

**House of Representatives
Standing Committees**

INTERIM PLANS

2024

This document includes House committee interim plans
approved as of April 29, 2024.

Other plans will be added as they are approved.

Please check back for future postings.

April 29, 2024

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Agriculture Updates - Fish and Wildlife Updates	Full Committee

To view specific meeting dates and times, please visit:
<http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx>

To sign up for e-mail notifications, including updates to meeting dates and times, please visit:
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For additional information, please contact Office of Program Research staff at (360) 786-7339

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Agriculture Updates

The Committee will hold a work session to receive updates on various agricultural issues. (One work session)

Fish and Wildlife Updates

The Committee will hold a work session to receive updates on issues impacting fish and wildlife management in Washington. (One work session)

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Behavioral Health System Capacity - Child Care Access and Availability - 2025 Session Budget Preview	Full Committee

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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Behavioral Health System Capacity

The state operating budget, in coordination with the state capital budget, has included numerous efforts designed to increase the inpatient capacity of the behavioral health system. Examples include the Olympic Heritage Behavioral Health facility, additional forensic beds at the state hospitals, capacity at Maple Lane, and the University of Washington teaching hospital. Additionally, the operating budget has funded numerous efforts to divert clients from inpatient care by providing increased services.

The Committee will receive an update on inpatient capacity, by geographic area, as well as on efforts to serve clients in other appropriate care settings. (One work session)

Child Care Access and Availability

The Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) program, a program funded in the operating budget, helps eligible families pay for child care while they work, attend job training, or participate in educational programs. Eligibility is determined by household income, though some families may be categorically eligible for WCCC. The WCCC program pays a monthly subsidy payment directly to the child care provider based on child age, geographic location, and other factors. Eligible families also make a monthly copayment directly to the provider, based on household income.

The state operating budget has included numerous efforts designed to facilitate the access, affordability, and availability of child care. The Committee will receive an update on the availability of child care including how additional child care funding contained in the operating budget has impacted affordability and availability of services. (One work session)

2025 Session Budget Preview

The Committee will receive an update on the budget outlook after the September and November revenue forecasts and estimated maintenance level changes. The Committee will also receive a preview of budget related items that may come before the Legislature in the 2025 session. (One work session)

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

1. Pension Funding Council
2. Joint Committee on Employment Relations
3. Joint Select Committee on Governance and Funding for Institutional Education
4. Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Behavioral Health

CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- School Construction Assistance Program Revision Planning - Encumbered Lands	Full Committee

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CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

School Construction Assistance Program Revision Planning

The Committee will receive information from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the OSPI's consultant related to planning for the revision of the School Construction Assistance Program, pursuant to the requirements of Section 5011 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget. (One work session)

Encumbered Lands

The Committee will receive information from the Department of Natural Resources and counties with encumbered state forestlands regarding: (a) an overview of the encumbered lands issue area; (b) the budgetary impacts of such encumbrances on counties and junior taxing districts; (c) updates regarding the use of past capital budget appropriations for encumbrance mitigation; and (d) implementation of the State Forestland Pool. (One work session)

CIVIL RIGHTS & JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
May	Olympia	Work Session	- Court Innovation Programs	Full Committee
Late September	Olympia	Work Session	- Tribal Courts - Public Defense System	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Trueblood Lawsuit Update - Office of Public Defense Program for Persons Committed Following Acquittal by Reason of Insanity	Full Committee

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CIVIL RIGHTS & JUDICIARY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Court Innovation Programs

The Committee will hold a work session on court innovation programs, including behavioral health, equity and access, family and youth justice, Supreme Court commissions, and the Washington State Center for Court Research. (One work session)

Tribal Courts

The Committee will hold a work session on tribal courts and an overview of how they operate across the state. The work session will include a review of how tribal courts interact with each other and with state and federal courts, as well as how courts handle concurrent jurisdiction issues. (One work session)

Public Defense System

The Committee will hold a work session focused on the public defense system and receive an overview of how public defense services are provided and funded in the state, as well as how other states approach coordinating and funding public defense services. The Committee intends to invite relevant state agencies, subject matter experts, and other stakeholders to present on these topics. (One work session)

Trueblood Lawsuit Update

The Committee will hold a work session on issues relating to the *Trueblood* lawsuit, which addresses excessive wait times for competency evaluation and restoration services for in-jail criminal defendants. The work session will include an update from the Department of Social and Health Services and the Health Care Authority on the status of the lawsuit, compliance with and implementation of the contempt settlement agreement, and implementation of programs geared to providing timely competency evaluation and restoration services for criminal defendants. (One work session)

