

# Senate Committee Services

## Summary of Select 2014 Interim Activities



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January 2015



TO: Washington State Senators and Other Interested Persons

FROM: Susan Howson, Director (786-7401)  
Senate Committee Services

SUBJECT: Senate Committee Services Summary of Select 2014 Interim Activities

DATE: January 13, 2015

We are pleased to provide this Summary of Select 2014 Interim Activities for your reference during the 2015 Legislative Session. The report summarizes many of the activities undertaken by the Senate's standing committees during the 2014 Interim.

I believe that you will find the electronic version of this document to be most useful. The electronic version contains dozens of electronic hotlinks to the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for bills, task force websites, and interim and final reports related to the interim projects. We will continue to update the electronic version of this document during this legislative session as additional reports or documents may become available. The most recent version can be found at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/Documents/Reports/InterimActivities/2014InterimProjects.pdf>.

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

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

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

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# Senate Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development Committee

## 2014 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Hazardous Chemical Management

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Members toured Willapa Bay to view eel grasses among the shellfish beds and other tidelands. The potential control chemical, imidacloprid, received federal registration for use by the shellfish industry in 2013. A 400-acre trial to assess possible additional non-target impacts and efficacy trials were conducted in 2014. Full-scale use is targeted to be permitted in 2015. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife took Japanese eelgrass off the protected species list and the Washington Noxious Weed Board listed it as a noxious weed species. A tour of the Washington State Department of Agriculture laboratories acquainted members with the pests and diseases that agricultural pesticides and herbicides are designed to combat. The Eastern Washington Pest Control Tour also demonstrated examples in the fields of pest damage, both on organic and conventional fields. The chemical strategies for both organic and conventional pest control were discussed for various crops.

**REFERENCES:** [SB 6157 \(2014\)](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Diane Smith

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7410

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**TITLE:** Non-Point Pollution and Agricultural Operations

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Staff monitored the Department of Ecology Agriculture and Water Quality Advisory Committee's meetings. The Advisory Committee's discussions are ongoing. No final report was developed.

**REFERENCES:** [SB 6087 \(2014\)](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Diane Smith

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7410

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# Senate Commerce & Labor Committee

## 2014 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Initiative 502 (I-502)

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** In 2012 voters approved I-502 which established a regulatory system for the production, processing, and distribution of limited amounts of marijuana for non-medical purposes. Under this system, the Liquor Control Board issues licenses to marijuana producers, processors, and retailers and adopts standards for the regulation of these operations. Committee staff continued to monitor the implementation of I-502 as licenses were issued and retail stores began to open throughout the interim.

**REFERENCES:** N/A

**STAFF CONTACT:** Richard Rodger  
Mac Nicholson

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# Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee

## 2014 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Quality Education Council

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Quality Education Council (QEC) was created in statute in 2009 to recommend and inform the Legislature's implementation of the program of basic education and funding for it; and to develop goals and priorities for a ten-year period for the educational system. QEC is composed of eight legislators, four educational agency representatives (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Board of Education, Professional Educator Standards Board, and Department of Early Learning), and a representative from the Office of the Governor. QEC is staffed by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and by the state entities with representatives on the Council. Senate Committee Services (SCS) and the House of Representatives Office of Program Research (OPR) may provide additional staff support. Currently a member from the Senate and a member from the House serve as co-chairs and requested SCS and OPR staff to actively be involved in supporting QEC. QEC met on October 21, 2014.

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 2261 \(2009\)](#)  
<http://www.k12.wa.us/QEC>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Susan Mielke

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7422

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**TITLE:** Joint Select Committee on Article IX Litigation

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** In January 2012, in *McCleary v. State*, the Washington State Supreme Court found that the State failed to meet its paramount constitutional duty to amply fund a program of basic education because the level of resources provided fell short of the actual cost of the basic education program. The Court acknowledged that the Legislature enacted promising reforms in ESHB 2261, which if fully funded would remedy deficiencies in the K-12 funding system. The Court retained jurisdiction to help facilitate the Legislature's compliance with its constitutional duty. In the 2012 Legislative Session, the Legislature created the Joint Select Committee on Article IX Litigation (Committee) to facilitate communication with the Court on school funding. In July 2012 the Court ordered the Committee to annually report on legislative actions taken to amply fund a program of basic education. In January 2014 the Court declared that the State was not on target to meet its 2018 constitutional funding obligations and directed the State to submit, no later than April 30, 2014, a complete plan for fully implementing its program of basic education for each school year between now and the 2017-18 school year. In April 2014 the Committee submitted its third report to the Court which included that there was no agreement reached on what the full implementation plan would look like. In June 2014 the Court issued an Order to Show Cause why the State should not be held in contempt for not submitting a plan. The Court subsequently found the State in contempt for failing to comply with the Court's order to submit a plan but did not impose sanctions. The Court ordered that the State must purge its contempt by adjournment of the 2015 Session or the Court will reconvene and impose sanctions or other remedial measures.

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 2261 \(2009\)](#), [SHB 2776 \(2010\)](#), [HCR 4410 \(2012\)](#)  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/AIXLJSC/Documents/ArticleIX2014Report-ReceivedByCourt.pdf>  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/AIXLJSC/Pages/default.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Susan Mielke  
Lorrell Noah  
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**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7422  
786-7708  
786-7440

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**TITLE:** Education Accountability System Oversight Committee

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Education Accountability System Oversight Committee (Oversight Committee) was established in the 2013 Legislative Session to provide ongoing monitoring of the accountability system of recognition, support, and intervention for schools and school districts; make recommendations for changes to the system, if necessary; and report biennially to the education committees of the Legislature. The Oversight Committee is composed of four members of the Senate, four members of the House of Representatives, two members appointed by the Governor, and one non-legislative member of the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee. The Oversight Committee met on November 17, 2014. The committee members expressed an intent that the next meeting would occur in March or May of 2015.

