, agreed-upon data definitions and business rules; significant functional improvements; and concurrent implementation strategies.

Project: Transportation Funding Study

Completion Date: December 31, 2010 Staff: Amanda Cecil/David Ward

Reference: ESSB 5352, Section 204(1) (2009)

Description: The Joint Transportation Committee will conduct a comprehensive analysis of mid-term and long-term transportation funding mechanisms and methods. This consultant study is charged with the examination of existing and emerging funding, energy, environmental, and mobility policy objectives. The principle objective of this project is to identify specific implementation steps for the Legislature and agencies to begin implementing viable mid-term and long-term alternative transportation funding approaches that could lead to a conversion from the current fuel tax structure to some other long-term funding sources which may include use-based and /or vehicle characteristic-based fees. Committee staff will participate in a work group supporting technical elements of this study.

Project: Update of the State Freight Rail Plan

Completion Date: Periodic Staff: Dory Nicpon

Reference: RCW 47.76.220 and (federal) Public Law 110-432, Division B

Description: State law requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to update the state freight rail plan periodically. The state freight rail plan inventories rail infrastructure within the state, evaluates capacity and congestion issues, and prioritizes strategic rail infrastructure improvements. During the 2009 interim, DOT will update the state freight rail plan, which will qualify the state for new federal grants authorized through the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008. Committee staff will monitor the state freight rail plan update.

Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Other Projects:

Project: Tolling on the State Route 520 Bridge

Completion Date: January 1, 2010

Staff: Hayley Gamble

Reference: ESHB 2211 (2009), ESSB 5352 (2009)

Description: Pursuant to Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2211, enacted this year, tolling is authorized on the State Route (SR) 520 corridor. The SR 520 work group is created and will be meeting on a regular basis to determine a financing strategy and recommend design options for the full corridor. A final report is due to the Legislature and the Governor by January 1, 2010. Committee staff will monitor, review and report on the progress of this process and assist with drafting legislation as directed. Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5352 provides funding to implement open road tolling on SR 520. Committee staff will monitor and review the request for proposal process and all developments related to tolling and construction on the SR 520 corridor.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: 2010 Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Elise Greef/Susan Mielke/Kim
Cushing/Juliana Roe

Reference: LEAP Staff

Description: Senate Ways & Means and Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee staff will update 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.

Project: 2010 Citizen's Guide to the Washington State Budget

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Devon Nichols

Reference: LEAP Staff

Description: The Senate Ways & Means Committee and Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP) will publish a Citizen's Guide to the Budget. Members, legislative staff, and the general public use the guide to answer basic questions about the Washington State biennial budget. The Guide is published on an annual basis because of significant changes in supplemental budget sessions. The Guide will be updated before the 2010 Legislative Session.

Project: 2010 Legislative Guide to Washington State Property Taxes

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Dean Carlson/Dianne Criswell

Description: Senate Ways & Means committee staff will update the Legislative Guide to Washington State Property Taxes to reflect recent changes. These documents serve as a resource for members, legislative staff, and the general public.

Project: 2010 Supplemental Operating and Capital Budget Development and Analysis of Agency and Governor Budget Requests

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Senate Ways & Means Staff

Description: Senate Ways & Means staff will prepare for development of the 2010 supplemental operating and capital Senate budget proposals by (1) working with the Office of Financial Management and House Appropriations staff in creating an agreed-upon carry forward level of previous budgets; (2) reviewing 2010 agency budget requests submitted in early fall, including conducting additional data analysis and information requests; (3) evaluating the Governor's budget proposal submitted in December 2009; and (4) creating various budget policy options related to member interests.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Caseload Forecast Council Technical (Staff) Workgroups

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff: Elise Greef/Richard Ramsey/Elaine Deschamps/Michael Bezanson/Megan Atkinson/Bryon Moore (and OPR, CFC, DSHS, OFM)

Description: Staff will monitor changes and trends and provide input regarding caseload forecasts for entitlements programs for the public schools, medical assistance, long-term care, developmental disabilities, foster care, adoption support, general assistance, corrections, and juvenile rehabilitation. The caseload forecasts are used to develop the majority of the budgets for these programs. The workgroups meet periodically and include staff from the Senate Ways & Means Committee, the House Ways & Means Committee, the Caseload Forecast Council, the Office of Financial Management (OFM), and the Department of Social and Health Services. The final caseload forecasts are approved by the Caseload Forecast Council members, consisting of four legislators, the Director of OFM, and the Secretary of DSHS.

Project: Child Welfare Transformation Design Committee

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff: Michael Bezanson

Reference: Chapter Laws 520, Laws of 2009

Description: 2SHB 2106 (2009) establishes a child welfare design committee to select two demonstration sites in which the Department of Social and Health Services must contract out for all child welfare services, and developing a transition plan for implementing the performance-based contracts by 2011. Staff support for the committee is provided by legislative staff and Partners for Our Children.

