



Senate Committee Services Staff Issue Area Document

(Committee Links for Committee Staff Issues and Staff)

[Agriculture & Rural Economic Development](#)

[Early Learning & K-12 Education](#)

[Economic Development, Trade & Innovation](#)

[Environment, Water & Energy](#)

[Financial Institution, Housing & Insurance](#)

[Government Operations & Elections](#)

[Health & Long-Term Care](#)

[Higher Education & Workforce Development](#)

[Human Services & Corrections](#)

[Judiciary](#)

[Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection](#)

[Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Ways & Means](#)

Agriculture & Rural Economic Development (786-7411)

[Bob Lee, Staff Coordinator/Analyst - 786-7404](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Agricultural Land
- Agricultural Products
 - Production, Sale, and Marketing
- Food Safety
- Commodity Commissions

[Sam Thompson, Staff Counsel - 786-7413](#)

[Also staff of the [Environment, Water & Energy](#) Committee]

- Agricultural Loan Programs
- Meat Labeling and Processing
- Anaerobic Digesters
- Legal Issues

[Dixie Huff, Interim Committee Assistant - 786-7462](#)

(Committee Contact)

Early Learning & K-12 Education (786-7420)

[Susan Mielke, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7422](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Basic Education
- Career and Technical Education
- Statewide assessments, including WASL
- Education Quality Council
- State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children

[Kim Cushing, Staff Counsel - 786-7421](#)

- Early Learning
- K-12 Safety & Health
- Dropout Issues
- Financial Education Public-Private Partnership

[Juliana Roe, Staff Counsel - 786-7438](#)

- Online Learning
- Educator Certification
- Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee
- Student Safety

[Catherine Nicolai, Interim Committee Assistant - 786-7430](#)

(Committee Contact)

Economic Development, Trade & Innovation (786-7409)

[Jack Brummel, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7428](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- International Relations and International Trade
- Economic Development Incentives
- Technical Assistance to Businesses
- Tourism
- Economic and Trade Development Strategies
- Total Quality Management
- Technology-Driven Economic Development

[Dixie Huff, Interim Committee Assistant - 786-7462](#)

(Committee Contact)

Environment, Water & Energy (786-7406)

Jan Odano, Staff Coordinator/Analyst -786-7486

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Biomonitoring (DOH)
- Climate Change (DOE, CTED, etc.)
- Energy
 - Low -Income Home Energy Assistance Program (CTED)
 - Efficiency
- Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction (DOE)
- Health Assessments (DOH)
- Nuclear & Radioactive Waste (DOE, DOH, UTC)
- On-Site Sewage Systems (DOH)
- Toxics Cleanup (DOE)
- Waste Water Management (DOH)

William Bridges, Staff Counsel - 786-7416

- Climate Change (WCI, I-937)
- Energy
 - Bonneville Power Authority (BPA)
 - Nuclear
 - Reliability
 - Renewable
 - Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC)
 - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
 - Private Utilities (Investor-Owned Utilities--IOUs)
 - Transmission Siting
 - Solar
 - Public Utility Districts (PUDs)
- Telecommunications

Karen Epps, Staff Counsel - 786-7424

[Also staff of the [Government Operations & Elections](#) Committee]

- Water
 - Drinking (DOH)
 - Municipal
 - Private Water Companies (UTC)
 - Quality (DOE)
 - Resources (DOE)
- Shorelines Management Act (SMA)

Sam Thompson, Staff Counsel - 786-7413

[Also staff of the [Agriculture & Rural Economic Development](#) Committee]

- Air quality (DOE)
- Pipeline Safety (UTC)
- Puget Sound Cleanup (PSP, DOE, etc.)
- Spill Prevention & Response (DOE)
- Solid Waste & Recycling (DOE)

Dixie Huff, Committee Assistant - 786-7462

(Committee Contact)

Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance (786-7408)

[Diane Smith, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7410](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Life insurance and Life Settlements
- Homeowners' Insurance, Rates & Forms
- Re-insurance
- Financial Solvency of Insurers
- Market Conduct of Insurers
- Insurance Claims & Fraud
- Banking
- Credit Unions
- Securities Regulation
- Uniform Commercial Code
- Public Depositaries

[Alison Mendiola, Staff Counsel - 786-7483](#)

[Also staff of the [Government Operations & Elections](#) Committee]

