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HOUSE BILL 2694

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Sells, White, McCoy, Kenney, Ericks, O'Brien, Roberts, and Chase

Read first time 01/12/10. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to a bachelor of science in nursing program at the  
2 University Center; adding a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW; creating  
3 a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) RCW 28B.50.901 assigns responsibility for the north Snohomish,  
8 Island, and Skagit counties' higher education consortium to Everett  
9 Community College. In April of 2009, Everett Community College opened  
10 Gray Wolf Hall, the new home of the University Center of North Puget  
11 Sound. The University Center currently offers over twenty bachelor's  
12 and master's degrees from six partner universities.

13 (2) Although Everett Community College offers an associate degree  
14 nursing program that graduates approximately seventy to ninety students  
15 per year, the University Center does not offer a bachelor of science in  
16 nursing. Some graduates of the Everett Community College program are  
17 able to articulate to the bachelor of science in nursing program  
18 offered by the University of Washington-Bothell at its Bothell campus

1 or in Mt. Vernon but current capacity is not sufficient for all of the  
2 graduates who are both interested and qualified.

3 (3) Despite recent growth in nursing education capacity, shortages  
4 still persist for registered nurses. According to a June 2007 study by  
5 the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho center for health  
6 workforce studies, the average age of Washington's registered nurses  
7 was forty-eight years. More than a third were fifty-five years of age  
8 or older. Consequently, the high rate of registered nurses retiring  
9 from nursing practice over the next two decades will significantly  
10 reduce the supply. This reduction comes at the same time as the  
11 state's population grows and ages. The registered nurse education  
12 capacity in Washington has a large impact on the supply of registered  
13 nurses in the state. If the rate of graduation in registered nursing  
14 does not increase, projections show that supply in Washington will  
15 begin to decline by 2015. In contrast, if graduation rates increased  
16 by four hundred per year, the supply of registered nurses would meet  
17 estimated demand by the year 2021.

18 (4) Subject to specific funding to support fifty full-time  
19 equivalent students in a bachelor of nursing program, the University  
20 Center at Everett Community College, in partnership with the University  
21 of Washington-Bothell, shall offer a bachelor of science in nursing  
22 program with capacity for at least fifty full-time students.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect July 1, 2010.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
25 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
26 June 30, 2010, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
27 void.

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