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HOUSE BILL 1196

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State of Washington

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1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Bray, Neher, Jacobsen, Ludwig, Grant, Nealey, Rayburn, Inslee and G. Fisher.

Read first time January 23, 1991. Referred to Committee on Higher Education. Referred 1/28/91 to Committee on Energy and Utilities.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington state center for environmental  
2 and molecular sciences; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) The technology and associated sciences that are necessary to  
6 clean up hazardous waste are not sufficiently advanced to make many  
7 waste management and environmental restoration efforts efficient and  
8 cost-effective.

9 (2) A lack of personnel trained in waste management and  
10 environmental restoration technologies will significantly impede future  
11 clean-up efforts.

12 (3) Research and development in molecular science may result in  
13 scientific breakthroughs that will assist future waste management and  
14 environmental restoration efforts, and lead to the design and

1 development of new materials and processes that will advance scientific  
2 knowledge and technology.

3 (4) Research and development in the environmental and molecular  
4 sciences will require expertise that cuts across traditional areas of  
5 research, research efforts that require highly interdisciplinary  
6 approaches in the biological and physical sciences, and  
7 interdisciplinary education and training programs. Accordingly, the  
8 research and education in this area will require a blending of  
9 molecular science and technology and interdisciplinary education and  
10 training.

11 (5) Hanford has been cited as a centerpiece in the federal  
12 government's research and development efforts in molecular science and  
13 waste management and environmental restoration.

14 (6) The state of Washington and its institutions of higher  
15 education could benefit greatly from the technical and scientific  
16 expertise available at Hanford.

17 (7) The Washington State University branch campus in the Tri-Cities  
18 has a unique opportunity to help the state capitalize on this  
19 opportunity due to its close physical proximity to the department of  
20 energy's center for environmental excellence and its molecular science  
21 center situated at the Pacific Northwest laboratory.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By September 1, 1991, Washington State  
23 University shall submit to the higher education coordinating board for  
24 approval a proposal for the long-term development of a center for  
25 environmental and molecular sciences at Washington State  
26 University/Tri-Cities.

27 A number of purposes are envisioned for the center and are  
28 delineated in this section. It is to be understood that the  
29 accomplishment of these purposes will require the active support of

1 Washington State University/Pullman and, where clearly appropriate, the  
2 cooperative involvement of other educational, governmental, and  
3 industrial partners, such as the Pacific Northwest laboratory.

4 The center shall be designed to accomplish the following purposes:

5 (1) Coordinate the relationship of Washington State University with  
6 the federal government's waste management and environmental restoration  
7 efforts at the Hanford site, the Pacific Northwest laboratory's  
8 molecular science center and center for environmental excellence, and  
9 other environmental and molecular science research and technology  
10 efforts at the Hanford site, to ensure that all available expertise is  
11 utilized in aiding these programs, as well as ensuring that Washington  
12 State University is able to participate in these efforts.

13 (2) Develop upper-division and graduate instructional programs in  
14 environmental assessment and remediation technology and molecular  
15 sciences, as approved by the higher education coordinating board.

16 (3) Enhance research capabilities at Washington State  
17 University/Tri-Cities and Washington State University/Pullman in  
18 molecular science and hazardous waste management and environmental  
19 restoration technology by blending forefront molecular science research  
20 and waste management and environmental restoration educational efforts.

21 (4) Ensure that the state of Washington and its institutions of  
22 higher education benefit from the technical and scientific expertise at  
23 Hanford and the Tri-Cities.

24 (5) Develop the expertise necessary to assist in technology  
25 transfer of molecular science and hazardous waste research and  
26 development efforts to private industry, institutions of higher  
27 education, and other governmental agencies.

28 (6) Foster strong cooperative relationships among the federal  
29 government, the state, and businesses and industries interested in  
30 hazardous waste and molecular science research and development.

1 (7) Initiate collaborative research programs with Hanford  
2 contractors, staff, facilities, and equipment in support of  
3 instructional programs.

4 (8) Ensure that the molecular science and hazardous waste expertise  
5 of all Washington universities and colleges is made available to aid  
6 the federal research efforts.

7 Education and research programs offered through the center shall  
8 supplement and not supplant other education and research programs  
9 offered at Washington State University/Tri-Cities and Washington State  
10 University/Pullman. Moreover, the activities and programs of the  
11 Washington state center for environmental and molecular sciences shall  
12 be integrated with related activities and programs at Washington State  
13 University/Pullman.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The proposal provided for in section 2  
15 of this act shall include:

16 (1) A review of existing relationships among federal entities and  
17 principal contractors at Hanford with Washington's institutions of  
18 higher education;

19 (2) A description of methods for coordinating relationships between  
20 Washington State University and the Pacific Northwest laboratory's  
21 molecular science center and center for environmental excellence, as  
22 well as other research efforts at the Hanford site;

23 (3) A description of the upper-division and graduate program  
24 curricula necessary at Washington State University to educate and train  
25 professionals needed to enhance Washington's efforts in molecular  
26 science and hazardous waste science and technology;

27 (4) An assessment of the research capabilities needed at Washington  
28 State University in molecular science and hazardous waste management

1 and environmental restoration technology to improve the efficiency of  
2 clean-up efforts in the Tri-Cities and other areas in Washington;

3 (5) An estimate of the expertise and support necessary to assist in  
4 technology transfer of molecular science and hazardous waste research  
5 and development efforts;

6 (6) Recommendations on ways to provide maximum benefit to the  
7 citizens of Washington from the research at Hanford and the Tri-Cities;  
8 and

9 (7) Estimated operating and facilities costs of the center.

10 The higher education coordinating board shall review the proposal.  
11 In making its review, the higher education coordinating board shall  
12 evaluate both policy and fiscal aspects of the proposal and shall  
13 specifically review the center's proposed role and mission within the  
14 context of the development plan for branch campuses of Washington State  
15 University. The higher education coordinating board shall make  
16 recommendations to the governor and the legislature by January 1, 1992,  
17 on: (a) Whether to establish a Washington state center for  
18 environmental and molecular sciences, and, if so, (b) the long-term  
19 development of the center.