

2SSB 5636 - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 04/09/2011

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

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

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

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

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

26 (4) Management and leadership of the University Center of North  
27 Puget Sound is assigned to Washington State University to meet the  
28 needs of the Everett metropolitan area and the north Snohomish, Island,  
29 and Skagit county region and the state of Washington for baccalaureate  
30 and graduate degrees offered by a state university. The chief

1 executive officer of the University Center of North Puget Sound is the  
2 director who reports to the president of Washington State University.  
3 The director shall manage the activities and logistics of operating the  
4 center, make policy and planning recommendations to the council in  
5 subsection (5) of this section, and implement decisions of the council.

6 (5)(a) Washington State University and Everett Community College  
7 must collaborate with community leaders, and other four-year  
8 institutions of higher education that offer programs at the University  
9 Center of North Puget Sound to serve the varied interests of students  
10 in the region. To this end, a coordinating and planning council must  
11 be established to be responsible for long-range and strategic planning,  
12 interinstitutional collaboration, collaboration with the community  
13 served, and dispute resolution for the center. The following  
14 individuals shall comprise the coordinating and planning council:

15 (i) The president of Washington State University, or his or her  
16 designee;

17 (ii) The provost of Washington State University, or his or her  
18 designee;

19 (iii) The president of Everett Community College;

20 (iv) Two representatives of two other institutions of higher  
21 education that offer baccalaureate or graduate degree programs at the  
22 center;

23 (v) A student enrolled at the University Center of North Puget  
24 Sound appointed by the coordinating and planning council;

25 (vi) The director of the council, as the nonvoting chair;

26 (vii) A community leader appointed by the president of Everett  
27 Community College; and

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

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

32 (6)(a) Washington State University shall assume leadership of the  
33 center upon completion and approval by the legislature as provided  
34 under (d) of this subsection of a strategic plan for meeting the  
35 academic needs of the region and successful establishment of an  
36 engineering degree program. The strategic plan must build on the  
37 strengths of the institutions, reflecting each institution's mission,  
38 in order to provide the region with the highest standard of educational

1 programs, research, and service to the community. The strategic plan  
2 must include a multibiennium budget that addresses both operating and  
3 capital expenses required to effectively implement the plan. The  
4 strategic plan shall be developed with the collaboration of the  
5 University Center at Everett Community College and all the institutions  
6 of higher education that provide baccalaureate degrees at the  
7 University Center, and community leaders.

8 (b) Center partners must implement the strategic plan with careful  
9 attention to the academic and professional standards established and  
10 maintained by each institution and by the appropriate accrediting  
11 bodies, and to the historic role of each institution's governing board  
12 in setting policy.

13 (c) The strategic plan must address expansion of the range and  
14 depth of educational opportunities in the region and include strategies  
15 that:

16 (i) Build upon baccalaureate and graduate degree offerings at the  
17 center;

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

20 (iii) Meet employers' needs for skilled workers by expanding high  
21 employer demand programs of study as defined in RCW 28B.50.030, with an  
22 initial and ongoing emphasis by Washington State University on  
23 undergraduate and graduate science, technology, mathematics, and  
24 engineering degree programs, including a variety of engineering  
25 disciplines such as civil, mechanical, aeronautical, and aerospace  
26 manufacturing;

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

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

31 (d) The strategic plan must be completed by December 1, 2012, and  
32 submitted to the legislature for review. The strategic plan shall be  
33 considered approved if the legislature does not take further action on  
34 the strategic plan during the 2013 legislative session. The transfer  
35 of the responsibility for the management and operation of the  
36 University Center of North Puget Sound to Washington State University  
37 must occur by July 1, 2014.

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

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

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

9 (d) The coordinating council described in subsection (5) of this  
10 section shall establish a process for prioritizing new programs and  
11 revising existing programs that facilitates timeliness of new  
12 offerings, recognizes the internal processes of the proposing  
13 institutions, and addresses each proposal's fit with the needs of the  
14 region.

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

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

32 (9) Washington State University has responsibility for  
33 infrastructure development and maintenance for the center. All  
34 infrastructure operating and maintenance costs are to be shared in what  
35 is deemed to be an equitable and fair manner based on space allocation,  
36 special cost, and other relevant considerations. Washington State  
37 University may make infrastructure development and maintenance

1 decisions in consultation with the council described in subsection (5)  
2 of this section.

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

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

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

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

23 ((+3)) (2) Despite recent growth in nursing education capacity,  
24 shortages still persist for registered nurses. According to a June  
25 2007 study by the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho  
26 center for health workforce studies, the average age of Washington's  
27 registered nurses was forty-eight years. More than a third were fifty-  
28 five years of age or older. Consequently, the high rate of registered  
29 nurses retiring from nursing practice over the next two decades will  
30 significantly reduce the supply. This reduction comes at the same time  
31 as the state's population grows and ages. The registered nurse  
32 education capacity in Washington has a large impact on the supply of  
33 registered nurses in the state. If the rate of graduation in  
34 registered nursing does not increase, projections show that supply in  
35 Washington will begin to decline by 2015. In contrast, if graduation  
36 rates increased by four hundred per year, the supply of registered  
37 nurses would meet estimated demand by the year 2021.

1 ((+4)) (3) Subject to specific funding to support up to fifty  
2 full-time equivalent students in a bachelor of nursing program, the  
3 University Center ((at ~~Everett Community College~~)) of North Puget  
4 Sound, in partnership with the University of Washington-Bothell, shall  
5 offer a bachelor of science in nursing program with capacity for up to  
6 fifty full-time students.

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

12 (2) The higher education coordinating board must make a  
13 recommendation under subsection (1) of this section by July 1, 2012.

14 (3) The higher education coordinating board shall notify the office  
15 of financial management, the legislature, and the code reviser's office  
16 of the board's recommendations regarding the provisions in section 1 of  
17 this act.

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

21 Correct the title.

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