- Payday Lending
- Foreclosures
- Construction Defects
- Mortgage Brokers
- Mobile Home Parks
- Landlord-Tenant
- Loan Originators
- Credit Ratings & Scoring
- Home Owners' and Condo Associations

[Shana Bradley, Interim Committee Assistant - 786-7407](#)

(Committee Contact)

[Government Operations & Elections \(786-7432\)](#)

[Sharon Swanson, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7447](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Elections
- Transfer of Development Rights
- Domestic Partnerships
- Annexation
- Growth Management
- Veteran Affairs
- Emergency Management
- Open Public Meetings

[Karen Epps, Staff Counsel - 786-7424](#)

[Also staff of the [Environment, Water & Energy](#) Committee]

- Growth Management Act
- Shoreline Management
- Special Purpose District
- Historical Preservation
- Climate Change

[Alison Mendiola, Staff Counsel - 786-7483](#)

[Also staff of the [Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance](#) Committee]

- Public Records Act
- Open Public Meetings
- Gender Equity
- Annexation

- Wrongful Death
- Whistleblower

[Sandy Wibbels, Interim Committee Assistant - 785-7491](#)
(Committee Contact)

Health & Long-Term Care (786-7456)

[Rhoda Donkin, Staff Coordinator/Analyst -786-7465](#)
(Lead Committee Contact)

- Long-Term Care
 - Elder Care
 - Developmental Disabilities
 - Long-Term Care Program Changes
 - Provider and Facility Regulation
 - Long-Term Care Financing
 - Long-Term Care Workforce
- Public Health
 - School-Based Health Care Services
 - Emergency Response
 - Health and Safety Regulation (not LTC or hospitals)
 - Environmental Health
 - Wellness Initiatives
 - Tobacco
 - Health Disparities

[Mich'l Needham, Research Analyst - 786-7442](#)

- Health Care Financing/Insurance – Public and Private
 - Health Insurance Access and Regulation
 - Health Plan Contracting
 - Basic Health Plan
 - Medicaid/Medicare
 - Public Employee Benefits
 - Prescription Drugs
 - Mental Health Parity
 - Blue Ribbon Commission
 - Health Systems Change

[Edith Rice, Staff Counsel - 786-7444](#)

- Health Care Consumer Protection
 - Health Care Privacy/Medical Records
 - HIPAA
 - Medical Malpractice
 - Guardianship
 - Right to Die
 - Medical Marijuana
 - Vaccines
 - Public Health
 - Department of Health
- Health Care Regulation
 - Facility
 - ◆ Hospital Licensing
 - ◆ Certificate of Need
 - ◆ Advanced Directives/Guardianship
 - ◆ Health Information Technology

- ◆ Regulating Advanced Technologies
- ◆ Mental Health Facility Regulation
- Provider
 - ◆ Scope of Practice
 - ◆ Prescriptive Authority
 - ◆ Disciplinary Procedures
 - ◆ Workforce Issues

[Dorine Coleman, Committee Assistant - 786-7436](#)
(Committee Contact)

Higher Education & Workforce Development (786-7415)

[Aldo Melchiori, Staff Coordinator - 786-7439](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Public & Independent Baccalaureate Colleges and Universities
- Public Community & Technical Colleges
- Private Career Schools
- Workforce Training
- Financial Aid
- Faculty
- Tuition
- Campus Safety

[Sandy Wibbels, Interim Committee Assistant - 785-7491](#)
(Committee Contact)

Human Services & Corrections (786-7414)

[Jennifer Strus, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7316](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Child Welfare/Child Protection
- Truancy/Becca Bill
- TANF/GAU
- Juvenile Justice
- Dissolution Issues

[Shani Bauer, Staff Counsel - 786-7468](#)

- Department of Corrections
- Sex Offenders
- Child Support
- Sentencing Guidelines Commission

[Kevin Black, Staff Counsel - 786-7747](#)

- Mental Health/Substance Abuse
- Dangerous Mentally Ill Offender Program
- Dissolution Issues
- Truancy/Becca Bill

[Shana Bradley, Committee Assistant - 786-7407](#)
(Committee Contact)

Judiciary (786-7455)

[Lidia Mori, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7755](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Domestic Violence
- DUI
- Motor Vehicle Related Issues
- Eminent Domain
- New Crimes & Sentencing Changes
- Tort Reform
- General Criminal and Civil
- Collection Issues

[Kim Johnson, Staff Counsel - 786-7472](#)

