
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 Lias)

READ FIRST TIME 03/25/11.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding opportunities in higher education in
2 north Puget Sound; and creating a new section.

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

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

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

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

6 (4) Washington State University shall create a strategic plan for
7 establishing a University Center partner in Everett. The strategic
8 plan shall include a multibiennium budget that addresses both operating
9 and capital expenses required to effectively implement the strategic
10 plan. The strategic plan shall be developed with the collaboration of
11 the University Center at Everett Community College and all the
12 institutions of higher education that provide baccalaureate degrees at
13 the University Center, and community leaders. This plan shall be
14 submitted to the legislature by December 1, 2012. If approved by the
15 legislature and governor, Washington State University shall begin
16 implementation of the strategic plan by July 1, 2014. The plan shall
17 address the following:

18 (a) Meeting projected student enrollment demands of north
19 Snohomish, Island, and Skagit counties for baccalaureate, graduate, and
20 certificate programs;

21 (b) Meeting employers' needs for skilled workers by expanding high
22 employer demand programs of study, with an initial emphasis by
23 Washington State University on undergraduate and graduate engineering
24 degree programs in a variety of engineering disciplines such as civil,
25 mechanical, aeronautical, and aerospace manufacturing;

26 (c) Building on degree programs already offered at the University
27 Center at Everett Community College; and

28 (d) Collaborating with the University Center at Everett Community
29 College in relation to degree offerings; lower and upper division
30 coordination to maximize student opportunities and resources; classroom
31 space and equipment; and ongoing collaboration to meet the higher
32 education needs of the region.

33 (5)(a) Washington State University shall convene a coordinating and
34 planning council to oversee the development of the strategic plan in
35 subsection (4) of this section.

36 (b) The following individuals comprise the coordinating and
37 planning council:

1 (i) The president of Washington State University, or the
2 president's designee;
3 (ii) The provost of Washington State University, or the provost's
4 designee;
5 (iii) The president of Everett Community College;
6 (iv) The director of the University Center at Everett Community
7 College;
8 (v) Two representatives of other institutions of higher education
9 that offer baccalaureate or graduate degree programs at the University
10 Center at Everett Community College;
11 (vi) A community leader appointed by the president of Everett
12 Community College;
13 (vii) A community leader appointed by the president of Washington
14 State University; and
15 (viii) A community leader appointed by the mayor of Everett.
16 (c) The coordinating and planning council may alter its own
17 composition by agreement of all the members.
18 (6) The coordinating and planning council in subsection (5) of this
19 section shall consult with the higher education coordinating board to
20 ensure the strategic plan in subsection (4) of this section is in
21 alignment with the system design plan as required in RCW 28B.76.020 and
22 28B.76.230.
23 (7) Washington State University shall establish at least one high
24 employer demand baccalaureate degree program at the University Center
25 at Everett Community College by December 1, 2012.

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