
ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1792

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By House Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Representatives Sells, Hope, Dunshee, Haler, McCoy, Moscoso, and Liias)

READ FIRST TIME 03/25/11.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding opportunities in higher education in
2 north Puget Sound; amending RCW 28B.50.795; adding a new section to
3 chapter 28B.30 RCW; creating a new section; and repealing RCW
4 28B.50.901.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.30 RCW
7 to read as follows:

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

16 (2) The legislature also finds that access to high employer demand
17 programs of study is imperative for the state's global competitiveness
18 and economic prosperity, particularly those degrees in the science,
19 technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields that align with the

1 workforce skill demands of the regional economy, that support the
2 aerospace industry, and provide skilled undergraduate and
3 graduate-degree engineers required by the largest employers in the
4 aerospace industry cluster.

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

10 (4) Management and leadership of the University Center of North
11 Puget Sound is assigned to Washington State University to meet the
12 needs of the Everett metropolitan area and the north Snohomish, Island,
13 and Skagit county region and the state of Washington for baccalaureate
14 and graduate degrees offered by a state university. The chief
15 executive officer of the University Center of North Puget Sound is the
16 director who reports to the president of Washington State University.
17 The director shall manage the activities and logistics of operating the
18 center, make policy and planning recommendations to the council in
19 subsection (5) of this section, and implement decisions of the council.

20 (5)(a) Washington State University and Everett Community College
21 must collaborate with community leaders, and other four-year
22 institutions of higher education that offer programs at the University
23 Center of North Puget Sound to serve the varied interests of students
24 in the region. To this end, a coordinating and planning council must
25 be established to be responsible for long-range and strategic planning,
26 interinstitutional collaboration, collaboration with the community
27 served, and dispute resolution for the center. The following
28 individuals shall comprise the coordinating and planning council:

29 (i) The president of Washington State University, or his or her
30 designee;

31 (ii) The provost of Washington State University, or his or her
32 designee;

33 (iii) The president of Everett Community College;

34 (iv) A representative of one other institution of higher education
35 that offers baccalaureate or graduate degree programs at the center;

36 (v) The director of the council, as the nonvoting chair;

37 (vi) A community leader appointed by the president of Everett
38 Community College;

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

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

4 (b) The coordinating and planning council may appoint other groups,
5 as appropriate, to advise on administration and operations, and may
6 alter its own composition by agreement of all the members.

7 (6)(a) Washington State University shall assume leadership of the
8 center upon completion of a strategic plan for meeting the academic
9 needs of the region and successful establishment of an engineering
10 degree program. The strategic plan must build on the strengths of the
11 institutions, reflecting each institution's mission, in order to
12 provide the region with the highest standard of educational programs,
13 research, and service to the community. The strategic plan must
14 include a multibiennium budget that addresses both operating and
15 capital expenses required to effectively implement the plan. The
16 strategic plan shall be developed with the collaboration of the
17 University Center at Everett Community College and all the institutions
18 of higher education that provide baccalaureate degrees at the
19 University Center, and community leaders.

20 (b) Center partners must implement the strategic plan with careful
21 attention to the academic and professional standards established and
22 maintained by each institution and by the appropriate accrediting
23 bodies, and to the historic role of each institution's governing board
24 in setting policy.

25 (c) The strategic plan must address expansion of the range and
26 depth of educational opportunities in the region and include strategies
27 that:

28 (i) Build upon baccalaureate and graduate degree offerings at the
29 center;

30 (ii) Meet projected student enrollment demands for baccalaureate,
31 graduate, and certificate programs in the region;

32 (iii) Meet employers' needs for skilled workers by expanding high
33 employer demand programs of study, with an initial emphasis by
34 Washington State University on undergraduate and graduate engineering
35 degree programs in a variety of engineering disciplines such as civil,
36 mechanical, aeronautical, and aerospace manufacturing;

37 (iv) Coordinate delivery of lower and upper division courses to
38 maximize student opportunities and resources; and

1 (v) Transfer budget support and resources for the center from
2 Everett Community College to Washington State University.

3 (d) The strategic plan must be completed by July 1, 2013. The
4 transfer of the responsibility for the management and operation of the
5 University Center of North Puget Sound to Washington State University
6 must occur by July 1, 2014.

7 (7)(a) Academic programming and delivery at the center must be
8 developed in accordance with the missions of Washington State
9 University, Everett Community College, and other institutions of higher
10 education that have a presence at the center.

