
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6359

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Kilmer, Becker, Shin, and Tom)

READ FIRST TIME 01/29/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting efficiencies including institutional
2 coordination and partnerships in the community and technical college
3 system; amending RCW 28B.50.020 and 28B.50.090; adding a new section to
4 chapter 28B.50 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington's
7 community and technical college system consists of thirty-four two-year
8 institutions geographically dispersed across the state to encourage and
9 enable student access and participation. The legislature also finds
10 that, compared with other states, Washington's two-year public
11 participation rate is ranked as high as fifth in the nation. The
12 legislature further finds that Washington's community and technical
13 colleges have been making and are continuing to make great progress
14 towards system efficiencies and coordination of their efforts through
15 such things as common course numbering, the student achievement
16 initiative, associate transfer degrees, eLearning and integrated basic
17 education, skills training, and some common administrative systems. To
18 encourage further efficiencies while maintaining Washington's
19 recognized leadership in community and technical college education, the

1 legislature intends to provide mechanisms for cost-effective
2 partnerships and coordination between institutions, including shared
3 services, and increased complementary programming, as well as
4 structural administrative efficiencies.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.50.020 and 2009 c 64 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The purpose of this chapter is to provide for the dramatically
8 increasing number of students requiring high standards of education
9 either as a part of the continuing higher education program or for
10 occupational education and training, or for adult basic skills and
11 literacy education, by creating a new, independent system of community
12 and technical colleges which will:

13 (1) Offer an open door to every citizen, regardless of his or her
14 academic background or experience, at a cost normally within his or her
15 economic means;

16 (2) Ensure that each college district, in coordination with
17 adjacent college districts, shall offer thoroughly comprehensive
18 educational, training, and service programs to meet the needs of both
19 the communities and students served by combining high standards of
20 excellence in academic transfer courses; realistic and practical
21 courses in occupational education, both graded and ungraded; community
22 services of an educational, cultural, and recreational nature; and
23 adult education, including basic skills and general, family, and
24 workforce literacy programs and services;

25 (3) Provide for basic skills and literacy education, and
26 occupational education and technical training (~~at technical colleges~~)
27 in order to prepare students for careers in a competitive workforce;

28 (4) Provide or coordinate related and supplemental instruction for
29 apprentices at community and technical colleges;

30 (5) Provide administration by state and local boards which will
31 avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities (~~or~~), programs, student
32 services, or administrative functions; and which will encourage
33 efficiency in operation and creativity and imagination in education,
34 training, and service to meet the needs of the community and students;

35 (6) Allow for the growth, improvement, flexibility and modification
36 of the community colleges and their education, training, and service
37 programs as future needs occur; and

1 (7) Establish firmly that, except on a pilot basis as provided
2 under RCW 28B.50.810, community colleges are, for purposes of academic
3 training, two year institutions, and are an independent, unique, and
4 vital section of our state's higher education system, separate from
5 both the common school system and other institutions of higher
6 learning, and never to be considered for conversion into four-year
7 liberal arts colleges.

8 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.50.090 and 2009 c 64 s 4 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 The college board shall have general supervision and control over
11 the state system of community and technical colleges. In addition to
12 the other powers and duties imposed upon the college board by this
13 chapter, the college board shall be charged with the following powers,
14 duties and responsibilities:

15 (1) Review the budgets prepared by the boards of trustees, prepare
16 a single budget for the support of the state system of community and
17 technical colleges and adult education, and submit this budget to the
18 governor as provided in RCW 43.88.090;

19 (2) Establish guidelines for the disbursement of funds; and receive
20 and disburse such funds for adult education and maintenance and
21 operation and capital support of the college districts in conformance
22 with the state and district budgets, and in conformance with chapter
23 43.88 RCW;

24 (3) Ensure, through the full use of its authority:

25 (a) That each college district, in coordination with colleges,
26 within a regional area, shall offer thoroughly comprehensive
27 educational, training, and service programs to meet the needs of both
28 the communities and students served by combining high standards of
29 excellence in academic transfer courses; realistic and practical
30 courses in occupational education, both graded and ungraded; and
31 community services of an educational, cultural, and recreational
32 nature; and adult education, including basic skills and general,
33 family, and workforce literacy programs and services;

34 (b) That each college district shall maintain an open-door policy,
35 to the end that no student will be denied admission because of the
36 location of the student's residence or because of the student's
37 educational background or ability; that, insofar as is practical in the

1 judgment of the college board, curriculum offerings will be provided to
2 meet the educational and training needs of the community generally and
3 the students thereof; and that all students, regardless of their
4 differing courses of study, will be considered, known and recognized
5 equally as members of the student body: PROVIDED, That the
6 administrative officers of a community or technical college may deny
7 admission to a prospective student or attendance to an enrolled student
8 if, in their judgment, the student would not be competent to profit
9 from the curriculum offerings of the college, or would, by his or her
10 presence or conduct, create a disruptive atmosphere within the college
11 not consistent with the purposes of the institution. This subsection
12 (3)(b) shall not apply to competency, conduct, or presence associated
13 with a disability in a person twenty-one years of age or younger
14 attending a technical college;

15 (4) Prepare a comprehensive master plan for the development of
16 community and technical college education and training in the state;
17 and assist the office of financial management in the preparation of
18 enrollment projections to support plans for providing adequate college
19 facilities in all areas of the state. The master plan shall include
20 implementation of the vision, goals, priorities, and strategies in the
21 statewide strategic master plan for higher education under RCW
22 28B.76.200 based on the community and technical college system's role
23 and mission. The master plan shall also contain measurable performance
24 indicators and benchmarks for gauging progress toward achieving the
25 goals and priorities;

26 (5) Define and administer criteria and guidelines for the
27 establishment of new community and technical colleges or campuses
28 within the existing districts;

