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SENATE BILL 6655

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators West and Brown

Read first time 01/26/98. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to institutions of higher education; amending RCW  
2 28B.25.020; adding a new chapter Title 28B RCW; and repealing RCW  
3 28B.10.060.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** FINDINGS. The legislature finds that the  
6 Spokane intercollegiate research and technology institute is a vital  
7 and necessary element in the academic and economic future of eastern  
8 Washington. The legislature also finds that it is in the interest of  
9 the state of Washington to support and promote applied research and  
10 technology in areas of the state that, because of geographic or  
11 historic circumstances, have not developed fully balanced economies.  
12 It is the intent of the legislature that institutions of higher  
13 education, and the department of community, trade, and economic  
14 development work cooperatively with the private sector in the  
15 development and implementation of a technology transfer and integration  
16 program to promote the economic development and enhance the quality of  
17 life in eastern Washington.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    DEFINITIONS.    The definitions in this  
2 section apply throughout this chapter, unless the context clearly  
3 requires otherwise.

4        (1) "Board" means the board of directors of the Spokane  
5 intercollegiate research and technology institute.

6        (2) "High technology" or "technology" includes but is not limited  
7 to the modernization, miniaturization, integration, and computerization  
8 of electronic, hydraulic, pneumatic, laser, mechanical, robotics,  
9 nuclear, chemical, biological, telecommunication, and other  
10 technological applications to enhance productivity in areas including  
11 but not limited to manufacturing, communications, medicine,  
12 bioengineering, and commerce.

13        (3) "Institute" means the Spokane intercollegiate research and  
14 technology institute, including the affiliated staff, faculty,  
15 facilities, and research centers operated by the institute.

16        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    SPOKANE INTERCOLLEGIATE RESEARCH AND  
17 TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE. (1) The Spokane intercollegiate research and  
18 technology institute is created.

19        (2) The institute shall be operated and administered as a multi-  
20 institutional education and research center, housing appropriate  
21 programs conducted in Spokane under the authority of institutions of  
22 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016. Washington independent  
23 and private institutions of higher education may participate as full  
24 partners in any academic and research activities of the institute.

25        (3) The institute shall house education and research programs  
26 specifically designed to meet the needs of eastern Washington.

27        (4) The establishment of any education program at the institute and  
28 the lease, purchase, or construction of any site or facility for the  
29 institute is subject to the approval of the higher education  
30 coordinating board under RCW 28B.80.340.

31        (5) The institute shall be headquartered in Spokane.

32        (6) The mission of the institute is to perform and commercialize  
33 research that benefits the intermediate and long-term economic vitality  
34 of eastern Washington and to develop and strengthen university-industry  
35 relationships through the conduct of research that is primarily of  
36 interest to eastern Washington-based companies or state economic  
37 development programs. The institute shall:

1 (a) Perform and facilitate research supportive of state science and  
2 technology objectives, particularly as they relate to eastern  
3 Washington industries;

4 (b) Provide leading edge collaborative research and technology  
5 transfer opportunities primarily to eastern Washington industries;

6 (c) Provide substantial opportunities for training undergraduate  
7 and graduate students through direct involvement in research and  
8 industry interactions;

9 (d) Emphasize and develop nonstate support of the institute's  
10 research activities; and

11 (e) Provide a forum for effective interaction between the state's  
12 technology-based industries and its academic institutions through  
13 promotion of faculty collaboration with industry, particularly within  
14 eastern Washington.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** ADMINISTRATION--BOARD OF DIRECTORS. (1) The  
16 institute shall be administered by the board of directors.

17 (2) The board shall consist of the following members:

18 (a) Nine members of the general public. Of the general public  
19 membership, at least six shall be individuals who are associated with  
20 or employed by technology-based or manufacturing-based industries and  
21 have broad business experience and an understanding of high technology;

22 (b) The executive director of the Washington technology center or  
23 the director's designee;

24 (c) The provost of Washington State University or the provost's  
25 designee;

26 (d) The provost of Eastern Washington University or the provost's  
27 designee;

28 (e) The provost of Central Washington University or the provost's  
29 designee;

30 (f) The provost of the University of Washington or the provost's  
31 designee;

32 (g) An academic representative from the Spokane community colleges;

33 (h) One member from Gonzaga University; and

34 (i) One member from Whitworth College.

35 (3) The term of office for each board member, excluding the  
36 executive director of the Washington technology center, the provosts of  
37 Washington State University, Eastern Washington University, Central  
38 Washington University, and the University of Washington, shall be three

1 years. The executive director of the institute shall be an ex officio,  
2 nonvoting member of the board. Board members shall be appointed by the  
3 governor. Initial appointments shall be for staggered terms to ensure  
4 the long-term continuity of the board. The board shall meet at least  
5 quarterly.