11 (b) Each institution shall abide by the guidelines for university
12 centers adopted by the higher education coordinating board.

13 (c) Each institution shall award all degrees and certificates
14 granted in the programs it delivers at the center.

15 (d) The coordinating council described in subsection (5) of this
16 section shall establish a process for prioritizing new programs and
17 revising existing programs that facilitates timeliness of new
18 offerings, recognizes the internal processes of the proposing
19 institutions, and addresses each proposal's fit with the needs of the
20 region.

21 (8)(a) Washington State University shall review center expansion
22 needs and consider capital facilities funding at least annually.
23 Washington State University and Everett Community College must
24 cooperate in preparing funding requests and bond financing for
25 submission to the legislature on behalf of development at the center,
26 in accordance with each institution's process and priorities for
27 advancing legislative requests.

28 (b) Washington State University shall design, construct, and manage
29 any facility developed at the center. Any facility developed at the
30 center with Everett Community College capital funding must be designed
31 by Everett Community College in consultation with Washington State
32 University. Building construction may be managed by Washington State
33 University via an interagency agreement which details responsibility
34 and associated costs. Building operations and management for all
35 facilities at the center must be governed by the infrastructure and
36 operating cost allocation method described in subsection (9) of this
37 section.

1 (9) Washington State University has responsibility for
2 infrastructure development and maintenance for the center. All
3 infrastructure operating and maintenance costs are to be shared in what
4 is deemed to be an equitable and fair manner based on space allocation,
5 special cost, and other relevant considerations. Washington State
6 University may make infrastructure development and maintenance
7 decisions in consultation with the council described in subsection (5)
8 of this section.

9 (10) In the event that conflict cannot be resolved through the
10 coordinating council described in subsection (5) of this section the
11 higher education coordinating board dispute resolution must be
12 employed.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.50.795 and 2010 1st sp.s. c 25 s 1 are each
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (1) ~~((RCW 28B.50.901 assigns responsibility for the north
16 Snohomish, Island, and Skagit counties' higher education consortium to
17 Everett Community College. In April of 2009, Everett Community College
18 opened Gray Wolf Hall, the new home of the University Center of North
19 Puget Sound. The University Center currently offers over twenty
20 bachelor's and master's degrees from six partner universities.~~

21 ~~(2))~~ Although Everett Community College offers an associate degree
22 nursing program that graduates approximately seventy to ninety students
23 per year, the University Center does not offer a bachelor of science in
24 nursing. Some graduates of the Everett Community College program are
25 able to articulate to the bachelor of science in nursing program
26 offered by the University of Washington-Bothell at its Bothell campus
27 or in Mt. Vernon but current capacity is not sufficient for all of the
28 graduates who are both interested and qualified.

29 ~~((3))~~ (2) Despite recent growth in nursing education capacity,
30 shortages still persist for registered nurses. According to a June
31 2007 study by the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho
32 center for health workforce studies, the average age of Washington's
33 registered nurses was forty-eight years. More than a third were fifty-
34 five years of age or older. Consequently, the high rate of registered
35 nurses retiring from nursing practice over the next two decades will
36 significantly reduce the supply. This reduction comes at the same time
37 as the state's population grows and ages. The registered nurse

1 education capacity in Washington has a large impact on the supply of
2 registered nurses in the state. If the rate of graduation in
3 registered nursing does not increase, projections show that supply in
4 Washington will begin to decline by 2015. In contrast, if graduation
5 rates increased by four hundred per year, the supply of registered
6 nurses would meet estimated demand by the year 2021.

7 ((+4)) (3) Subject to specific funding to support up to fifty
8 full-time equivalent students in a bachelor of nursing program, the
9 University Center ((at--Everett--Community--College)) of North Puget
10 Sound, in partnership with the University of Washington-Bothell, shall
11 offer a bachelor of science in nursing program with capacity for up to
12 fifty full-time students.

13 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) This act takes effect only after the
14 higher education coordinating board determines whether a needs
15 assessment and analysis is required and, if so, conducts a needs
16 assessment and viability determination under RCW 28B.76.230 and
17 recommends that the provisions in section 1 of this act occur.

18 (2) The higher education coordinating board shall notify the office
19 of financial management, the legislature, and the code reviser's office
20 of the board's recommendations regarding the provisions in section 1 of
21 this act.

22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. RCW 28B.50.901 (Regional higher education
23 consortium management and leadership--Everett Community College--
24 Educational plan) and 2005 c 258 s 13 are each repealed.

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