**REFERENCES:** [E2SSB 6529 \(2013\)](#)  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/EASOC/Pages/default.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Susan Mielke

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7422

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**TITLE:** Legislative Task Force on Career Education Opportunities

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Legislative Task Force on Career Education Opportunities (Task Force) was established in the 2013 Legislative Session to identify strategies for how education that supports career readiness may be better integrated into secondary education opportunities for all students. The Task Force met three times in 2013 and three times in 2014. The Task Force submitted its final report and recommendations in September 2014, including recommendations that the Legislature should focus on increasing student and parent awareness of high school graduation requirements and career and technical education options; making improvements to the High School and Beyond plan; providing additional career counselling for students; streamlining credit equivalency policies for career and technical education courses; and increasing work-integrated learning opportunities such as job shadowing and mentorship programs.

**REFERENCES:** [2ESSB 5034 \(2013\) - SEC. 719](#)  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/Archive/CEOTF/Documents/CEOTF-FinalRpt.pdf>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Eric Wolf

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7405

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**TITLE:** Student Growth Measures in Teacher and Principal Evaluations

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Current Washington law requires school districts to measure an individual teacher's and principal's impact on student growth through a combination of classroom-based, building-based, district-based, or statewide test results. In 2013 the federal Department of Education requested that the Washington Legislature amend the law so that student results on statewide tests must be used as one of multiple measures of a teacher's or principal's impact on student growth, when those results are available. Current law does not require student results on the statewide test to be used in the teacher's evaluation.

Committee staff examined how student growth is measured and factored into the teacher and principal evaluation system and summarized various methods used by other states to incorporate measures of student growth into respective teacher and principal evaluation systems.

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 5246 \(2013\)](#), [SB 5960 \(2014\)](#), [SSB 5880 \(2013\)](#), [SB 6055 \(2014\)](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Eric Wolf

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7405

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**TITLE:** Student Discipline

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee staff examined current student discipline trends, issues, and articles; reviewed current Washington State student discipline law; analyzed the most up-to-date Washington Appleseed report on student discipline and other recent reports; and checked the progress of the Student Discipline Task Force staffed by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Committee staff synthesized this information into a memorandum.

**REFERENCES:** <http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EDU/Pages/Reports.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Ailey Kato

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7434

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# Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee

## 2014 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Telecommunications

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** During the 2013 Legislative Session, the Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee (Committee) held four work sessions on telecommunications issues:

- Regulation of telecommunications – January 21;
- Taxation of telecommunication services – January 29;
- Current status of the wireless industry and wireless technology – April 24; and
- Incentives for broadband deployment – April 24.

The Committee also passed SHB 1183 (2013), which modified the requirements under which a State Environmental Policy Act categorical exemption applies to siting wireless service facilities. The bill is now codified at RCW 43.21C.0384.

In 2014 the Committee heard two telecommunications bills, one of which was enacted by the Legislature (SHB 2175):

- SB 6322, creating a sales and use tax exemption for telecommunications equipment and machinery; and
- SHB 2175, authorizing local governments to allow applicants for small cell networks to file a consolidated application and receive a single permit, instead of filing separate applications for each individual small cell facility.

On November 20, 2014, the Committee held a work session in Olympia, Washington titled "NoaNet and the Deployment of Broadband Telecommunications in Washington." The purpose of the work session was to feature some of the efforts being made to expand broadband opportunities in the state.

**REFERENCES:** [SHB 1183 \(2013\)](#), [SB 6322 \(2014\)](#), [SHB 2175 \(2014\)](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** William Bridges

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7416

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**TITLE:** Legislative Joint Select Task Force on Nuclear Energy

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** According to the federal Energy Information Agency, there are currently 65 commercially operating nuclear power plants with 104 nuclear reactors in 31 states around the country. These plants generate about 20 percent of U.S. electricity each year.

The Columbia Generating Station (CGS) near Richland, Washington is the Pacific Northwest's only commercially operating nuclear power plant. CGS is operated by Energy Northwest, a not-for-profit joint operating agency. The entire output of CGS is marketed by the Bonneville Power Administration. According to the most recent state fuel mix report, CGS supplied about 4.7 percent of the electricity used by retail customers in the state in 2012.

The 2013-15 Capital Budget appropriated \$500,000 to study the manufacturing of small modular nuclear reactors in the Tri-Cities.

During the 2014 Legislative Session, the Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee heard SSB 5991, which proposed the creation of a legislative taskforce to study nuclear energy in the region. While the bill did not pass, its substantive provisions were added to the supplemental operating budget, ESSB 6002.

Under the budget provisions, an eight-member legislative taskforce studied the generation of nuclear energy in the region and held no more than four meetings. Any findings and recommendations were due in December 2014.

Appointments to the task force were completed in May 2014, and the first meeting of the task force was on July 9, 2014, in Olympia, Washington. The second meeting of the task force was on September 25, 2014, in Pasco, Washington. The taskforce toured the NuScale Power facilities in Corvallis, Oregon on November 7, 2014. The final meeting of the task force was held on December 3, 2014, in Olympia, Washington.

The taskforce issued a final report that recommended the Legislature continue the Joint Select Task Force on Nuclear Energy, and that the Chair and Vice Chair of the taskforce work with taskforce members during the session to draft a new budget proviso. When renewed, the taskforce will have a heightened focus on issues specified in the report, such as the lifecycle cost of small modular reactors (SMRs), and the potential of manufacturing SMRs in the state using existing assets – e.g. companies, sites, and workforce resources.

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 6002 - SEC. 101 & 102 \(2014\)](http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/NEJSTF/Pages/default.aspx)  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/NEJSTF/Pages/default.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** William Bridges

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-6416

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**TITLE:** Flame Retardants in Children's Products

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The 2014 Supplemental Operating Budget contains a proviso directing the Department of Ecology (Ecology) to review two flame retardants that are chemicals of high concern used in children's products and residential upholstered furniture. In addition, Ecology was directed to test for the flame retardants in children's products and residential furniture. Ecology was required to provide a summary of data to the Legislature along with recommendations to ban or restrict flame retardants in children's products or residential upholstered furniture by December 31.

