

---

HOUSE BILL 2049

---

State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Zeiger, Seaquist, Haler, Carlyle, Fagan, and Angel

Read first time 04/05/11. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to a higher education performance advisory council;  
2 amending RCW 28B.76.200; adding a new section to chapter 28B.76 RCW;  
3 and providing expiration dates.

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

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.76.200 and 2007 c 458 s 201 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7            (1) The board shall develop a statewide strategic master plan for  
8 higher education that proposes a vision and identifies measurable goals  
9 and priorities for the system of higher education in Washington state  
10 for a ten-year time period. The board shall update the statewide  
11 strategic master plan every four years. The plan shall address the  
12 goals of: (a) Expanding access; (b) using methods of educational  
13 delivery that are efficient, cost-effective, and productive to deliver  
14 modern educational programs; and (c) using performance measures to  
15 gauge the effectiveness of the state's progress towards meeting its  
16 higher education goals. The plan shall encompass all sectors of higher  
17 education, including the two-year system, workforce training, the four-  
18 year institutions, and financial aid. The board shall also specify

1 strategies for expanding access, affordability, quality, efficiency,  
2 and accountability among the various institutions of higher education.

3 (2) In developing the statewide strategic master plan for higher  
4 education, the board shall collaborate with the four-year institutions  
5 of higher education including the council of presidents, the community  
6 and technical college system, and, when appropriate, the workforce  
7 training and education coordinating board, the superintendent of public  
8 instruction, the independent higher education institutions, the  
9 business sector, and labor. The board shall identify and utilize  
10 models of regional planning and decision making before initiating a  
11 statewide planning process. The board shall also seek input from  
12 students, faculty organizations, community and business leaders in the  
13 state, members of the legislature, and the governor.

14 (3) As a foundation for the statewide strategic master plan for  
15 higher education, the board shall review role and mission statements  
16 for each of the four-year institutions of higher education and the  
17 community and technical college system. The purpose of the review is  
18 to ensure institutional roles and missions are aligned with the overall  
19 state vision and priorities for higher education.

20 (4) In assessing needs of the state's higher education system, the  
21 board should encourage partnerships, embrace innovation, and consider,  
22 analyze, and make recommendations concerning the following information:

23 (a) Demographic, social, economic, and technological trends and  
24 their impact on service delivery for a twenty-year horizon;

25 (b) The changing ethnic composition of the population and the  
26 special needs arising from those trends;

27 (c) Business and industrial needs for a skilled workforce;

28 (d) College attendance, retention, transfer, graduation, and  
29 dropout rates;

30 (e) Needs and demands for basic and continuing education and  
31 opportunities for lifelong learning by individuals of all age groups;

32 (f) Needs and demands for nontraditional populations including, but  
33 not limited to, adult learners; and

34 (g) Needs and demands for access to higher education by placebound  
35 students and individuals in heavily populated areas underserved by  
36 public institutions.

37 (5) The statewide strategic master plan for higher education shall

1 include, but not be limited to, the following access and educational  
2 delivery items:

3 (a) Recommendations based on enrollment forecasts and analysis of  
4 data about demand for higher education, and policies and actions to  
5 meet the goal of expanding access;

6 (b) State and regional priorities for new or expanded degree  
7 programs or off-campus programs, including what models of service  
8 delivery may be most cost-effective;

9 (c) Recommended policies or actions to improve the efficiency of  
10 student transfer and graduation or completion;

11 (d) State and regional priorities for addressing needs in high-  
12 demand fields where enrollment access is limited and employers are  
13 experiencing difficulty finding enough qualified graduates to fill job  
14 openings;

15 (e) Recommended tuition and fees policies and levels; and

16 (f) Priorities and recommendations including increased transparency  
17 on financial aid.

18 (6) The board shall present the vision, goals, priorities, and  
19 strategies in the statewide strategic master plan for higher education  
20 in a way that provides guidance for institutions, the governor, and the  
21 legislature to make further decisions regarding institution-level  
22 plans, policies, legislation, and operating and capital funding for  
23 higher education. In the statewide strategic master plan for higher  
24 education, the board shall recommend specific actions to be taken and  
25 identify measurable performance indicators and benchmarks for gauging  
26 progress toward achieving the goals and priorities.