Office of Public Defense Program for Persons Committed Following Acquittal by Reason of Insanity

Legislation enacted in 2023 gave the Office of Public Defense (OPD) responsibility for administering all state-funded services related to representation of indigent persons who are found not guilty by reason of insanity and committed to state psychiatric care. The Committee will receive an update from the OPD on implementation of the program for post-commitment representation of persons acquitted by reason of insanity. (One work session)

COMMUNITY SAFETY, JUSTICE, & REENTRY COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
November	Olympia	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crime Victims' Rights and Resources - Rethinking Misdemeanors: Dismissals, Diversions, and Other Alternatives to Prosecution 	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Felony Sentencing Reform - Recent Crime Trends 	Full Committee

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COMMUNITY SAFETY, JUSTICE, & REENTRY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Crime Victims' Rights and Resources

The Committee will examine the current rights and resources available to crime victims, survivors of victims, and witnesses of crimes, and explore ways to improve such supports, including by empowering the voices of victims through access to victim advocates, providing benefits to victims through the Department of Labor & Industries' Crime Victims Compensation Program, and ensuring that the statutory and constitutional rights of victims are upheld in key judicial proceedings. (One work session)

Rethinking Misdemeanors: Dismissals, Diversions, and Other Alternatives to Prosecution

The Committee will evaluate a range of topics related to the filing and disposition of misdemeanor charges, including rates of misdemeanor prosecutions and dismissals in the state, use of diversions and other alternative methods to resolve cases, trends in the demographics of defendants and outcomes for vulnerable populations, and issues with criminalizing conduct rooted in behavioral health crises. (One work session)

Felony Sentencing Reform

The Committee will review the state's current adult felony sentencing laws and consider policy recommendations related to: reducing complexities and errors in sentencing; addressing racial disparities in the length of sentences; expanding the availability of intermediate sanctions and access to rehabilitative and reintegration services and programs; improving the effectiveness of the criminal legal system; and promoting community safety. (One work session)

Recent Crime Trends

The Committee will receive a briefing on the most recent crime statistics from entities that collect crime-related data and study discernable trends in the incidence and types of crime. (One work session)

CONSUMER PROTECTION & BUSINESS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- 2025 Session Preview	Full Committee

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CONSUMER PROTECTION & BUSINESS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

2025 Session Preview

The Committee will have a work session to review significant legislative proposals and issues for the upcoming legislative session. (One work session)

FINANCE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
Mid November	Snohomish County	Work Session	- Housing and Finance Policy	Full Committee, Joint with Housing Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Report from the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council - Reports from the Department of Revenue - Report from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee	Full Committee

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FINANCE COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Housing and Finance Policy

The Committee will meet jointly with the Housing Committee to examine housing and finance policy. The focus will include understanding the multifamily property tax exemption, funding sources for housing, and the different affordable housing needs of communities. It will include briefings from agencies and stakeholders. (One work session)

Report from the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council

The Committee will receive a briefing on the November 2024 forecast from the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council. (One work session)

Reports from the Department of Revenue

The Committee will receive an update from the Department of Revenue on various tax programs. (One work session)

Report from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee

The Committee will receive a briefing from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee on tax preference performance reviews. (One work session)

HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
Late September or early October	Olympia	Work Session	- Network Access - Primary Care Access	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Health Care Marketplace Consolidation and the Impact on the Cost of Care - Updates on Behavioral Health Investments	Full Committee

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For additional information, please contact Office of Program Research staff at (360) 786-7120

HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Network Access

The Committee will hold a work session to consider topics relating to health insurance network access requirements, including the effect of network access standards on consumer access to health care in rural areas, the role of telemedicine in increasing access, and the impact of the provider network contracting process. (One work session)

Primary Care Access

The Committee will hold a work session to learn about access to primary care providers and patient wait times for primary care visits, particularly in rural areas. The topic will consider the role of primary care in patient health, the supply of primary care providers in the workforce, and progress toward spending targets for primary care services. (One work session)

Health Care Marketplace Consolidation and the Impact on the Cost of Care

The Committee will hold a work session to consider the consolidation of health care facilities and provider groups in Washington and its impact on the cost of care to patients and the health care system. The Committee will explore hospital and provider regulation, trends in health care facility and provider group mergers, acquisitions, and contract negotiations, and information on drivers of the cost of health care, including the findings of the Health Care Cost Transparency Board. (One work session)