- General Civil and Court Related Subject Matter
- Motor Vehicle Related Issues
- Landlord/Tenant
- Laws Pertaining to Animals
- Court Administration Issues
- Guardianship and Probate Issues

[Juliana Roe, Staff Counsel - 786-7438](#)

[Also staff of the [Early Learning & K-12 Education](#) Committee]

- Business Law
- General Criminal
- School-Related Criminal Issues
- Laws Relating to Animal Cruelty

[Sandy Wibbels, Committee Assistant - 786-7491](#)

(Committee Contact)

[Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection \(786-7426\)](#)

[Mac Nicholson, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7445](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Unemployment Insurance
- Electricians/Plumbers Licensing
- Workers Compensation
- Farm Labor Contracting
- Liquor

[Kathy Buchli, Staff Counsel - 786-7488](#)

- Collective Bargaining
- Human Trafficking
- Regulation of Cranes
- Underground Economy
- Regulation of Professions
- Gambling
- Lottery
- Horse Racing

[Ingrid Mungia, Staff Counsel - 786-7423](#)

- Family Leave Insurance
- Regulation of Professions
- Workplace Safety
- Consumer Protection
- Payday Lending
- Construction Defects

[Shana Bradley, Committee Assistant -786-7407](#)

(Committee Contact)

Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation (786-7419)

Curt Gavigan, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7437

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Fish, Shellfish & Wildlife
- Aquatic Lands Management
- Ocean Resource Management

Sherry McNamara, Analyst - 786-7402

- Timber & Working Forest Lands
- Parks & Recreation
- Geology: Mining, Oil & Gas

Dorine Coleman, Interim Committee Assistant - 786-7436

(Committee Contact)

Transportation (786-7300)

Kelly Simpson, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7403

(Lead Committee Contact)

Budget Assignments

- Utilities and Transportation Commission
- Compensation/Pension/Health Benefits
- Transportation Commission
- Traffic Safety Commission
- State Parks & Recreation
- Archeology & Historic Preservation

Policy Assignments

- Utilities and Transportation Commission
- State & Regional Transportation Governance
- State and Regional Transportation Planning
- Transportation Element of Growth Management Act
- Special Purpose Districts
- Transportation Security Issues
 - REAL ID and Legal Presence
 - Traveler Security
 - Border Crossing
- Traffic Safety
- Rules of the Road
- Bicycles
- Motorcycles/Motor Scooters

Janice Baumgardt, Fiscal Analyst -786-7319

Budget Assignments

- Washington State Ferries, Op & Cap
- Department of Licensing – All Programs
- Marine Employee's Commission

Policy Assignments

- DOL
 - Drivers
 - Vehicles
- Washington State Ferries

Amanda Cecil, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7429

Budget Assignments

- DOT—Aviation
- DOT—Public Transportation
- DOT—Program Management & Support
- DOT—Management
- DOT—Planning, Data & Research
- DOT—Information Technology
- DOT—Public/Private Partnerships
- DOT—Local Programs, Op & Cap
- WSP – All Programs
- Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB)
- Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)
- County Road Administration Board (CRAB)

Policy Assignments

- Local Transit Agencies, Including Sound Transit
- Revenue Forecasts
- Statewide Taxes
- Fees
- Local Revenues
- Environmental Issues
- WSP
 - Passenger Vehicle Equipment
 - Law Enforcement Training & Policies
 - Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

[Hayley Gamble, Fiscal Analyst -786-7452](#)

Budget Assignments

- Highway construction projects
- DOT—Toll Ops
- DOT—Highway Improvements
- DOT—Highway Maintenance
- DOT—Highway Preservation
- DOT—Traffic Ops
- DOT—Facilities
- DOT—Rail, Op & Cap

Policy Assignments

- Budget Systems
- Transportation Executive Information System
- WSDOT project reporting and financial systems

[David Ward, Budget Coordinator - 786-7341](#)

Budget Assignments

- Treasurer (Bond Retirement And Interest)
- JTC, LEAP, OFM
- Department of Ag

Policy Assignments

- Revenue Forecasts
- Financial Plans/Fund Balances
- Bonds and other indebtedness
- Tolls

[Catherine Nicolai, Committee Assistant - 786-7430](#)

(Committee Contact)

Ways & Means (786-7715)

[Mike Wills, Staff Coordinator -786-7188](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

[Megan Atkinson, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7446](#)

