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**SENATE BILL 6359**

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**State of Washington**

**61st Legislature**

**2010 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Kilmer, Becker, Shin, and Tom

Read first time 01/13/10. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

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, 28B.50.040, and 28B.50.090; adding a  
4 new section to 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, and skills training. To encourage further efficiencies  
18 while maintaining Washington's recognized leadership in community and  
19 technical college education, the legislature intends to provide

1 mechanisms for cost-effective partnerships and coordination between  
2 institutions, including shared services, and increased complimentary  
3 programming, as well as structural administrative efficiencies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 (6) Allow for the growth, improvement, flexibility and modification  
35 of the community colleges and their education, training, and service  
36 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.50.040 and 1994 c 217 s 2 are each amended to read  
9 as follows:

10 Until June 30, 2013, the state of Washington is hereby divided into  
11 thirty college districts as follows:

12 (1) The first district shall encompass the counties of Clallam and  
13 Jefferson;

14 (2) The second district shall encompass the counties of Grays  
15 Harbor and Pacific;

16 (3) The third district shall encompass the counties of Kitsap and  
17 Mason;

18 (4) The fourth district shall encompass the counties of San Juan,  
19 Skagit and Island;

20 (5) The fifth district shall encompass Snohomish county except for  
21 the Northshore common school district and that portion encompassed by  
22 the twenty-third district created in subsection (23) of this section:  
23 PROVIDED, That the fifth district shall encompass the Everett Community  
24 College;

25 (6) The sixth district shall encompass the present boundaries of  
26 the common school districts of Seattle and Vashon Island, King county;

27 (7) The seventh district shall encompass the present boundary of  
28 the common school district of Shoreline in King county;

29 (8) The eighth district shall encompass the present boundaries of  
30 the common school districts of Bellevue, Issaquah, Mercer Island,  
31 Skykomish and Snoqualmie, King county;

32 (9) The ninth district shall encompass the present boundaries of  
33 the common school districts of Federal Way, Highline and South Central,  
34 King county;

35 (10) The tenth district shall encompass the present boundaries of  
36 the common school districts of Auburn, Black Diamond, Renton, Enumclaw,

1 Kent, Lester and Tahoma, King county, and the King county portion of  
2 Puyallup common school district No. 3;

3 (11) The eleventh district shall encompass all of Pierce county,  
4 except for the present boundaries of the common school districts of  
5 Tacoma and Peninsula;

6 (12) The twelfth district shall encompass Lewis county, the  
7 Rochester common school district No. 401, the Tenino common school  
8 district No. 402 of Thurston county, and the Thurston county portion of  
9 the Centralia common school district No. 401;

10 (13) The thirteenth district shall encompass the counties of  
11 Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum;

12 (14) The fourteenth district shall encompass the counties of Clark,  
13 Skamania and that portion of Klickitat county not included in the  
14 sixteenth district;

15 (15) The fifteenth district shall encompass the counties of Chelan,  
16 Douglas and Okanogan;

17 (16) The sixteenth district shall encompass the counties of  
18 Kittitas, Yakima, and that portion of Klickitat county included in  
19 United States census divisions 1 through 4;

20 (17) The seventeenth district shall encompass the counties of  
21 Ferry, Lincoln (except consolidated school district 105-157-166J and  
22 the Lincoln county portion of common school district 167-202), Pend  
23 Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman;

24 (18) The eighteenth district shall encompass the counties of Adams  
25 and Grant, and that portion of Lincoln county comprising consolidated  
26 school district 105-157-166J and common school district 167-202;

27 (19) The nineteenth district shall encompass the counties of Benton  
28 and Franklin;

29 (20) The twentieth district shall encompass the counties of Asotin,  
30 Columbia, Garfield and Walla Walla;

31 (21) The twenty-first district shall encompass Whatcom county;

32 (22) The twenty-second district shall encompass the present  
33 boundaries of the common school districts of Tacoma and Peninsula,  
34 Pierce county;

35 (23) The twenty-third district shall encompass that portion of  
36 Snohomish county within such boundaries as the state board for  
37 community and technical colleges shall determine: PROVIDED, That the  
38 twenty-third district shall encompass the Edmonds Community College;