29 (6) Establish criteria and procedures for modifying district
30 boundary lines and consolidating district structures to form multiple
31 campus districts consistent with the purposes set forth in RCW
32 28B.50.020 as now or hereafter amended and in accordance therewith make
33 such changes as it deems advisable;

34 (7) Establish minimum standards to govern the operation of the
35 community and technical colleges with respect to:

36 (a) Qualifications and credentials of instructional and key
37 administrative personnel, except as otherwise provided in the state
38 plan for vocational education,

1 (b) Internal budgeting, accounting, auditing, and financial
2 procedures as necessary to supplement the general requirements
3 prescribed pursuant to chapter 43.88 RCW,

4 (c) The content of the curriculums and other educational and
5 training programs, and the requirement for degrees and certificates
6 awarded by the colleges,

7 (d) Standard admission policies,

8 (e) Eligibility of courses to receive state fund support;

9 (8) Establish and administer criteria and procedures for all
10 capital construction including the establishment, installation, and
11 expansion of facilities within the various college districts;

12 (9) Encourage innovation in the development of new educational and
13 training programs and instructional methods; coordinate research
14 efforts to this end; and disseminate the findings thereof;

15 (10) Exercise any other powers, duties and responsibilities
16 necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

17 (11) Authorize the various community and technical colleges to
18 offer programs and courses in other districts when it determines that
19 such action is consistent with the purposes set forth in RCW 28B.50.020
20 as now or hereafter amended;

21 (12) Notwithstanding any other law or statute regarding the sale of
22 state property, sell or exchange and convey any or all interest in any
23 community and technical college real and personal property, except such
24 property as is received by a college district in accordance with RCW
25 28B.50.140(8), when it determines that such property is surplus or that
26 such a sale or exchange is in the best interests of the community and
27 technical college system;

28 (13) In order that the treasurer for the state board for community
29 and technical colleges appointed in accordance with RCW 28B.50.085 may
30 make vendor payments, the state treasurer will honor warrants drawn by
31 the state board providing for an initial advance on July 1, 1982, of
32 the current biennium and on July 1 of each succeeding biennium from the
33 state general fund in an amount equal to twenty-four percent of the
34 average monthly allotment for such budgeted biennium expenditures for
35 the state board for community and technical colleges as certified by
36 the office of financial management; and at the conclusion of such
37 initial month and for each succeeding month of any biennium, the state
38 treasurer will reimburse expenditures incurred and reported monthly by

1 the state board treasurer in accordance with chapter 43.88 RCW:
2 PROVIDED, That the reimbursement to the state board for actual
3 expenditures incurred in the final month of each biennium shall be less
4 the initial advance made in such biennium;

5 (14) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (12) of this
6 section, may receive such gifts, grants, conveyances, devises, and
7 bequests of real or personal property from private sources as may be
8 made from time to time, in trust or otherwise, whenever the terms and
9 conditions thereof will aid in carrying out the community and technical
10 college programs and may sell, lease or exchange, invest or expend the
11 same or the proceeds, rents, profits and income thereof according to
12 the terms and conditions thereof; and adopt regulations to govern the
13 receipt and expenditure of the proceeds, rents, profits and income
14 thereof; and

15 (15) The college board shall have the power of eminent domain.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The state board for community and
17 technical colleges, in collaboration with the boards of trustees for
18 the community and technical colleges, shall identify potential
19 administrative efficiencies, complementary administrative functions,
20 and complementary academic programs in colleges within a regional area.
21 Colleges within the regional area shall involve a broad range of
22 stakeholders, including: Faculty representatives, students, and
23 community representatives. Factors to be considered include, but are
24 not limited to:

25 (a) The economic feasibility and cost savings anticipated from the
26 proposed changes;

27 (b) The extent to which the changes will contribute to student
28 access to academic programs and services, including greater flexibility
29 for students to transfer credits and obtain degrees and certificates
30 from other colleges within the regional area; and

31 (c) The extent to which the changes contribute to the vision,
32 goals, priorities, and statewide strategies in the comprehensive master
33 plan and the statewide strategic master plan for higher education.

34 (2) The state board for community and technical colleges shall
35 develop and adopt a detailed plan for the implementation of any
36 identified changes that would result in cost savings while maintaining
37 or enhancing student access and achievement. The plan must establish

1 a time frame within which any proposed changes must be accomplished and
2 must include any agreements, approved by the state board for community
3 and technical colleges, between colleges within a regional area to
4 provide complementary academic programs or coordinate administrative
5 functions. The implementation plan shall take effect upon approval by
6 the state board for community and technical colleges. The state board
7 shall submit a preliminary report on the plan to the appropriate
8 legislative committees and the governor December 1, 2010, and shall
9 submit a final report December 1, 2011.

10 (3) Any cost savings realized as a result of the implementation of
11 administrative efficiencies, complementary administrative functions,
12 and complementary academic programming under the plan shall be retained
13 by the respective districts to be used for enhancing student access and
14 success.

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

17 (1) The college board, using the criteria established under RCW
18 28B.50.090(6) and in consultation with the boards of trustees for the
19 community and technical colleges, shall identify adjacent college
20 districts that can feasibly be consolidated or whose boundaries can
21 feasibly be modified to form a multiple campus district. The primary
22 considerations shall be the extent to which the changes will: (a)
23 Affect student access to academic programs and services and (b) result
24 in financial efficiencies.

25 (2) By December 1, 2012, the college board, in consultation with
26 local boards of trustees, shall evaluate any proposed district
27 consolidations or boundary changes identified in subsection (1) of this
28 section as it deems advisable and shall submit any required supporting
29 legislative changes to the governor and appropriate committees of the
30 legislature.

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