Updates on Behavioral Health Investments

The Committee will receive updates on investments and projects related to behavioral health. The Committee will consider the extent to which recent investments have increased behavioral health resources and improved access in various components of the behavioral health system. (One work session)

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

1. Joint Select Committee on Health Care and Behavioral Health Oversight
2. Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Behavioral Health
3. Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Planning for Aging and Disability Issues

HUMAN SERVICES, YOUTH, & EARLY LEARNING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Improving Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities	Full Committee

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HUMAN SERVICES, YOUTH, & EARLY LEARNING COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Improving Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

The Committee will hear presentations from the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and other interested stakeholders regarding the various waiver services and funding process for services supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, and the mission of the DSHS in serving individuals with developmental disabilities. (One work session)

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

1. Legislative Executive WorkFirst Poverty Oversight Task Force
2. Children & Youth Behavioral Health Work Group

INNOVATION, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, & VETERANS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
October	Olympia	Work Session	- Broadband Updates - Tourism Updates	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery	Full Committee

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INNOVATION, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, & VETERANS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Broadband Updates

The Committee will receive updates on broadband infrastructure and development, including mapping and funding, implementation of the state's investments, digital equity, and remaining needs in rural counties and workforce. (One work session)

Tourism Updates

The Committee will receive tourism-related updates on rural economic development and responsible outdoor recreation. (One work session)

Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

The Committee will receive information on opportunities to use buildings for emergency responses, including immediate occupation, insurance availability, and the wildland urban interface code. The Committee will also receive information on state-wide systems gaps, resiliency in communities, and disaster preparedness and readiness. (One work session)

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

1. Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs
2. Legislative Committee on Economic Development and International Relations

LABOR & WORKPLACE STANDARDS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paid Family and Medical Leave Program – Implementation and Service Update - Paid Family and Medical Leave Program – Job Protection Study - Employment of Minors Participating in Certain Educational and Vocational Training Programs - Noncompetition Agreements - Unemployment Insurance for Undocumented Workers 	Full Committee

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For additional information, please contact Office of Program Research staff at (360) 786-7384

LABOR & WORKPLACE STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Paid Family and Medical Leave Program – Implementation and Service Update

The Committee will receive a status report from the Employment Security Department on the implementation of the Paid Family and Medical Leave Program, which is in its fifth year of paying benefits to eligible workers. The Committee will examine possible access and process issues experienced by workers and employers. (One work session)

Paid Family and Medical Leave Program – Job Protection Study

The Legislature directed the University of Washington (UW) Evans School of Public Policy and Governance to conduct a study on how job protection – or lack thereof – impacts utilization of the Paid Family and Medical Leave Program. The final report must be submitted by December 1, 2024. The Committee will receive a briefing on the findings and recommendations included in the final report. (One work session)

Employment of Minors Participating in Certain Educational and Vocational Training Programs

The Committee will examine state laws and rules governing the employment of 16- and 17-year-old students participating in running start and preparatory secondary career and technical education programs, particularly working hours and other applicable restrictions affecting access to relevant career-oriented opportunities. (One work session)

Noncompetition Agreements

The Committee will receive a general overview of the types of noncompetition agreements and the contexts in which they are used, and an update on recent changes to federal and state laws governing such agreements. (One work session)

Unemployment Insurance for Undocumented Workers

The Committee will receive a status update from the Employment Security Department and relevant stakeholders on the development of an alternative wage replacement program for unemployed workers who are ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits due to their immigration or citizenship status. (One work session)

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION & WORKFORCE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial Aid and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) - Student Learning, Completion, and Employment Outcomes - Eastern Washington University's Educational Specialist in School Psychology (EdS) Distance-learning Program - Credential Transparency 	Full Committee

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POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION & WORKFORCE COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Financial Aid and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The Committee will receive a briefing from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the Council of Presidents on the U.S. Department of Education's roll-out of the new, simplified FAFSA. One area of focus will include how institutions have responded to the challenges and delays of the launch of the simplified FAFSA, and the resulting impacts on students and families such as enrollment rates. (One work session)

