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HOUSE BILL 2181

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Moeller, Rolfes, Wallace, Quall, Sullivan, Dickerson, Hunt, and Kenney

Read first time 02/11/09. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a bi-state partnership for teachers of  
2 children with visual impairments; adding a new section to chapter  
3 28B.30 RCW; creating a new section; and making and appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington needs  
6 to provide additional resources for the preparation of teachers for  
7 children with blindness and visual impairments. The legislature  
8 further finds that Portland State University has a nationally  
9 recognized program for teachers of children with visual impairments and  
10 that a collaborative partnership between Portland State University and  
11 Washington State University-Vancouver would help address the critical  
12 need for teachers of the blind and visually impaired in Washington.  
13 The legislature intends to provide a vision impairments/orientation and  
14 mobility coordinator to be housed at Washington State University-  
15 Vancouver.

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

1 Washington State University shall establish the position of vision  
2 impairments/orientation and mobility coordinator to be housed at  
3 Washington State University-Vancouver. The coordinator shall:

4 (1) Recruit Washington students for preparation as teachers for  
5 children who are blind or visually impaired;

6 (2) Develop partnerships with school districts with Washington  
7 schools that provide services to children who are blind or visually  
8 impaired;

9 (3) Supervise enrolled students and coordinate experiences with  
10 mentor teachers;

11 (4) Coordinate and instruct in the orientation and mobility summer  
12 curriculum as an adjunct faculty;

13 (5) Serve as a liaison between Portland State University and  
14 Washington State University-Vancouver; and

15 (6) Seek grants and independent funding sources for the program.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or  
17 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal  
18 year ending June 30, 2010, from the general fund to Washington State  
19 University for the purposes of this act.

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