
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6626

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Carlson, Shin, Jacobsen, Parlette, Horn, B. Sheldon and McAuliffe)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/2002.

1 AN ACT Relating to a study of the role, mission, and structure of
2 branch campuses by the Washington state institute for public policy;
3 and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** In 1989, the legislature created a system of
6 branch campuses to meet the upper division and graduate education needs
7 of individuals, businesses, and urban communities. Over a decade later
8 it is time to review the system and to determine whether or not the
9 original intent is being met as well as to determine whether the
10 original goals are appropriate in the economic and educational climate
11 of today.

12 The lack of sufficient educational opportunities in urban areas
13 caused the 1989 legislature to endorse the creation of branch campuses
14 for the University of Washington and Washington State University. The
15 new campuses were expected to meet the upper-division and graduate
16 needs of place-bound individuals who were unable to relocate due to
17 financial difficulties, family commitments, or job responsibilities.
18 The branch campuses were to be operated as models of a two-plus-two
19 educational system. In addition, the new campuses were expected to

1 provide the educational opportunities that are beneficial to the
2 economy of the state's urban centers not previously served by a four-
3 year institution. The new campuses were also expected to address the
4 issue of baccalaureate degree production in Washington falling behind
5 other states in the nation.

6 The Washington state institute for public policy shall review and
7 evaluate the following questions that surround the branch campuses of
8 the University of Washington and Washington State University: (1) What
9 evidence is there to support that the branch campuses fulfilled the
10 original intent of the legislature; (2) to what extent do key factors
11 such as student demographics; demand for and availability of upper
12 division and graduate higher education; and local and state labor
13 markets indicate a need to modify the role, mission, or structure of
14 the branch campuses; (3) what has been the experience of other states
15 with upper division branch campuses; (4) what is the relationship of
16 the branch campuses to their local community colleges; and (5) what are
17 some policy options the legislature could consider regarding the future
18 of branch campuses? In completing the report, the institute may
19 request information from appropriate outside resources such as the
20 western interstate commission for higher education, the national
21 conference of state legislatures, the education commission of the
22 states, or the national center for higher education management systems.

23 The institute shall submit a report to the appropriate legislative
24 committees by December 12, 2002.

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