In June Ecology published its results of testing flame retardants in consumer and children's products. The conclusions of this part of the study include the following: manufacturers are compliant with state regulations and have moved away from the use of PBDEs; many products were found to contain TDCPP and other chlorinated phosphate flame retardants; some products contained multiple flame retardants, possibly a mix of flame-retardant chemicals; and certain flame retardants – HBCD and TBBPA – were found in consumer products but it will not be known if these same chemicals are being used in children's products until companies report under the Children's Safe Products Act.

Ecology is completing a summary of data and recommendations to ban or restrict flame retardants in children's products or residential furniture. The final report is expected early 2015.

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 1294 \(2014\)](#), [SB 6540 \(2014\)](#), [ESSB 6002 - SEC. 302 \(2014\)](#)  
<http://https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/1404021.pdf>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jan Odano

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7486

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**TITLE:** Oil Shipment in the State

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** During the 2014 Session, the Legislature considered several bills addressing concerns with the safety of transporting oil through Washington. Although no bills were enacted, study provisions similar to those in the bills were incorporated into the supplemental operating budget, ESSB 6002. Under the budget proviso, the Department of Ecology (Ecology), in consultation with other assigned agencies, must assess public health and safety, analyze risks, gaps, and options for increasing public safety and improving spill prevention and response readiness, as well as environmental impacts associated with the transport of oil through the state. A draft report is due to the Legislature by December 1, 2014, and the final report is due March 15, 2015.

In June the Governor issued a directive to Ecology to address key components of the transport of oil into Washington State and to provide interim findings by October 1, 2014. The components included a strategy for the 2015-17 budget to meet funding needs for increased safety and spill response capacity and address specific study details.

On May 7, 2014, the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration issued a safety advisory and an emergency order to railroads transporting Bakken crude oil. The advisory encourages all persons transporting Bakken crude oil by rail to use rail tank cars with designs of the highest integrity for shipment. The emergency order required all railroads in a single train transporting 1 million gallons or more to provide to the State Emergency Response Commission the expected amount of crude oil shipped through the state by railcar, routes, the number of trains per week, and a description of the petroleum crude oil expected to be shipped.

In Spokane on June 17, the Energy, Environment, & Telecommunications Committee held a public hearing on SB 6582, the Transport of Liquid Bulk Crude, and a work session on Bakken crude and railroad safety.

Ecology, in conjunction with the Utilities & Transportation Commission and Emergency Management Division, met weekly on the Marine and Rail Oil Transportation Study and held expert panel and stakeholder meetings. Preliminary findings and recommendations were published on October 1, and the draft study with recommendations was released on December 1, 2014. A final report is due March 15, 2015.

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 6524 \(2014\)](#), [ESHB 2347 \(2014\)](#), [SB 6262 \(2014\)](#), [SB 6576 \(2014\)](#),  
[SSB 6567 \(2014\)](#), [ESSB 6002 - SEC. 302 \(2014\)](#)  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/OilMovement/14-08-014.pdf>

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/OilMovement/2014MarineRailOilTransportStudyDraftFindings.pdf>  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/1408015.pdf>  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/oilmovement/2014MRstudy.html>  
<http://www.fra.dot.gov/eLib/details/L05222>  
<http://www.dot.gov/briefing-room/emergency-order>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jan Odano

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7486

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# Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee

## 2014 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Pawnbrokers

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** During the 2014 Legislative Session, various stakeholder meetings were held concerning the modernization of statutory law pertaining to the pawn industry. Specifically there is concern that the current rate ceilings for pawnbrokers are antiquated. Moreover, concerns were expressed regarding the communication process with local law enforcement concerning pawned property. Stakeholders met over the interim, analyzing other state approaches. Parties continue to work on reaching consensus on these issues.

**REFERENCES:** N/A

**STAFF CONTACT:** Shani Bauer

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7468

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**TITLE:** Principle Based Life Insurance Reserving Requirements

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Over the past seven years, state regulators, with the support of the life insurers and the actuarial profession, developed a new method for calculating life insurance policy reserves. The new, principle-based reserves approach is intended to enhance the current system for calculating policy reserves by using the actual experience of policyholders rather than a formulaic table when calculating statutory claims reserves. The Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) and the insurance industry worked over the interim to develop statutory language that is part of OIC's request legislative package.

**REFERENCES:** N/A

**STAFF CONTACT:** Shani Bauer

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7468

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# Senate Governmental Operations Committee

## 2014 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Shoreline Management Act and its Land Use Implications

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) began as an initiative to the Legislature in 1971. The Legislature passed an alternative measure, which became effective as of June 1, 1971. As required by the state Constitution, both measures were submitted to voters at the November 1972 general election. The alternative measure passed by the Legislature was approved by the voters. SMA applies to all 39 counties and more than 200 towns and cities that have shorelines of the state within their boundaries. This includes approximately 28,204 miles of shorelines including all marine waters; streams and rivers with greater than 20 cubic feet per second mean annual flow; lakes 20 acres or larger; and upland areas called shorelands that extend 200 feet landward from the edge of these waters. At the local level, SMA regulations are developed in local shoreline master programs (master programs), which regulate land use activity in shoreline areas of the state.

SSB 6012, passed in 2003, established a staggered schedule for the development, amendment, and review of master programs by local governments, running from 2005 to 2014 and every seven years after the initial deadline. Legislation passed in 2007 provided local governments with an additional year beyond the deadlines established in SSB 6012 to update master programs.

