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HOUSE BILL 2684

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Kenney, Sullivan, Lias, Hasegawa, Simpson, Nelson, Goodman, and Chase

Read first time 01/12/10. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to establishing opportunity centers at community  
2 colleges; and adding a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6            (1) An opportunity employment and education center is established  
7 within the Seattle community college district.

8            (2) The center shall:

9            (a) House various educational and social service providers and  
10 integrate access to employment, counseling, and public benefit programs  
11 and services as well as education, training, financial aid and  
12 counseling services offered through community colleges;

13            (b) Identify and form partnerships with community-based  
14 organizations that enhance the services and supports provided to  
15 individuals using the center; and

16            (c) Provide services including but not limited to employment  
17 security and workforce development council worksource services; job  
18 listing, referral, and placement; job coaching; employment counseling,  
19 testing, and career planning; unemployment insurance claim filing

1 assistance; cash grant programs run by the department of social and  
2 health services; the basic food program; housing assistance; child  
3 support assistance; child care subsidies; WorkFirst and temporary  
4 assistance to needy families; general assistance and supplemental  
5 security income facilitation; vocational rehabilitation services and  
6 referrals; medicaid and medical services; alcoholism and drug addiction  
7 treatment and support act referrals; case management and mental health  
8 referrals; community college financial aid; support services; college  
9 counseling services related to career pathways and basic skills  
10 resources for English language learners; high school completion; and  
11 adult basic education; and

12 (d) In partnership with the state board for community and technical  
13 colleges, jointly develop evaluation criteria and performance  
14 indicators that demonstrate the degree to which the center is  
15 successfully integrating services and improving service delivery.

16 (3) The chancellor of the Seattle community college district and  
17 technical colleges, or the chancellor's designee, shall convene an  
18 opportunity policy work group charged with governing the opportunity  
19 employment and education center. The work group membership shall  
20 include, but not be limited to, representatives of the King county  
21 workforce development council, north Seattle community college, the  
22 employment security department, and the department of social and health  
23 services. A chair shall be chosen from among the work group's  
24 membership on an annual basis, with the chairmanship rotating among  
25 participating agencies. The work group shall:

26 (a) Determine protocols for service delivery, develop operating  
27 policies and procedures, develop cross-agency training for agency  
28 employees located at the center, and establish a common information  
29 technology framework that allows interagency access to files and  
30 information, including any common application and screening systems  
31 that facilitate access to state, federal, and local social service and  
32 educational programs;

33 (b) Develop a release of information form that may be voluntarily  
34 completed by opportunity center clients to facilitate the information  
35 sharing outlined in subsection (3)(a) of this section. The form is  
36 created to aid agencies housed at the opportunity center in determining  
37 client eligibility for various social and educational services. The  
38 form shall address the types of information to be shared, the agencies

1 with which personal information can be shared, the length of time  
2 agencies may keep shared information on file, and any other issue areas  
3 identified by the opportunity policy work group to comply with all  
4 applicable federal and state laws;

5 (c) Review national best practices for program operation and  
6 provide training to program providers both before opening the center  
7 and on an ongoing basis; and

8 (d) Jointly develop integrated solutions to provide more  
9 cost-efficient and customer friendly service delivery.

10 (4) Participating agencies shall identify and apply for any federal  
11 waivers necessary to facilitate the intended goals and operation of the  
12 center.

13 (5) The state board for community and technical colleges shall  
14 report to legislative committees with subject areas of commerce and  
15 labor, human services, and higher education on the following:

16 (a) By December 1, 2010, the board, in partnership with  
17 participating agencies, shall provide recommendations on a proposed  
18 site for an additional opportunity employment and education center; and

19 (b) By December 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the board shall  
20 provide an evaluation of existing centers based on performance criteria  
21 identified by the board and the opportunity policy work group. The  
22 report shall also include data on any federal and state legislative  
23 barriers to integration.

24 (6) All future opportunity centers shall be governed by the  
25 provisions in this section and are subject to the same reporting  
26 requirements.

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