1 (24) The twenty-fourth district shall encompass all of Thurston  
2 county except the Rochester common school district No. 401, the Tenino  
3 common school district No. 402, and the Thurston county portion of the  
4 Centralia common school district No. 401;

5 (25) The twenty-fifth district shall encompass all of Whatcom  
6 county;

7 (26) The twenty-sixth district shall encompass the Northshore, Lake  
8 Washington, Bellevue, Mercer Island, Issaquah, Riverview, Snoqualmie  
9 Valley and Skykomish school districts;

10 (27) The twenty-seventh district shall encompass the Renton, Kent,  
11 Auburn, Tahoma, and Enumclaw school districts and a portion of the  
12 Seattle school district described as follows: Commencing at a point  
13 established by the intersection of the Duwamish river and the south  
14 boundary of the Seattle Community College District (number six) and  
15 thence north along the centerline of the Duwamish river to the west  
16 waterway; thence north along the centerline of the west waterway to  
17 Elliot Bay; thence along Elliot Bay to a line established by the  
18 intersection of the extension of Denny Way to Elliot Bay; thence east  
19 along the line established by the centerline of Denny Way to Lake  
20 Washington; thence south along the shoreline of Lake Washington to the  
21 south line of the Seattle Community College District; and thence west  
22 along the south line of the Seattle Community College District to the  
23 point of beginning;

24 (28) The twenty-eighth district shall encompass all of Pierce  
25 county;

26 (29) The twenty-ninth district shall encompass all of Pierce  
27 county; and

28 (30) The thirtieth district shall encompass the present boundaries  
29 of the common school districts of Lake Washington and Riverview in King  
30 county and Northshore in King and Snohomish counties.

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

33 The college board shall have general supervision and control over  
34 the state system of community and technical colleges. In addition to  
35 the other powers and duties imposed upon the college board by this  
36 chapter, the college board shall be charged with the following powers,  
37 duties and responsibilities:

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

5 (2) Establish guidelines for the disbursement of funds; and receive  
6 and disburse such funds for adult education and maintenance and  
7 operation and capital support of the college districts in conformance  
8 with the state and district budgets, and in conformance with chapter  
9 43.88 RCW;

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

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

20 (b) That each college district shall maintain an open-door policy,  
21 to the end that no student will be denied admission because of the  
22 location of the student's residence or because of the student's  
23 educational background or ability; that, insofar as is practical in the  
24 judgment of the college board, curriculum offerings will be provided to  
25 meet the educational and training needs of the community generally and  
26 the students thereof; and that all students, regardless of their  
27 differing courses of study, will be considered, known and recognized  
28 equally as members of the student body: PROVIDED, That the  
29 administrative officers of a community or technical college may deny  
30 admission to a prospective student or attendance to an enrolled student  
31 if, in their judgment, the student would not be competent to profit  
32 from the curriculum offerings of the college, or would, by his or her  
33 presence or conduct, create a disruptive atmosphere within the college  
34 not consistent with the purposes of the institution. This subsection  
35 (3)(b) shall not apply to competency, conduct, or presence associated  
36 with a disability in a person twenty-one years of age or younger  
37 attending a technical college;

1 (4) Prepare a comprehensive master plan for the development of  
2 community and technical college education and training in the state;  
3 and assist the office of financial management in the preparation of  
4 enrollment projections to support plans for providing adequate college  
5 facilities in all areas of the state. The master plan shall include  
6 implementation of the vision, goals, priorities, and strategies in the  
7 statewide strategic master plan for higher education under RCW  
8 28B.76.200 based on the community and technical college system's role  
9 and mission. The master plan shall also contain measurable performance  
10 indicators and benchmarks for gauging progress toward achieving the  
11 goals and priorities;

12 (5) Define and administer criteria and guidelines for the  
13 establishment of new community and technical colleges or campuses  
14 within the existing districts;

15 (6) Establish criteria and procedures for modifying district  
16 boundary lines and consolidating district structures to form multiple  
17 campus districts consistent with the purposes set forth in RCW  
18 28B.50.020 as now or hereafter amended and in accordance therewith make  
19 such changes as it deems advisable;

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

22 (a) Qualifications and credentials of instructional and key  
23 administrative personnel, except as otherwise provided in the state  
24 plan for vocational education,

