
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1792

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Sells, Hope, Dunshee, Haler, McCoy, Moscoso, and Llias)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/11.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding opportunities in higher education in
2 north Puget Sound; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that access to
5 baccalaureate and graduate degree programs continues to be limited for
6 residents of north Snohomish, Island, and Skagit counties. Studies
7 conducted by the state board for community and technical colleges, the
8 higher education coordinating board, and the council of presidents
9 confirm that enrollment in higher education compared to demand in this
10 geographic region lags behind enrollment in other parts of the state,
11 particularly for upper division courses leading to advanced degrees.

12 (2) The legislature also finds that access to high employer demand
13 programs of study is imperative for the state's global competitiveness
14 and economic prosperity, particularly those degrees in the science,
15 technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields that align with the
16 workforce skill demands of the regional economy, that support the
17 aerospace industry, and provide skilled undergraduate and graduate
18 degree engineers required by the largest employers in the aerospace
19 industry cluster.

1 (3) The legislature finds that meeting the long-range goal of
2 greatly expanded access for the population of the region to the widest
3 array of baccalaureate and graduate programs can best be accomplished
4 by assigning responsibility to a research university with multiple
5 experiences in similar settings.

6 (4) Washington State University shall create a strategic plan for
7 establishing a branch campus in Everett. The strategic plan shall be
8 developed with the collaboration of the University Center at Everett
9 Community College and all the institutions of higher education that
10 provide baccalaureate degrees at the University Center, and community
11 leaders. This plan shall be submitted to the legislature by December
12 1, 2012. The plan shall address the following:

13 (a) Meeting projected student enrollment demands of north
14 Snohomish, Island, and Skagit counties for baccalaureate, graduate, and
15 certificate programs;

16 (b) Meeting employers' needs for skilled workers by expanding high
17 employer demand programs of study, with an initial emphasis by
18 Washington State University on undergraduate and graduate engineering
19 degree programs in a variety of engineering disciplines such as civil,
20 mechanical, aeronautical, and aerospace manufacturing;

21 (c) Building on degree programs already offered at the University
22 Center at Everett Community College; and

23 (d) Collaborating with the University Center at Everett Community
24 College in relation to degree offerings; lower and upper division
25 coordination to maximize student opportunities and resources; classroom
26 space and equipment; and ongoing collaboration to meet the higher
27 education needs of the region.

28 (5)(a) Washington State University shall convene a coordinating and
29 planning council to oversee the development of the strategic plan in
30 subsection (4) of this section.

31 (b) The following individuals comprise the coordinating and
32 planning council:

33 (i) The president of Washington State University, or the
34 president's designee;

35 (ii) The provost of Washington State University, or the provost's
36 designee;

37 (iii) The president of Everett Community College;

1 (iv) The director of the University Center at Everett Community
2 College;

3 (v) Two representatives of other institutions of higher education
4 that offer baccalaureate or graduate degree programs at the University
5 Center at Everett Community College;

6 (vi) A community leader appointed by the president of Everett
7 Community College;

8 (vii) A community leader appointed by the president of Washington
9 State University; and

10 (viii) A community leader appointed by the mayor of Everett.

11 (c) The coordinating and planning council may alter its own
12 composition by agreement of all the members.

13 (6) Washington State University shall complete implementation of
14 the strategic plan by July 1, 2014, unless otherwise directed by the
15 legislature.

16 (7) The coordinating and planning council in subsection (5) of this
17 section shall consult with the higher education coordinating board to
18 ensure the strategic plan in subsection (4) of this section is in
19 alignment with the system design plan.

20 (8) Washington State University shall establish at least one high
21 employer demand baccalaureate degree program at the University Center
22 at Everett Community College by December 1, 2012.

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