Some local governments completed master programs updates. Others are under way. The Senate Governmental Operations Committee, together with the Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee, held a work session in Sumner, Washington in April 2014 to discuss SMA and its land use implications. The committees heard from Senate Committee Services staff, Department of Ecology staff, and members of the public.

**REFERENCES:** [SB 6536 \(2014\)](#), [SB 6368 \(2014\)](#), [ESHB 1090 \(2014\)](#), [ESHB 1478 \(2011\)](#), [HB 1412 \(2007\)](#), [SB 6012 \(2003\)](#)  
[http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com\\_tvwplayer&eventID=2014040046](http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2014040046)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Karen Epps

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7424

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**TITLE:** Growth Management Act: Finite land and a growing population

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Growth Management Act (GMA) is the comprehensive land use planning framework for county and city governments in Washington. The Buildable Lands Program (BLP) was adopted as an amendment to GMA in 1997, requiring six counties, King, Pierce, Snohomish, Clark, Kitsap, and Thurston, and the cities within those counties to establish a review and evaluation program to determine whether a county and its cities are achieving urban densities within urban growth areas as they have planned; and identify reasonable measures other than adjusting urban growth boundaries to correct inconsistencies between actual and planned growth. Initially these six counties were required to prepare a Buildable Lands Report (BLR) every five years.

Legislation was adopted in 2011 establishing that the six counties and their cities must complete a BLR at least one year before the deadline for the review of their comprehensive plans and regulations every eight years. As such, King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties were required to complete BLRs by June 30, 2014. Clark, Kitsap, and Thurston Counties must complete BLRs by June 30, 2015. King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston counties completed BLRs. Clark and Kitsap are still working on BLRs and plan to complete them by June 30, 2015.

The Governmental Operations Committee held a work session in September on whether BLRs are addressing the issue of finite land and a growing population. A stakeholder workgroup was formed after the work session to consider whether there are changes needed to BLP and the workgroup submitted a report to the Committee in November, listed below.

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 1478 \(2011\)](#), [ESHB 1576 \(1997\)](#), [ESB 6094 \(1997\)](#)  
[http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com\\_tvwplayer&eventID=2014090053](http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2014090053)  
[http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com\\_tvwplayer&eventID=2014111006](http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2014111006)  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/CMD/Handler.ashx?MethodName=getdocumentcontent&documentId=hrEIn-PKoIM&att=false>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Karen Epps

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7424

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**TITLE:** Indian Law in Washington State

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Indian law, a complex legal system that is mostly federal law, governs the rights of Washington's 29 federally recognized Indian tribes. Under Indian law, tribes exercise significant sovereign authority in reservations and certain off-reservation trust land – Indian country. Many tribes also have significant treaty fishing, hunting, and other rights in areas outside of Indian country. Washington exercises limited state jurisdiction in Indian country pursuant to a 1953 federal act delegating authority to the states, implemented by state acts.

Most Washington tribes adopted tribal constitutions authorizing tribal governing bodies and courts, setting criteria for tribal membership, and specifying rights of tribal members. All Washington tribes established tribal governing bodies, usually called tribal councils, elected by tribal members, and all adopted tribal codes that may include both penal and civil provisions.

The Governmental Operations Committee held a work session in November 2014 to discuss Indian tribes in Washington. Staff prepared a report, Indian Tribes in Washington State: Brief Summary. The Committee heard presentations by a University of Washington professor who is an authority on Indian law and two members of Washington tribal councils.

**REFERENCES:** [ESHB 1287 \(2014\)](#), [ESHB 2233 \(2012\)](#), [SB 6175 \(2012\)](#)  
[Indian Tribes in Washington State: Brief Summary](#)  
[http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com\\_tvwplayer&eventID=2014111006](http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2014111006)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Sam Thompson

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7413

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**TITLE:** The Public Records Exemption and Accountability Committee (Sunshine Committee)

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Enacted in 1972 as part of Initiative 276, the Public Records Act (PRA) requires that all state and local government agencies make all public records available for public inspection and copying unless certain statutory exemptions apply. The Code Reviser's Office estimates that there are currently over 300 exemptions to PRA and other public records statutes. The 13-member Sunshine Committee was created in 2007 to review all public records exemptions and make annual recommendations to the Legislature on whether to maintain, modify, or terminate each exemption.

During the 2014 interim, the Sunshine Committee met in May, August, and October, and reviewed six public records exemptions:

- RCW 42.56.240(2) – Investigative Exemption;
- RCW 42.56.250(3) – Drivers' Licenses;
- RCW 42.56.230 and RCW 38.52 – Incoming 911 Voice Data;
- RCW 42.56.420(4) – Computer Security;
- RCW 42.56.230(2) – Parent/Guardian Contact Information; and
- RCW 42.56.260 – Real Estate Transactions.

Committee staff attended Sunshine Committee meetings and monitored policy developments concerning public records exemptions. In its 2014 Annual Report, the Sunshine Committee recommended modifying four public records exemptions. Staff will continue to work with stakeholders to provide research and information on public records exemptions and draft legislation as directed.

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5435 \(2007\)](#)  
<http://www.atg.wa.gov/opengovernment/sunshine.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Sam Brown

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7470

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# Senate Health Care Committee

## 2014 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Aging and Disability Issues

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Aging and Disability Issues (Committee) was established in the 2013-15 Operating Budget. The Committee was charged with the responsibility to identify strategic actions to prepare for the aging of Washington's population. During the 2014 Legislative Session, the Legislature added to the duties of the Committee in ESHB 2746 which directed the Department of Social and Health Services to refinance Medicaid personal care through use of the Community First Choice Option (CFCO). The Committee was directed, in its final report, to explore the cost and benefit of rate enhancements for providers of long-term services and supports, restoration of hours for in-home clients, additional investment in the family caregiver support program, and additional investment in the Individual and Family Services Program or other Medicaid services that support individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Committee held five meetings during the 2014 interim. The meetings focused on specific areas relating to aging in the state including: healthy aging, workforce quality, protection from elder abuse and exploitation, financial independence, and the CFCO. In its final report, members discussed policy options that were put forward by individual members in consideration of the final report. Committee members recommended that they be addressed in the short term – 2015 Legislative Session, mid-term – 2016 Legislative Session, or in the long term – 2017 Legislative Session and beyond. The table in section IV of this report is the result of this discussion.