25 (b) Internal budgeting, accounting, auditing, and financial  
26 procedures as necessary to supplement the general requirements  
27 prescribed pursuant to chapter 43.88 RCW,

28 (c) The content of the curriculums and other educational and  
29 training programs, and the requirement for degrees and certificates  
30 awarded by the colleges,

31 (d) Standard admission policies,

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

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

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

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

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

7 (12) Notwithstanding any other law or statute regarding the sale of  
8 state property, sell or exchange and convey any or all interest in any  
9 community and technical college real and personal property, except such  
10 property as is received by a college district in accordance with RCW  
11 28B.50.140(8), when it determines that such property is surplus or that  
12 such a sale or exchange is in the best interests of the community and  
13 technical college system;

14 (13) In order that the treasurer for the state board for community  
15 and technical colleges appointed in accordance with RCW 28B.50.085 may  
16 make vendor payments, the state treasurer will honor warrants drawn by  
17 the state board providing for an initial advance on July 1, 1982, of  
18 the current biennium and on July 1 of each succeeding biennium from the  
19 state general fund in an amount equal to twenty-four percent of the  
20 average monthly allotment for such budgeted biennium expenditures for  
21 the state board for community and technical colleges as certified by  
22 the office of financial management; and at the conclusion of such  
23 initial month and for each succeeding month of any biennium, the state  
24 treasurer will reimburse expenditures incurred and reported monthly by  
25 the state board treasurer in accordance with chapter 43.88 RCW:  
26 PROVIDED, That the reimbursement to the state board for actual  
27 expenditures incurred in the final month of each biennium shall be less  
28 the initial advance made in such biennium;

29 (14) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (12) of this  
30 section, may receive such gifts, grants, conveyances, devises, and  
31 bequests of real or personal property from private sources as may be  
32 made from time to time, in trust or otherwise, whenever the terms and  
33 conditions thereof will aid in carrying out the community and technical  
34 college programs and may sell, lease or exchange, invest or expend the  
35 same or the proceeds, rents, profits and income thereof according to  
36 the terms and conditions thereof; and adopt regulations to govern the  
37 receipt and expenditure of the proceeds, rents, profits and income  
38 thereof; and



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

2 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The state board for community and  
3 technical colleges, in collaboration with the boards of trustees for  
4 the community and technical colleges, shall identify potential  
5 administrative efficiencies, complimentary administrative functions,  
6 and complimentary academic programs in adjacent college districts.  
7 Factors to be considered include, but are not limited to:

8 (a) The economic feasibility and cost savings anticipated from the  
9 proposed changes;

10 (b) The extent to which the changes will contribute to student  
11 access to academic programs and services; and

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

15 (2) By December 1, 2010, the state board for community and  
16 technical colleges shall develop and adopt a detailed plan for the  
17 implementation of any identified changes that would result in cost  
18 savings while maintaining or enhancing student access and achievement.  
19 The plan must establish a time frame within which any proposed changes  
20 must be accomplished and must include any agreements, approved by the  
21 state board for community and technical colleges, between adjacent  
22 college districts to provide complimentary academic programs or  
23 coordinate administrative functions. The implementation plan shall  
24 take effect upon approval by the state board for community and  
25 technical colleges.

26 (3) Any cost savings realized as a result of the implementation of  
27 administrative efficiencies, complimentary administrative functions,  
28 and complimentary academic programming under the plan shall be retained  
29 by the respective districts to be used for enhancing student access and  
30 success.

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

33 (1) The college board, using the criteria established under RCW  
34 28B.50.090(6) and in consultation with the boards of trustees for the  
35 community and technical colleges, and the higher education coordinating  
36 board shall identify adjacent college districts that can feasibly be

1 consolidated or whose boundaries can feasibly be modified to form a  
2 multiple campus district. The primary considerations shall be the  
3 extent to which the changes will: (a) Affect student access to  
4 academic programs and services and (b) result in financial  
5 efficiencies.

6 (2) By December 1, 2012, the college board shall adopt any proposed  
7 district consolidations or boundary changes identified in subsection  
8 (1) of this section as it deems advisable and shall submit any required  
9 supporting legislative changes to the governor and appropriate  
10 committees of the legislature.

11 (3) After June 30, 2013, the boundaries of the community and  
12 technical college districts shall be designated by rule.

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