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SENATE BILL 5874

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Schmidt, Pridemore, Mulliken, McAuliffe, Berkey, Carrell, Shin, Rockefeller and Delvin

Read first time 02/10/2005. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to higher education; creating new sections; making  
2 an appropriation; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that, over the  
5 next decade, large numbers of Washington students will graduate from  
6 high school and seek access to higher education. Washington continues  
7 to lag significantly behind other states in its production of students  
8 with baccalaureate degrees and graduate degrees.

9 (2) The legislature also finds that a new public four-year  
10 institution of higher education has not been created in the state of  
11 Washington since 1967. The three comprehensive institutions of higher  
12 education were created in the late 1890s when the state normal schools  
13 were established and no new comprehensive institution of higher  
14 education has been created since then.

15 (3) The legislature further finds that several regions of the state  
16 do not have reasonable access to a four-year institution of higher  
17 education. The legislature further finds that the creation of an  
18 additional four-year institution or the conversion of an existing

1 institution should complement the existing structure and provide  
2 additional options for students.

3 (4) The legislature intends to create a four-year baccalaureate  
4 degree-granting institution following the completion of the report  
5 required in section 2 of this act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state institute for  
7 public policy is directed to evaluate and recommend to the legislature  
8 whether a four-year baccalaureate degree-granting institution should be  
9 created.

10 (2) The institute shall:

11 (a) Analyze data indicating demand for and access to four-year  
12 degrees, by geographic region; and

13 (b) Conduct a comprehensive review of existing estimates of state  
14 needs for specific degree programs.

15 (3) In conducting the evaluation, the institute shall consult with  
16 the higher education coordinating board, the state board for community  
17 and technical colleges, the work force training and education  
18 coordination board, and the existing research and comprehensive  
19 institutions. The higher education coordinating board, the state board  
20 for community and technical colleges, the work force training and  
21 education coordination board, and the existing research and  
22 comprehensive institutions shall provide data to the institute that is  
23 necessary to complete this study.

24 (4) By December 1, 2005, the institute shall provide a report to  
25 the legislature and the governor recommending: (a) The type of four-  
26 year baccalaureate degree-granting institution to be created; (b) the  
27 location for the new institution by city and county; and (c) a schedule  
28 for constructing and staffing the new institution. In addition, the  
29 report shall estimate the costs to establish the new institution,  
30 including, but not limited to: Land acquisition, master plan, design  
31 and construction, staffing, and number of enrollments.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of one hundred fifty thousand  
33 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from  
34 the general fund to The Evergreen State College for the fiscal year

1 ending June 30, 2006, to carry out the purposes of this act.

2 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires June 30, 2006.

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