**REFERENCES:** [3ESSB 5034 - SEC. 206 \(2013\)](#), [ESHB 2746 \(2014\)](#)  
[http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/HEA/Documents/Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Aging and Disability Issues Final Report.pdf](http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/HEA/Documents/Joint_Legislative_Executive_Committee_on_Aging_and_Disability_Issues_Final_Report.pdf)  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/ADJLEC/Pages/default.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Kathy Buchli

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7488

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**TITLE:** Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight (Committee) met three times over the interim, with hearings on a variety of topics including: the Health Benefit Exchange, Medicaid expansion, the individual and small-group markets for 2015, hospital uncompensated care trends, the behavioral health purchasing regions and joint purchasing timelines, performance measures committee, implementation of E2SHB 2572 and purchasing innovations, Ebola readiness, telemedicine, and affordability issues. The Committee is ongoing through 2022.

**REFERENCES:** [E2SHB 2572 - SEC. 3 \(2014\)](#)  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/HCOJSC/Pages/default.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Mich'I Needham

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7442

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**TITLE:** Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force (Task Force) met six times over the interim, and reviewed subjects including regional services areas for behavioral health purchasing, performance measure development, chemical dependency service purchasing, tribal-centric behavioral health, full integration of health care purchasing, supported housing and employment, psychiatric boarding and single-bed certifications, and jail and community mental health collaborations. The Task Force provided a recommendation for the composition of regional service areas for integrated behavioral health purchasing to the Governor. A preliminary report was adopted on November 14, 2014, containing a review of 22 substantive recommendations forwarded to the Task Force by stakeholder workgroups.

**REFERENCES:** [2SSB 6312 \(2014\)](#), [2SSB 5732 \(2013\)](#)  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/ABHS/Documents/Adult%20Behavioral%20Health%20System%20Task%20Force%20Preliminary%20Report%20Dec%202014.pdf>  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/ABHS/Pages/default.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Kevin Black

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7747

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# Senate Higher Education Committee

## 2014 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** College Bound Scholarship Program Work Group

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** During the 2014 Session, the Legislature created a work group to make recommendations to ensure the College Bound Scholarship Program (Program) is viable, productive, and effective. The 11-member work group included two senators and two representatives.

The work group met four times in 2014. Meetings included a statutory and fiscal review of the Program; and presentations about the College Success Foundation, the 21st Century Scholars Program in Indiana, and student supports and interventions in the Tacoma Public Schools. In December, the work group submitted its final report to the Governor and the Legislature. The final report contains 12 recommendations for the Program within the following categories: data, student supports, communications, statutory changes, and funding.

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 6436 \(2014\)](http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/HIED/Documents/Final_Report_of_the_College_Bound_Scholarship_Program_Work_Group.pdf)  
[http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/HIED/Documents/Final Report of the College Bound Scholarship Program Work Group.pdf](http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/HIED/Documents/Final_Report_of_the_College_Bound_Scholarship_Program_Work_Group.pdf)  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/CBSPWG/Pages/default.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Kim Cushing

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7421

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**TITLE:** Veteran Supportive Campuses

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** In 2009 the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (Department) created a multi-agency memorandum of understanding to create a Veteran Supportive Campus designation for institutions of higher education. Committee staff examined the obligations each program participant agreed to in the memorandum of understanding, summarized the growth of the program since its inception, and reviewed the benefits and challenges institutions of higher education experienced as a result of obtaining the designation. Staff also reported on feedback the Department received about the effectiveness of the designation in promoting Washington as a desirable location for veterans to pursue higher education, and summarized the Department's process of designing a new program memorandum of understanding that addresses feedback related to oversight of the program and outreach to both participating and non-participating institutions of higher education.

**REFERENCES:** N/A

**STAFF CONTACT:** Eric Wolf

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7405

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# Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee

## 2014 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force (Task Force) met six times over the interim, and reviewed subjects including regional services areas for behavioral health purchasing, performance measure development, chemical dependency service purchasing, tribal-centric behavioral health, full integration of health care purchasing, supported housing and employment, psychiatric boarding and single-bed certifications, and jail and community mental health collaborations. The Task Force provided a recommendation for the composition of regional service areas for integrated behavioral health purchasing to the Governor. A preliminary report was adopted on November 14, 2014, containing a review of 22 substantive recommendations forwarded to the Task Force by stakeholder workgroups.

**REFERENCES:** [2SSB 6312 \(2014\)](#), [2SSB 5732 \(2013\)](#)  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/ABHS/Documents/Adult%20Behavioral%20Health%20System%20Task%20Force%20Preliminary%20Report%20Dec%202014.pdf>  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/ABHS/Pages/default.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Kevin Black

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7747

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**TITLE:** Juvenile Sentencing Reform Task Force

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Second Substitute Senate Bill 5064 established a joint task force to examine juvenile sentencing reform as it relates to the intersection of the adult and juvenile justice systems. The Juvenile Sentencing Reform Task Force (Task Force) met five times over the course of the interim and consisted of 15 voting members..

The Task Force reviewed information and discussed the following: (1) the transfer of youth to adult courts; (2) the custody and treatment of youth sentenced as adults; (3) sentencing policies applicable to youth in juvenile and adult courts; (4) juveniles in courts of limited jurisdiction; and (5) juvenile parole. The Task Force submitted a report and recommendations to the Legislature in December 2014. The Task Force was staffed by both House and Senate staff.