Student Learning, Completion, and Employment Outcomes

The Committee will receive a briefing on institutional data regarding institutional characteristics, enrollment, financial aid, costs, student debt, and student outcomes such as earnings and employment for college and university graduates by degree level and degree major. The briefing will also include how institutions collect these data and assist students in completing their degrees and with employment outcomes. (One work session)

Eastern Washington University's Educational Specialist in School Psychology (EdS) Distance-learning Program

The Committee will receive a briefing from Eastern Washington University on its EdS Distance-learning Program, which is delivered primarily online and was the first online School Psychology program to be accredited by the National Association of School Psychologists. The presentation will cover student demographics, engagement, and employment outcome data. (One work session)

Credential Transparency

With a presentation from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the Committee will evaluate credential transparency data integration across education and workforce data systems, such as online registries that provide users information to understand, evaluate, and access essential information about educational and occupational credentials, including diplomas, certificates, digital badges, certifications, licenses, apprenticeships, military training, and degrees. The Committee will also explore how credential transparency impacts the educational, career, and economic momentum of Washingtonians. (One work session)

REGULATED SUBSTANCES & GAMING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
September or October	Olympia	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cannabis, Tobacco, and Vapor Product Policy and Regulatory Update - Washington State Patrol Cannabis Enforcement Update 	Full Committee
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Washington State Institute for Public Policy Reports on Cannabis Legalization - Problem Gambling 	Full Committee

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REGULATED SUBSTANCES & GAMING COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Cannabis, Tobacco, and Vapor Product Policy and Regulatory Update

The Committee will receive an update from state agencies including the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) regarding current and future cannabis, tobacco, and vapor product policy and regulatory issues. This will include examining: (1) implementation of prior enacted legislation related to social equity in the cannabis industry, the regulation of products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), and the cannabis excise tax exemption for medical cannabis patients and designated providers; (2) the response to dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDE) contamination at certain licensed cannabis production facilities in north central Washington; (3) the use of the Cannabis Central Reporting System; (4) the status of prevention programs for tobacco, vapor products, and cannabis; and (5) new and emerging issues related to licensed cannabis production, processing, and sales, and the sale of products containing THC. (One work session)

Washington State Patrol Cannabis Enforcement Update

The Committee will receive an update from the Washington State Patrol (WSP) regarding the WSP's enforcement of illegal cannabis production, processing, and sales, and the work of the WSP's drug enforcement task forces funded through the Dedicated Cannabis Account. (One work session)

Washington State Institute for Public Policy Reports on Cannabis Legalization

The Committee will receive an update from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy on cost-benefit evaluations of the implementation of Initiative 502 (2012). The committee will examine the findings in these evaluations, including the following reports completed in 2023: (1) *Licensed Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Access and High School Outcomes in Washington State*; (2) *A 10-Year Review of Non-Medical Cannabis Policy, Revenues, and Expenditures*; and (3) *Initiative 502 and Cannabis-Related Public Health and Safety Outcomes: Third Required Report*. (One work session)

Problem Gambling

The Committee will monitor problem gambling treatment and prevention programs in Washington, evaluate the implementation and impact of recently enacted legislation (E2SSB 5634 (2023)) relating to problem gambling policy and funding, examine the use and effectiveness of self-exclusion programs, and monitor current and emerging gaming issues impacting problem gambling and gambling disorder. The Committee will engage with state agencies, tribes, the Washington Indian Gaming Association, and the Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling. (One work session)

STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	SUBJECTS	COMMITTEE
December Committee Assembly	Olympia	Work Session	- Increasing Voter Turnout - Campaign Finance Enforcement - Special Purpose District Elections	Full Committee

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STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Increasing Voter Turnout

The state has taken many steps to increase voter turnout over the past several sessions, but there are still barriers and accessibility issues that prevent some voting-age citizens from casting a ballot. The Committee will invite experts in elections and voting rights to discuss which recent election accessibility policies have led to increased turnout, as well as further steps that the Legislature can consider taking to further increase voter turnout in state and local elections. (One work session)

Campaign Finance Enforcement

The Committee will invite the Public Disclosure Commission to discuss the agency's processes for enforcing and providing guidance about campaign finance disclosure requirements. (One work session)

Special Purpose District Elections

The Committee will invite the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to discuss its June 2024 report about Conservation District elections and the election code in Title 29A RCW. The Committee will also invite experts in elections and voting rights to discuss steps that the Legislature can consider taking to improve special district elections for districts that do not hold elections under Title 29A RCW. (One work session)

RELATED INTERIM COMMITTEES

Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee