
SENATE BILL 6801

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senators Hobbs, Shin, and Berkey

Read first time 01/29/10. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

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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