

2SSB 5914 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Higher Education

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that southwest
4 Washington continues to be the fastest-growing region in the state and
5 is successfully attracting a wide array of corporations and businesses
6 vital to the future expansion of the economy of the region and the
7 entire state. The legislature also recognizes that southwest
8 Washington is the largest urban area in the state without access to an
9 in-state, public four-year institution of higher education. However,
10 the legislature finds that other areas of the state could also
11 potentially benefit educationally and economically from expanded
12 baccalaureate and graduate education opportunities. With increased
13 demand and limited resources to provide such expansion, the legislature
14 finds it necessary to examine thoroughly and objectively the prospect
15 of creating additional educational opportunities not only in southwest
16 Washington but also in other underserved areas of the state.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state institute for
18 public policy shall develop evaluation criteria and identify data
19 necessary to study the feasibility of creating additional public
20 baccalaureate and graduate education opportunities in underserved areas
21 of the state. The criteria must be rigorous, objective, and applicable
22 to various regions of the state. The study methodology must include
23 consultation with community leaders. The criteria must include but not
24 be limited to the following:

- 25 (a) A detailed regional analysis of student demand and supply of
26 degree programs from existing higher education institutions;
27 (b) Population and demographic projections for a region;
28 (c) Potential regional economic development, including types of

1 businesses and employers and their educational and work force training
2 needs;

3 (d) Evaluation of alternative models of providing baccalaureate and
4 professional graduate education in a region, including expanding
5 existing partnerships between community and technical colleges and
6 four-year institutions;

7 (e) Examination of the possible role and mission of new or modified
8 higher education institutions in a region, including the possibility of
9 an innovative combination of instruction and research suitable for
10 meeting a region's needs for access as well as support the expansion of
11 a region's economic viability;

12 (f) Analysis of short and long-term operating and capital costs;
13 and

14 (g) A balance between local or regional interests and statewide
15 needs.

16 (2) Once the evaluation criteria, data, and methodology have been
17 developed, the institute shall conduct the first feasibility study in
18 southwest Washington.

19 (3) The institute shall submit its findings from the first
20 feasibility study to the higher education and fiscal committees of the
21 senate and house of representatives by December 15, 2004.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
23 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
24 June 30, 2004, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
25 void."

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26 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "education;" strike the
27 remainder of the title and insert "and creating new sections."

EFFECT: Before conducting a feasibility study for additional

baccalaureate and graduate education in southwest Washington, the Institute must first develop evaluation criteria and identify the data necessary to conduct a study that is rigorous, objective, and could be applied in various regions of the state. A balance between local or regional interests and statewide needs is added to the list of analyses that are part of the study. Once the criteria, data, and methodology are developed, the Institute will conduct the first study in southwest Washington.

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