27 (7) Every four years by December 15th, beginning December 15, 2007,  
28 the board shall submit an update of the ten-year statewide strategic  
29 master plan for higher education to the governor and the legislature.  
30 The updated plan shall reflect the expectations and policy directions  
31 of the legislative higher education and fiscal committees, and shall  
32 provide a timely and relevant framework for the development of future  
33 budgets and policy proposals. The legislature shall, by concurrent  
34 resolution, approve or recommend changes to the updated plan, following  
35 public hearings. The board shall submit the final plan, incorporating  
36 legislative changes, to the governor and the legislature by June of the  
37 year in which the legislature approves the concurrent resolution. The  
38 plan shall then become state higher education policy unless legislation

1 is enacted to alter the policies set forth in the plan. The board  
2 shall report annually to the governor and the legislature on the  
3 progress being made by the institutions of higher education and the  
4 state to implement the strategic master plan.

5 (8) Each four-year institution shall develop an institution-level  
6 ten-year strategic plan that implements the vision, goals, priorities,  
7 and strategies within the statewide strategic master plan for higher  
8 education based on the institution's role and mission. Institutional  
9 strategic plans shall encourage partnerships, embrace innovation, and  
10 contain measurable performance indicators and benchmarks for gauging  
11 progress toward achieving the goals and priorities with attention given  
12 to the goals and strategies of increased access and program delivery  
13 methods. The board shall review the institution-level plans to ensure  
14 the plans are aligned with and implement the statewide strategic master  
15 plan for higher education and shall periodically monitor institutions'  
16 progress toward achieving the goals and priorities within their plans.

17 (9) The board shall also review the comprehensive master plan  
18 prepared by the state board for community and technical colleges for  
19 the community and technical college system under RCW 28B.50.090 to  
20 ensure the plan is aligned with and implements the statewide strategic  
21 master plan for higher education.

22 (10) The board shall consider the recommendations of the higher  
23 education performance advisory council established in section 2 of this  
24 act for incorporation in the strategic master plan.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 28B.76 RCW  
26 to read as follows:

27 (1) A higher education performance advisory council is established.  
28 The council shall be staffed by the board. The purpose of the council  
29 is to:

30 (a) Advise the higher education coordinating board on the  
31 development and recommendations to be incorporated into the strategic  
32 master plan in RCW 28B.76.200;

33 (b) Examine structural changes in higher education that will  
34 improve the governance structures and increase efficiencies in both  
35 administration and educational delivery, while maintaining high quality  
36 educational programs that can be incorporated into the strategic master  
37 plan in RCW 28B.76.200; and

1 (c) Identify objectives for the public higher education system that  
2 provide the greatest benefits and that require public funding; and  
3 prioritize the identified objectives.

4 (2) The higher education performance advisory council comprises the  
5 following members:

6 (a) Four members of the house of representatives, with two members  
7 representing each of the major caucuses and appointed by the speaker of  
8 the house of representatives who shall select a cochair for the  
9 council;

10 (b) Four members of the senate, with two members representing each  
11 of the major caucuses and appointed by the president of the senate who  
12 shall select a cochair for the council;

13 (c) A representative of the higher education coordinating board;  
14 and

15 (d) A representative of the state board for community and technical  
16 colleges.

17 (3) The higher education performance advisory council shall meet at  
18 least four times per year in addition to at least two special meetings  
19 for advisory councilmembers to advise board members. The council shall  
20 consider input from the broad range of higher education stakeholders  
21 across the state.

22 (4) Legislative members of the higher education performance  
23 advisory council shall serve without additional compensation but may be  
24 reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while  
25 attending sessions of the council or on official business authorized by  
26 the board. Nonlegislative members of the council may be reimbursed for  
27 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

28 (5) This section expires July 1, 2015.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this act expires July 1, 2015.

--- END ---