- Department of Services for the Blind
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- DSHS - Administration & Support Services
- DSHS - Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- DSHS - Developmental Disabilities
- DSHS - Information System Services
- DSHS - Long Term Care
- DSHS - Payments to other Agencies
- DSHS - Vocational Rehabilitation
- Home Care Quality Authority
- Office of Administrative Hearings

[Michael Bezanson, Fiscal Analyst -786-7449](#)

- Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals
- Department of Early Learning
- Department of Employment Security
- Department of Labor and Industries
- DSHS - Child Support Services
- DSHS - Children & Family Services
- DSHS - Economic Services
- PSEA
- VRDE

[Dean Carlson, Revenue Analyst - 786-7305](#)

- Revenue Policy Issues
- Board of Tax Appeals
- Caseload Forecast Council
- Department of Revenue
- Economic & Revenue Forecast Council
- Liquor Control Board

[Dianne Criswell, Revenue Counsel - 786-7433](#)

- Gambling Commission
- Horse Racing Commission
- State Lottery Commission

[Elaine Deschamps, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7441](#)

- Basic Health Plan
- DSHS - Medical Assistance
- Health Care Authority (including administration)
- Health Services Account

[Elise Greef, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7708](#)

- Public Schools (K-12 Education)
- Superintendent of Public Instruction

[Jenny Greenlee, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7711](#)

- Board of Accountancy
- Commission on African-American Affairs
- Commission on Asian-American Affairs
- Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- Commission on Judicial Conduct

- Courts:
 - Court of Appeals
 - Law Library
 - Office of the Administrator for the Courts
 - Office of Civil Legal Aid
 - Office of Public Defense
 - Supreme Court
- Department of Financial Institutions
- Department of Health – Environmental Health Programs
- Department of Health - Health Professions Licensing
- Department of Information Systems
- Department of Licensing (non-transportation portion)
- Department of Printing
- Human Rights Commission
- Military Department
- Minority & Women's Business Enterprises
- Office on Indian Affairs
- School for the Blind
- School for the Deaf
- State Patrol (non-transportation portion)

[Maria Hovde, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7710](#)

- Columbia River Gorge Commission
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Ecology
- Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Department of Natural Resources
- Environmental Hearings Office
- Growth Management Hearings Board
- Interagency Commission for Outdoor Recreation
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Pollution Liability Insurance Agency
- Puget Sound Partnership
- State Conservation Commission

[Steve Jones, Budget Counsel - 786-7440](#)

- Attorney General
- House of Representatives
- Insurance Commissioner
- Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee
- Joint Legislative Systems Committee
- LEAP Committee
- Office of Financial Management
- Office of the Governor
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Public Disclosure Commission
- Secretary of State
- Senate
- Special Appropriations to the Governor
- State Auditor
- State Treasurer
- Statute Law Committee
- Sundry Claims

[Bryon Moore, Operating Budget Coordinator - 786-7726](#)

- Operating Budget Issues

[Richard Ramsey, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7412](#)

- Community, Trade & Economic Development
- Criminal Justice Training Commission
- Department of Corrections
- DSHS - Juvenile Rehabilitation
- DSHS - Special Commitment Center
- Forensics Investigation Council
- Indeterminate Sentence Review Board
- Justice Assistance Grant (formerly Byrne Grant)
- Sentencing Guidelines Commission
- State Convention & Trade Center
- Utilities & Transportation Commission

[Brian Sims, Capital Budget Coordinator - 786-7431](#)

- Bond Retirement and Interest
- Department of General Administration
- Local Government Assistance
- Municipal Research Council

[Erik Sund, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7454](#)

- Arts Commission
- Board For Volunteer Firefighters
- Collective Bargaining
- Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials
- Deferred Compensation Commission
- Department of Personnel
- Department of Retirement Systems
- Eastern Washington Historical Society
- Employee Compensation/Health Benefits
- Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
- PEEB Benefits
- Personnel Appeals Board
- Public Employment Relations Commission
- State Actuary
- State Investment Board
- Washington State Historical Society

[Tim Yowell, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7435](#)

- Central Washington University
- Community and Technical Colleges
- DSHS - Mental Health
- Eastern Washington University
- Higher Education Coordinating Board
- SIRTl
- The Evergreen State College
- University of Washington
- Washington State University
- Western Washington University
- Workforce Training & Education Board

[Devon Nichols, Committee Assistant - 786-7716](#)

(Committee Contact)