
HOUSE BILL 2055

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representative Chase

Read first time 02/09/09. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to community college global affairs centers; adding
2 a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) States, including Washington, benefit
5 from the immigration of persons from other nations and other states.
6 These immigrants bring not just skills and talents, but also new
7 perspectives and knowledge that enhance innovation and economic
8 vitality;

9 (2) The twenty-first century economy is both global, across
10 national borders, and dispersed, within national borders. Being global
11 means that the companies and workers who succeed, by enjoying better
12 incomes and higher standards of living, will be those integrated into
13 the global market;

14 (3) Being dispersed within national and state markets means
15 globalization is no longer something that concerns only businesses and
16 consumers in large cities. Companies and workers in smaller
17 communities have just as much to gain or lose from globalization as
18 their counterparts in larger cities;

1 (4) Companies that trade, whether by exporting, importing, or both,
2 need to think about global markets. But even companies and workers who
3 see themselves as domestic economic players will be increasingly
4 impacted by global economic changes and will need to understand the
5 complexities and opportunities of a global marketplace;

6 (5) Decisions regarding foreign direct investments in developed
7 countries like the United States depend not just on proximity to
8 markets and skilled labor, but also on the cultural climate and
9 openness of a community. Foreign investors are attracted to
10 communities that are outwardly oriented and have regular contact with
11 other cultures. The "sister city" concept is one manifestation of that
12 global perspective; and

13 (6) Another manifestation of a global perspective is the presence
14 of programs that serve the global outreach needs of a community's
15 citizens and that acknowledge the interests of their international
16 partners, including students, business representatives, and tourists.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 The college board shall recognize and support existing and emerging
20 global affairs centers established at community colleges. The mission
21 of a global affairs center is to foster global awareness, engagement,
22 and partnerships that serve the needs of its students as well as the
23 greater surrounding community. The goal is to create a central hub to
24 bring together the college community, government agencies, businesses,
25 and nonprofit organizations. When fully operational, a global affairs
26 center will operate a host of programs through activities that may
27 include, but are not limited to:

28 (1) Community programs. Community programs engage students,
29 faculty, and staff as well as members of the local community through
30 lectures, symposiums, and group discussions. The goal is to organize
31 activities on topical issues in ways that highlight local as well as
32 international perspectives and consequences. Community programs create
33 opportunities for further partnerships between the college and members
34 of the off-campus community.

35 (2) Referral services. A global affairs center serves as a first
36 point of contact for businesses and other organizations that need

1 reference points and referrals in order to take advantage of global
2 opportunities.

3 (3) Internship opportunities. A global affairs center assists
4 students to find internship opportunities with government, business,
5 and nonprofit organizations in the area with an international focus in
6 their work.

7 (4) International trade, development, and multicultural projects.
8 A global affairs center seeks to work with local organizations to
9 advance international initiatives on trade and development, such as the
10 United Nations initiative on sustainable development, in ways that
11 strengthen intercultural education and understanding.

12 (5) Learning programs. A global affairs center partners with
13 national learning programs that encourage discussion, understanding,
14 and action on current foreign policy issues.

15 (6) Support for ongoing programs. A global affairs center supports
16 related ongoing programs at the community college, such as
17 international studies, global pathways, study abroad, and
18 student/faculty exchange agreements with foreign colleges and schools.

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