**REFERENCES:** [2SSB 5064](#), [SSB 6390](#)  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/JSRTF/Pages/default.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Lindsay Erickson

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 360-786-7465

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**TITLE:** Sex Offender Housing

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Sex Offender Policy Board (Board) was requested to review state policies related to the release and housing of sex offenders in the community and make recommendations that balance the need to find housing for offenders, the need to maintain public safety, and the general public's need to feel safe in their communities. The Board established a subcommittee which met several times over the interim. Meetings included participation and input from the Washington State Association of Counties, the Association of Washington Cities, and various city and county representatives.

The Board submitted its report to the Legislature in December 2014, including recommendations relating to public education and awareness about sex offenders, continued improvement of communication to city, county, and municipal officials when sex offenders are released to the community, and maintaining the status quo of current statutory residency restrictions.

**REFERENCES:** [SB 6252](#), [ESB 5105 \(2013\)](#)  
[http://www.ofm.wa.gov/sgc/sopb/documents/sex\\_offender\\_housing\\_201412.pdf](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/sgc/sopb/documents/sex_offender_housing_201412.pdf)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Lindsay Erickson

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7465

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

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The mission of the Committee is to address the issue of children who are sexually exploited, to examine the practices of local and regional entities involved in addressing sexually exploited children, and to make recommendations on statewide laws and practices. Washington has been developing a state Model Protocol for CSEC cases, which helps law enforcement, child welfare agencies, schools, social services providers, and medical personnel respond optimally when encountering children who might be victims.

In its report the Committee identified initial findings and recommendations, including the need to continue training additional task forces that can recognize and assist CSEC victims; promote continued coordination and collaboration on CSEC issues; improve data on CSEC in order for a scope of the problem to be definitively established and the most effective protocols and solutions can be identified; further examine criminal prosecution and demand reduction strategies to deter would-be traffickers and buyers of sexually exploited children; and identify the most pressing areas in which additional social services funding is needed, along with sources for such funding.

This initial report from the Committee will be followed by a final report due to the Legislature on June 30, 2015. Based on data collection that will take place during the next year, the Committee will make recommendations to improve the state's laws, policies, and practices for combating the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Staff will continue to monitor the progress of the Committee and will draft legislation as requested.

The Statewide Coordinating Committee on Sex Trafficking also provided a report to the Legislature in December 2014 addressing similar issues, listed below.

**REFERENCES:** [SSB 5308](#)  
[http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/Documents/2014 Initial Report to the Legislature.pdf](http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/Documents/2014%20Initial%20Report%20to%20the%20Legislature.pdf)  
[http://www.atg.wa.gov/uploadedFiles/Home/Supporting\\_Law\\_Enforcement/Human\\_Trafficking/Commercially\\_Sexually\\_Exploited\\_Children\\_Statewide\\_Coordinating\\_Committee/2014-CSEC-Committee-Report.pdf](http://www.atg.wa.gov/uploadedFiles/Home/Supporting_Law_Enforcement/Human_Trafficking/Commercially_Sexually_Exploited_Children_Statewide_Coordinating_Committee/2014-CSEC-Committee-Report.pdf)  
<http://www.commerce.wa.gov/Documents/Commerce-Sex-Trafficking-Final-2014.pdf>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Lindsay Erickson

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7465

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# Senate Law & Justice Committee

## 2014 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Human Sex Trafficking

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** In the 2013-14 biennium, the Legislature passed a number of bills aimed at combatting human sex trafficking. As a part of its Protect Innocence Challenge, Shared Hope International conducts an annual comprehensive study of existing state laws to analyze the effectiveness of each state legislature's response to domestic minor sex trafficking. Washington State has earned an "A" grade for its legislative framework. In the 2014 Legislative Session the Senate Law and Justice Committee held a work session on the remaining issues of identifying and rescuing victims of human trafficking. Legislation may be prepared to address these issues. Additionally, staff monitored the activities of the Statewide Coordinating Committee on Sex Trafficking as the committee developed recommendations to better serve victims and eliminate sex trafficking in Washington. The Washington State Department of Commerce report is listed below.

**REFERENCES:** [SB 5488 \(2013\)](#), [ESSB 5669 \(2013\)](#), [SHB 1791 \(2014\)](#), [ESHB 1291 \(2013\)](#), [SHB 1292 \(2013\)](#), [ESSB 5563 \(2014\)](#), [SSB 5308 \(2013\)](#)  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/CMD/Handler.ashx?MethodName=getdocumentcontent&documentId=CbohUyyNo3I&att=false>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Aldo Melchiori

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7439

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**TITLE:** Guardianships

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** A guardianship is a legal mechanism by which one individual or entity (a guardian) is appointed by a court to exercise certain decision-making functions on behalf of, and in the place of, an individual that is legally incapacitated. When a guardianship is established, the incapacitated person's legal right to make certain decisions with respect to personal and/or financial affairs is removed and responsibility for making such decisions is placed in the court-appointed guardian. In 2013 SB 5694 was introduced, but was not enacted. The bill would have modified provisions relating to the appointment, qualification, removal, and duties of guardians in order to improve protections for incapacitated adults. Among other provisions, the bill provides that a guardian may not prevent or limit contact between an incapacitated person and a family member without a court order. Several stakeholder meetings were held over the course of the interim to discuss complaints against guardians. Legislation will be drafted as requested.

**REFERENCES:** N/A

**STAFF CONTACT:** Aldo Melchiori

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7439

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**TITLE:** Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The use of unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly known as drones, for regulatory purposes by state and local agencies was addressed in HB 2789, later vetoed by the Governor. It would have restricted the use of drones by state and local agencies except where authorized, and it would have established a workgroup administered through the Department of Enterprise Services to study and make suggestions regarding the use of extraordinary sensing devices for regulatory purposes. The Governor has issued a moratorium to state agencies to prohibit the purchase and use of these devices until July 1, 2015. The Governor created a task force to develop legislation for the 2015 Legislative Session. The task force draft language is permissive and authorizes state and local agencies to use drones while also requiring an agency to obtain a court-issued warrant prior to using drones where privacy is implicated.