6 (4) The duties of the board include:

7 (a) Developing the general operating policies for the institute;

8 (b) Appointing the executive director of the institute;

9 (c) Approving the annual operating budget of the institute;

10 (d) Establishing priorities for the selection and funding of  
11 research projects that guarantee the greatest potential return on the  
12 state's investment;

13 (e) Approving and allocating funding for research projects  
14 conducted by the institute;

15 (f) In cooperation with the department of community, trade, and  
16 economic development, developing a biennial work plan and five-year  
17 strategic plan for the institute that are consistent with the state-  
18 wide technology development and commercialization goals;

19 (g) Coordinating with public, independent, and private institutions  
20 of higher education, and other participating institutions of higher  
21 education in the development of training, research, and development  
22 programs to be conducted at the institute that are targeted to meet  
23 industrial needs;

24 (h) Assisting the department of community, trade, and economic  
25 development in the department's efforts to develop state science and  
26 technology public policies and coordinate publicly funded programs;

27 (i) Reviewing annual progress reports on funded research projects;

28 (j) Providing an annual report to the governor and the legislature  
29 detailing the activities and performance of the institute; and

30 (k) Submitting annually to the department of community, trade, and  
31 economic development an updated strategic plan and a statement of  
32 performance measured against the mission, roles, and contractual  
33 obligations of the institute.

34 (5) The board may enter into contracts to fulfill its  
35 responsibilities and purposes under this chapter.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** SUPPORT FROM PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS.  
37 Washington State University, Eastern Washington University, Central  
38 Washington University, the University of Washington, Gonzaga

1 University, Whitworth College, and other participating institutions of  
2 higher education shall provide the affiliated staff, faculty, and  
3 facilities required to support the operation of the institute.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE, AND  
5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. The department of community, trade, and economic  
6 development shall contract with the institute for the expenditure of  
7 state-appropriated funds for the operation of the institute. The  
8 department of community, trade, and economic development shall provide  
9 guidance to the institute regarding expenditure of state-appropriated  
10 funds and the development of the institute's strategic plan. The  
11 director of the department of community, trade, and economic  
12 development shall not withhold funds appropriated for the institute if  
13 the institute complies with the provisions of its contract with the  
14 department of community, trade, and economic development. The  
15 department is responsible to the legislature for the contractual  
16 performance of the institute.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES TO OTHER  
18 INSTITUTIONS. The facilities of the institute shall be made available  
19 to other institutions of higher education within the state when this  
20 would benefit specific program needs.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND FEDERAL  
22 FUNDS. The board may receive and expend federal funds and any private  
23 gifts or grants to further the purpose of the institute. The funds are  
24 to be expended in accordance with federal and state law and any  
25 conditions contingent in the grant of those funds.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** CAPTIONS NOT LAW. Captions used in this  
27 chapter are not any part of the law.

28 **Sec. 10.** RCW 28B.25.020 and 1996 c 110 s 1 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 (1) The joint center shall have authority over all fiscal  
31 activities related to the land and facilities known as the Riverpoint  
32 higher education park subject to the approval of the higher education  
33 coordinating board pursuant to RCW 28B.80.330 through 28B.80.350.

1 (2) The joint center for higher education shall coordinate all  
2 baccalaureate and graduate degree programs, and all other courses and  
3 programs offered in the Spokane area by Washington State University and  
4 by Eastern Washington University outside of its Cheney campus. The  
5 joint center for higher education shall not coordinate the  
6 intercollegiate center for nursing. The joint center for higher  
7 education may mediate disagreements among institutions about degree  
8 programs or courses.

9 (3) The joint center for higher education shall coordinate the  
10 following higher education activities in the Spokane area outside of  
11 the Eastern Washington University Cheney campus:

12 (a) Articulation between lower division and upper division  
13 programs;

14 (b) The participation of Washington State University and Eastern  
15 Washington University in joint academic degree programs with Gonzaga  
16 University and Whitworth College and in joint academic degree programs  
17 with each other; and

18 (c) All contractual negotiations between public and independent  
19 colleges and universities(~~(/and~~

20 ~~(d) Programs offered through the intercollegiate research and  
21 technology institute created by RCW 28B.10.060)).~~

22 (4) The participating institutions in the joint center for higher  
23 education shall maintain jurisdiction over the content of the course  
24 offerings and the entitlement to degrees. However, before any degree  
25 program is authorized under this section, it shall be subject to review  
26 and approval of the higher education coordinating board.

27 (5) The joint center shall develop a master plan for the  
28 Riverpoint higher education park. The plan shall be developed in  
29 cooperation with the participating institutions and submitted to the  
30 higher education coordinating board, legislature, and office of  
31 financial management.

32 (6) The joint center shall adopt rules as necessary to implement  
33 this chapter.

34 (7) Title to or all interest in real estate and other assets,  
35 including but not limited to assignable contracts, cash, equipment,  
36 buildings, facilities, and appurtenances thereto held as of July 1,  
37 1991, shall vest in the joint center for higher education, except that  
38 title to or all interest in real estate and other assets, including but  
39 not limited to assignable contracts, cash, equipment, buildings,

1 facilities, and appurtenances related to the Spokane intercollegiate  
2 research and technology institute held as of July 1, 1998, shall vest  
3 in the Spokane intercollegiate institute of technology. The area of  
4 the real property related to the Spokane intercollegiate institute of  
5 technology is defined as the approximate two and one-half acres bounded  
6 by the Spokane river, Trent Avenue, and Riverpoint Boulevard.

7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. RCW 28B.10.060 and 1991 c 205 s 1 & 1989  
8 1st ex. s. c 7 s 10 are each repealed.

9 NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. Sections 1 through 9 of this act constitute  
10 a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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