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SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5914

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Carlson and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to higher education; and creating new sections.

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

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. In partnership, the branch campus of Washington State  
8 University at Vancouver, Clark College, and Lower Columbia College have  
9 successfully expanded educational opportunities for students and  
10 created avenues for research and training to support the economy of the  
11 region over the last decade. However, the legislature also recognizes  
12 that southwest Washington is the largest urban area in the state  
13 without access to an in-state, public four-year institution of higher  
14 education. Therefore, the legislature finds it necessary to examine  
15 thoroughly and objectively the prospect of creating additional  
16 baccalaureate and graduate opportunities in Vancouver. The legislature  
17 also recognizes there may be other unserved or underserved areas in the  
18 state.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1) The Washington state institute for  
2 public policy shall conduct a feasibility study for the creation of  
3 additional baccalaureate and graduate opportunities for public higher  
4 education in Vancouver. The study must include the following analyses:

5        (a) A detailed regional analysis of student demand and  
6 institutional supply of degree programs, including potential economic  
7 development, and including consultation with community leaders;

8        (b) Consideration of alternative models for providing baccalaureate  
9 and professional graduate education in the region, including expanding  
10 the current partnerships between the branch campus of Washington State  
11 University at Vancouver, Clark College, and Lower Columbia College;

12        (c) An examination of the possible role and mission of a  
13 transitional comprehensive four-year university, including the  
14 possibility of an innovative combination of instruction and research  
15 suitable for meeting the region's needs for access to higher education  
16 for recent high school graduates, placebound students, and transfer  
17 students as well as support of the expansion of the region's economic  
18 viability; and

19        (d) A comparison of short and long-term costs.

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

23        (3) The institute shall develop a proposal for a study that may  
24 investigate the need for additional baccalaureate access in other parts  
25 of Washington state that are either unserved or underserved.

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