Project: Department of Social and Health Services Per Capita Expenditure Technical (Staff) Workgroups

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff: Elaine Deschamps/Megan Atkinson/Michael Bezanson

Description: Staff will monitor changes and trends and provide input regarding per capita costs and financial recovery within the following human services programs: medical assistance, long-term care, developmental disabilities, foster care, adoption support, and general assistance. In addition to the workgroups, staff will also monitor Working Connections Child Care, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Child Support programs. Along with the caseload forecast, the per capita forecasts are used to develop the majority of the budget for these programs. The staff workgroups meet frequently and include staff from the Senate Ways & Means Committee, the House Ways & Means Committee, the Office of Financial Management, and DSHS.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: K-12 Funding Formula Work Group

Completion Date: December 1, 2009

Staff: Elise Greef/Dean Carlson/Dianne
Criswell/Susan Mielke/Kim
Cushing/Juliana Roe

Reference: Chapter 548, Laws of 2009

Description: The Office of Financial Management, with support and assistance from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, will convene a Work Group to develop details of K-12 funding formulae, examine possible sources of revenue to support K-12 program increases, and recommend an implementation schedule per Section 112 of Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 2261, Chapter 548, 2009 Laws PV, regarding the state's education system. Senate Ways and Means staff will participate along with other named stakeholders. In addition, staff will provide support to the Legislative oversight and monitoring body, the Quality Education Council, also established in ESHB 2261.

Project: Law Enforcement Academy Evaluation

Completion Date: November 2009

Staff: Richard Ramsey/Jenny Greenlee

Reference: ESHB 1216, Sections 1057 and 2001

Description: The 2009-11 capital budget directs the Office of Financial Management to contract with the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) to conduct an analysis of options for delivering basic law enforcement training to local law enforcement agencies and the Washington State Patrol. Senate Committee Services staff are closely monitoring the analysis and will participate in facility field visits and meetings of the steering committee created to oversee the work. OFM will submit the final report to the Legislature by November 1, 2009.

Project: Legislative Budget Notes

Completion Date: September 2009

Staff: Senate Ways & Means/OPR/LEAP
Staff

Description: Legislative fiscal staff in the Senate and House will work the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee (LEAP) staff to prepare the "Legislative Budget Notes," a publication which represents the official record of legislative action on the omnibus operating, transportation, and capital budgets. The Legislative Budget Notes are 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 budget documents.

Project: Monitor Development of Transition Plans for the Department of Commerce That Involve Infrastructure Assistance for Local Government

Completion Date: December 2009

Staff: Brian Sims

Description: Senate Ways and Means Committee staff will monitor work by the Department of Commerce and Office of Financial Management that involves consolidation or other changes to programs that assist local governments with public infrastructure.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2009

Project: Pension Funding Council - Review of Economic Assumptions and Preparation for 2010 Audit

Completion Date: October 31 & September 30, Staff: Erik Sund

Reference: 41.45.030 (review of assumptions) and RCW 41.45.060, 41.45.090, 41.45.110, and 41.45120 (for actuarial audit)

Description: The Pension Funding Council (PFC) consists of the chair and ranking minority member of the House of Representatives Committee on Ways & Means; the chair and ranking minority member of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means; the director of the Office of Financial Management; and the director of the Department of Retirement Systems. The PFC is required by statute to review in each odd-numbered year the economic assumptions used to establish contribution rates for the various retirement systems. The PFC may choose to adopt changes to the current economic assumptions by an affirmative vote of at least four members. Any changes must be approved by October 31st. The Pension Funding Work Group (PFWG) will provide staff support for the PFC in the economic assumption review process. The PFWG will also begin preparations to contract with an actuarial firm for the biennial audit of the State Actuary's valuation report, which must be completed prior to the adoption in 2010 of new retirement system contribution rates for the 2011-13 fiscal biennium.

Project: State Institution Closure Feasibility Study

Completion Date: November 2009 Staff: Richard Ramsey/Megan Atkinson

Reference: ESHB 1244, Section 130(3) (2009)

Description: The 2009-11 operating budget directs the Office of Financial Management to contract for a feasibility study for closing state institutional facilities and eliminating beds in the state institutional facility inventory through facility closure or consolidation. The report will recommend a plan to eliminate 1,580 beds in the Department of Corrections facilities, 235 beds from Green Hill School or Maple Lane School in the DSHS-Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration system and 250 beds from the residential habilitation centers in the DSHS-Division of Developmental Disabilities. Office of Program Research and Senate Committee Services staff are closely monitoring the conduct of the analysis. A report to the Governor and the Legislature is due on November 1, 2009.

Project: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Maintenance of Effort Technical Workgroup

Completion Date: Ongoing Staff: Michael Bezanson

Description: As part of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the state is anticipated to emergency and pre-stimulus contingency funds. The Office of Program Research and Senate Committee Services staff will work with the Office of Financial Management and the Department of Social and Health Services to ensure the state meets its maintenance of effort requirement as required by federal rules.

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Other Projects:

Project: Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding

Completion Date: January 1, 2010

Staff: Elise Greef

Reference: Chapter 497, Laws of 2009

Description: The 2009-11 capital appropriations bill, Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1216, Chapter 497, 2009 Laws PV, extends the operation of the Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding. The Task Force, consisting of six members – including a member from each caucus of the Senate, will examine whether to change the state assistance ratio used in the school construction assistance grant program formula, methods to accommodate specialized program space, and potential ways to account for regional cost differences in the school construction assistance grant program formula.