**REFERENCES:** N/A

**STAFF CONTACT:** Aldo Melchiori

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7439

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# Senate Natural Resources & Parks Committee

## 2014 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** In 2014 the Legislature passed 2SHB 2251 which, among other things, directed the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to lead statewide fish passage barrier removal efforts. In particular the bill directed DFW to convene a board with representatives from state agencies, tribal and local governments, and other interested organizations to identify and expedite removal of human-made or caused fish passage barriers. Senate committee staff monitored the implementation of 2SHB 2251 and the Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board, and provided information and support to members as requested.

**REFERENCES:** [2SHB 2251 \(2014\)](#)  
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/fbrb/>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Bonnie Kim

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7316

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**TITLE:** Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Task Force

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** In February 2014 the Governor issued Executive Order 14-01 which established the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation (Task Force). The Task Force was directed to develop an action plan and recommendations on topics to include the management, transformation, and development of Washington's outdoor recreation assets and programs. The Task Force met throughout the interim, with plans and recommendations due in September 2014. Senate committee staff monitored the Task Force and provided information and support to members as requested.

**REFERENCES:** [Executive Order 14-01](#)  
<http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/ORTF/ORTF-Recommendations.pdf>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Curt Gavigan

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7437

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# Senate Trade & Economic Development Committee

## 2014 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** International Trade

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Washington's economy relies heavily on international trade. To promote international trade, the Washington State Department of Commerce (DOC) operates an International Trade Program. In addition to the programs operated by the state of Washington, a number of international trade organizations and associations provide international trade services to Washington business. The Trade & Economic Development Committee held a work session at DOC's Seattle office that included a briefing on DOC's international trade program activities and a tour of their facilities. DOC updated the Committee on the status of a data-based evaluation of the effectiveness of DOC's international trade services, including the possible advantages and disadvantages of contracting these services to a non-state entity. The report is due to the Legislature no later than January 15, 2015.

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 6002 - SEC 127\(30\)](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jeff Olsen

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7428

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**TITLE:** Tourism Funding

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Tourism is a significant sector in Washington's economy, bringing in economic activity from both national and international visitors. Recently the state of Washington closed the Tourism Office in the Department of Commerce. The 2013-15 Operating Budget includes \$1 million for the Washington Tourism Alliance (WTA) to continue tourism activities. During the 2014 session, the Legislature passed SHB 2229 directing WTA to identify a long-term funding mechanism to support a statewide tourism marketing program. The Legislature received a report from WTA on December 1, 2014, outlining a plan to create a stable, long-term funding source for a statewide tourism marketing program.

**REFERENCES:** [SHB 2229 \(2014\)](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Eric Wolf

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7405

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**TITLE:** Tax Appeal Reform

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The American Bar Association adopted the Model State Administrative Tax Tribunal Act in 2006 as a recommended model for states to adopt to increase public confidence in the fairness of the state tax system. The model act provides that a taxpayer having a disagreement over a tax issue may receive a hearing of record before an independent agency with tax expertise, before requiring payment of the tax assessment. Committee staff worked with stakeholders to develop options for reforming the tax appeal process. A work session was held in November on a proposal to establish a tax appeal division in the Court of Tax Appeals.

**REFERENCES:** [SB 6175 \(2014\)](#), [SB 6176 \(2014\)](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jeff Olsen

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7428

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**TITLE:** Maritime and Manufacturing Joint Legislative Task Force

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Maritime and Manufacturing Joint Legislative Task Force (Joint Task Force) was established with the passage of E2SHB 2580 to foster economic resilience and development in Washington by supporting the maritime and other manufacturing sectors. The Joint Task Force met three times during the 2014 interim. Accomplishments of the Joint Task Force include establishing an Advisory Council of stakeholders and the development of a work plan for the 2015 Interim.

**REFERENCES:** [E2SHB 2580 \(2014\)](#)  
[http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/TRED/Documents/Joint Task Force on the Economic Resilience of Maritime and Manufacturing Work Plan .pdf](http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/TRED/Documents/Joint_Task_Force_on_the_Economic_Resilience_of_Maritime_and_Manufacturing_Work_Plan_.pdf)  
<http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/ERMM/Page/default.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jeff Olsen

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7428

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# Senate Transportation Committee

## 2014 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Railroad Crew Transportation Study

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Pursuant to legislation enacted in 2014, the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) recently submitted a report regarding the safety of vehicles providing transportation for railroad crew members. UTC consulted various stakeholders during the preparation of the report. The report included a review of the safety of equipment, driver qualifications, insurance levels, safety of operations, and the past accidents of charter party carriers providing railroad crew transportation. The report included the following recommendations:

1. Amend current state law to require the following:
  - a. All vehicles transporting rail crews must be subject to UTC safety regulations, regardless of seating capacity;
  - b. All such vehicles must include signage informing passengers of their rights and the process to file safety complaints; and
  - c. Railroads must report accident data related to crew transportation; and
2. Focus the attention of UTC's motor vehicle safety program on all railroad-owned vehicles used by Class I & II railroads to provide rail crew transportation, including employees whose primary duty is as a driver.

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 6001 - SEC. 102 \(2014\)](#)  
<http://utc.wa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Kelly Simpson

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7403

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**TITLE:** Revenue Structure of Natural Gas Used to Power Vehicles

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Committee staff worked with the Department of Licensing and stakeholders to evaluate the annual license fee in lieu of fuel tax, which currently applies to vehicles that are powered by natural gas use, in order to determine a fee that more closely represents the average consumption of vehicles by weight.

