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HOUSE BILL 2707

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Kenney, Priest, Sommers, Jarrett, McCoy, Chase and Hudgins

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to higher education branch campuses; amending RCW  
2 28B.45.020, 28B.45.030, 28B.45.040, 28B.45.050, and 28B.80.510; adding  
3 new sections to chapter 28B.45 RCW; recodifying RCW 28B.80.510; and  
4 repealing RCW 28B.45.070, 28B.80.500, and 28B.80.520.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.45 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) In 1989, the legislature created five branch campuses to be  
9 operated by the state's two public research universities. Located in  
10 growing urban areas, the branch campuses were charged with two  
11 missions:

12 (a) Increasing access to higher education by focusing on upper  
13 division and graduate programs, targeting placebound students, and  
14 operating as models of a two plus two educational system in cooperation  
15 with the community colleges; and

16 (b) Promoting regional economic development by responding to demand  
17 for degrees from local businesses and supporting regional economies  
18 through research activities.

1 (2) Fifteen years later, the legislature finds that branch campuses  
2 are responding to their original mission:

3 (a) Branch campuses accounted for half of statewide upper division  
4 and graduate public enrollment growth since 1990;

5 (b) Branch campuses have grown steadily and enroll increasing  
6 numbers of transfer students each year;

7 (c) Branch campuses enroll proportionately more older and part-time  
8 students than their main campuses and attract increasing proportions of  
9 students from nearby counties;

10 (d) Although the extent of their impact has not been measured,  
11 branch campuses positively affect local economies and offer degree  
12 programs that roughly correspond with regional occupational  
13 projections; and

14 (e) The capital investments made by the state to support branch  
15 campuses represent a significant benefit to regional economic  
16 development.

17 (3) However, the legislature also finds the policy landscape in  
18 higher education has changed since the original creation of the branch  
19 campuses. Demand for access to baccalaureate and graduate education is  
20 increasing rapidly. The state must prioritize additional expenditures  
21 in higher education to ensure the most cost-effective investment of  
22 public resources. The branch campuses have each evolved into unique  
23 institutions, and internal and external pressures are beginning to move  
24 them away from their original mission.

25 (4) Therefore, it is the legislature's intent to reaffirm the  
26 mission of Washington's higher education branch campuses and set the  
27 course for their continued future expansion and development to meet the  
28 education needs of the citizens of Washington state in a cost-effective  
29 manner.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.45 RCW  
31 to read as follows:

32 (1) The primary mission of the five higher education branch  
33 campuses created under this chapter is to expand access to  
34 baccalaureate and master's level graduate education in under-served  
35 urban areas of the state. The branch campuses shall place a priority  
36 on providing instruction and related activities to support degree and  
37 certificate programs.

1 (2) Branch campuses shall collaborate with the community colleges  
2 in their region to develop articulation agreements, dual admissions  
3 policies, and other partnerships to ensure that branch campuses serve  
4 as innovative models of a two plus two educational system. Other  
5 possibilities for collaboration include but are not limited to joint  
6 development of curricula and degree programs, colocation of  
7 instruction, and arrangements to share faculty.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.45 RCW  
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) It is the legislature's intent that branch campuses be funded  
11 at a level consistent with their primary mission and commensurate with  
12 upper division and graduate level degree programs at the comprehensive  
13 universities.

14 (2) The higher education coordinating board shall evaluate faculty  
15 workload, research activities, and funding for research at the branch  
16 campuses to identify an appropriate funding level for each campus. By  
17 December 1, 2005, the board shall recommend a strategy to transition  
18 overall funding to implement legislative intent. The board shall also  
19 recommend a growth plan for each branch campus to achieve economies of  
20 scale in operation and coordinate expansion in both enrollment and  
21 facilities.

22 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.45.020 and 1994 c 217 s 3 are each amended to read  
23 as follows:

24 The University of Washington is responsible for ensuring the  
25 expansion of upper-division and master's level graduate educational  
26 programs in the central Puget Sound area under rules or guidelines  
27 adopted by the higher education coordinating board. The University of  
28 Washington shall meet that responsibility through the operation of at  
29 least two branch campuses. One branch campus shall be located in the  
30 Tacoma area. Another branch campus shall be collocated with Cascadia  
31 Community College in the Bothell-Woodinville area.

32 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28B.45.030 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 7 s 4 are each amended  
33 to read as follows:

34 Washington State University is responsible for providing upper-  
35 division and master's level graduate (~~level~~) higher education

1 programs to the citizens of the Tri-Cities area, under rules or  
2 guidelines adopted by the higher education coordinating board.  
3 Washington State University shall meet that responsibility through the  
4 operation of a branch campus in the Tri-Cities area. The branch campus  
5 shall replace and supersede the Tri-Cities university center. All  
6 land, facilities, equipment, and personnel of the Tri-Cities university  
7 center shall be transferred from the University of Washington to  
8 Washington State University.

9 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28B.45.040 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 7 s 5 are each amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 Washington State University is responsible for providing upper-  
12 division and master's level graduate (~~((level))~~) higher education  
13 programs to the citizens of the southwest Washington area, under rules  
14 or guidelines adopted by the higher education coordinating board.  
15 Washington State University shall meet that responsibility through the  
16 operation of a branch campus in the southwest Washington area.

17 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28B.45.050 and 1991 c 205 s 11 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 Washington State University and Eastern Washington University are  
20 responsible for providing upper-division and master's level graduate  
21 (~~((level))~~) programs to the citizens of the Spokane area, under rules or  
22 guidelines adopted by the (~~((joint center for))~~) higher education  
23 coordinating board, except that Washington State University may offer  
24 the doctoral program authorized before the effective date of this act.  
25 (~~((However, before any degree is authorized under this section it shall~~  
26 ~~be subject to the review and approval of the higher education~~  
27 ~~coordinating board.))~~) Washington State University shall meet its  
28 responsibility through the operation of a branch campus in the Spokane  
29 area. Eastern Washington University shall meet its responsibility  
30 through the operation of programs and facilities in Spokane.

31 **Sec. 8.** RCW 28B.80.510 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 7 s 8 are each amended  
32 to read as follows:

33 (~~((In rules and guidelines adopted for purposes of chapter 7, Laws~~  
34 ~~of 1989 1st ex. sess.,))~~) The higher education coordinating board shall  
35 adopt rules, guidelines, and performance measures to ensure a

1 collaborative partnership between the community colleges and the  
2 (~~four-year institutions~~) branch campuses. The partnership shall be  
3 one in which the community colleges prepare students for transfer to  
4 the upper-division programs of the branch campuses and the branch  
5 campuses work with community colleges to enable students to transfer  
6 and obtain degrees efficiently.

7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. RCW 28B.80.510 as amended by this act is  
8 recodified as a new section in chapter 28B.45 RCW.

9 NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. The following acts or parts of acts are  
10 each repealed:

11 (1) RCW 28B.45.070 (Authorization subject to legislative  
12 appropriation) and 1989 1st ex.s. c 7 s 14;

13 (2) RCW 28B.80.500 (Branch campuses--Adjustment of enrollment lids)  
14 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 7 s 2; and

15 (3) RCW 28B.80.520 (Branch campuses--Facilities acquisition) and  
16 1989 1st ex.s. c 7 s 9.

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