

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 1586

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Higher Education & Workforce Development, March 18, 2011

**Title:** An act relating to the provision of doctorate programs at the research university branch campuses in Washington.

**Brief Description:** Regarding the provision of doctorate programs at the research university branch campuses in Washington.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Seaquist, Haler, Jacks, Dammeier, Moscoso, Carlyle, Zeiger, Moeller, Probst, Kenney, Stanford, Kelley, Dahlquist and Jinkins; by request of Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**Brief History:** Passed House: 3/02/11, 97-0.

**Committee Activity:** Higher Education & Workforce Development: 3/15/11, 3/18/11 [DP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Tom, Chair; Shin, Vice Chair; Hill, Ranking Minority Member; Becker, Kastama, Kilmer and White.

**Staff:** Aldo Melchiori (786-7439)

**Background:** Washington State University (WSU) and the University of Washington (UW) are the only two public institutions of higher education authorized to award research doctorate degrees in Washington. Eastern Washington University is authorized to award an applied doctorate in physical therapy. UW-Bothell, UW-Tacoma, WSU-Vancouver, and WSU Tri-Cities are branch campuses of the two research universities authorized to award baccalaureate and masters level degrees.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) has a comprehensive and ongoing assessment process to determine the need for additional degree programs and locations for degree programs. If the HECB determines that there is a need for a change in level of degree, an examination of the viability of the change is conducted. The HECB's recommendation on whether to proceed is then presented to the Governor and Legislature.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Summary of Bill:** Subject to HECB approval, UW and WSU are authorized to develop doctoral degree programs at their branch campuses. The HECB will use their assessment process to determine whether the proposed doctoral level programs are needed and viable.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: Initially, the branch campuses will target health sciences and education degrees. The branch campuses can offer these programs using present resources. This will provide working people and place-bound students an opportunity to pursue a degree locally. Degree administration will remain centralized. The programs will build upon the present masters degree level faculty, resources, and courses.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Representative Haler, sponsor; Chris Thompson, HECB; Chris Mulick, WSU; Mike Work, UW-Tacoma; John Wheeler, Associated Students of UW-Tacoma.