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 6440 - SEC. 209 \(1\)\(a\) \(2014\)](#)  
<http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/TRAN/Pages/Reports.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Amanda Cecil

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7429

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**TITLE:** The Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT's) Methods and Systems for Determining Highway Preservation and Maintenance Needs

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) conducted a two-year review of the methods and systems used by WSDOT to develop long-term estimates of maintenance and preservation needs, including for tolled facilities. The second phase of the final report was recently submitted. During this phase of the study, JLARC contracted with expert consultants to review how WSDOT estimates future needs for highway pavement and bridges. The report essentially found that WSDOT: maintains accurate data for pavement and bridges; can provide reliable long-term (ten-year) estimates for pavement maintenance and preservation; and did not use best practices to develop long-term estimates for bridge maintenance and preservation needs, so the consultants could not verify the accuracy of the bridge estimates.

The Legislative Auditor offered recommendations for WSDOT to use certain best practices to make its bridge estimates as reliable as its pavement estimates, and to develop a process to improve stakeholders' confidence in its highway estimates. None of the recommendations require legislation.

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 5024 - SEC. 108\(1\) \(2013\)](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Clint McCarthy

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7319

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**TITLE:** Business Models for Financially Sustainable Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Networks

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Joint Transportation Committee study's final report is not due until March 1, 2015. The following is a summary of the study thus far.

The study was broken into the following three phases:

- Evaluate the current status of EV charging in Washington. The consultants first developed a white paper summarizing the current status of EV charging in Washington which is listed below.
- Make recommendations regarding potential business models for financially sustainable EV charging networks. The consultants explored three types of EV charging infrastructure gaps that currently exist in Washington State – east-west travel along I-90, travel from Seattle to the coast, and urban charging in the greater Seattle area; and discussed alternative ways to finance charging stations to fill the gaps. The consultant then developed a finance model with many different data inputs that allowed them to analyze the financial feasibility of the business models identified to meet different travel route needs and dynamics.
- Make recommendations regarding alternative roles for the public and private sectors. The consultant then evaluated alternative roles for the public and private sectors in addressing different factor inputs that affected the financial feasibility of the business models. An EV charging network must serve many purposes; to meet these purposes, certain individual station locations may not generate sufficient revenue to be profitable or of interest to the private sector. Therefore, the public role may differ by the type of

location being served, or other factors that influence the viability of a charging station or network.

**REFERENCES:** [ESSB 6001 – Sec. 204\(6\) \(2014\)](#)  
[http://leg.wa.gov/JTC/Documents/Studies/EV/Task1\\_Final.pdf](http://leg.wa.gov/JTC/Documents/Studies/EV/Task1_Final.pdf)  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/JTC/Pages/ElectricVehicleChargingStationNetworksStudy.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Kim Johnson

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7472

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# Senate Ways & Means Committee

## 2014 Summary of Select Interim Activities

**TITLE:** Local Government Distributions

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Legislature distributes over \$750 million of state funds each fiscal year to units of local government, primarily cities and counties. The funds are distributed by a variety of mechanisms through the operating, capital, and transportation budgets. Committee staff developed a reference guide for use by members, legislative staff, local governments, and the public of state-shared revenues, distributions, grants, and loan programs that benefit local governments. Committee staff also worked with the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program to develop a searchable tool and map to enable persons to identify distributions by type – e.g. gas tax, or by beneficiary – e.g. distributions to Tacoma.

**REFERENCES:** <http://fiscaldev/TaxDistributions.aspx>

**STAFF CONTACT:** Julie Murray

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7711

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**TITLE:** 2015 Citizen's Guide to the State Budget

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Senate Ways & Means Committee and Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee will publish an updated version of the Citizen's Guide to the Budget for the 2015 Legislative Session. The guide is published on an annual basis for use by members, legislative staff, and the general public to answer basic questions about the Washington State biennial budget. It is anticipated that the guide will be published the second week of session and will be available with the committee, as well as online.

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

**STAFF CONTACT:** Kellee Keegan

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7716

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**TITLE:** 2015 Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** The Ways & Means and Early Learning & K-12 Education committees 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.

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

**STAFF CONTACT:** Lorrell Noahr

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7708

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**TITLE:** 2014 Legislative Budget Notes

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Legislative fiscal staff in the Senate and House worked together with the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee staff to publish the Legislative Budget Notes (LBN) in the summer of 2014. LBN is a publication that represents the official record of legislative action on the omnibus operating, transportation, and capital budgets. It is used by legislators, legislative staff, state agencies, and the general public to determine the legislative intent behind the hundreds of policy changes embedded in the three major documents.

**REFERENCES:** [http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/index\\_lbns.asp](http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/index_lbns.asp)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Ways and Means  
Committee Staff

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7715

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**TITLE:** Four-Year Balanced Budget & Outlook

**DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS/OUTCOME:** Beginning with the 2013-15 biennium, Chapter. 8, Laws of 2012 (SSB 6636) requires that budgets at time of passage be projected to be balanced for current and following biennia based on a maintenance level projection. Each November the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (ERFC) must submit a budget outlook document for state revenues and expenditures for the General Fund and related funds for the current biennium and the next ensuing biennium. ERFC must also prepare a budget outlook document for the Governor's proposed budget and for the budget enacted by the Legislature. To assist the ERFC in the preparation of the state budget outlooks, a State Budget Outlook Work Group (Work Group) is created, consisting of one staff person from the Office of Financial Management, the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee, the Office of the State Treasurer, ERFC, the Caseload Forecast Council, the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee. Staff will participate in the Work Group and provide other kinds of technical assistance.

**REFERENCES:** [CHAPTER 43.88 RCW](#)

**STAFF CONTACT:** Richard Ramsey  
Dean Carlson/Steve Jones

**CONTACT NUMBER:** 786-7715

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## **Additional Electronic Resources**

[Senate Website](#)

[Senate Committee Services Website](#)

[2014 Bills Passed the Legislature](#)

[TVW Archives](#)