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SENATE BILL 5636

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, Harper, Shin, and Delvin

Read first time 02/02/11. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding opportunities in higher education in  
2 north Puget Sound; amending RCW 28B.50.795; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 28B.30 RCW; repealing RCW 28B.50.901; and providing an  
4 effective date.

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

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

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

16 (2) The legislature also finds that access to high employer demand  
17 programs of study is imperative for the state's global competitiveness  
18 and economic prosperity, particularly those degrees in the science,  
19 technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields that align with the

1 workforce skill demands of the regional economy, that support the  
2 aerospace industry, and provide skilled undergraduate and  
3 graduate-degree engineers required by the largest employers in the  
4 aerospace industry cluster.

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

10 (4) Management and leadership of the University Center of North  
11 Puget Sound is assigned to Washington State University to meet the  
12 needs of the Everett metropolitan area and the north Snohomish, Island,  
13 and Skagit county region and the state of Washington for baccalaureate  
14 and graduate degrees offered by a state university. The chief  
15 executive officer of the University Center of North Puget Sound is the  
16 director who reports to the president of Washington State University.  
17 The director shall manage the activities and logistics of operating the  
18 center, make policy and planning recommendations to the council in  
19 subsection (5) of this section, and implement decisions of the council.

20 (5) Washington State University and Everett Community College must  
21 collaborate with community leaders, and other four-year institutions of  
22 higher education that offer programs at the University Center of North  
23 Puget Sound to serve the varied interests of students in the region.  
24 To this end, a coordinating and planning council must be established to  
25 be responsible for long-range and strategic planning,  
26 interinstitutional collaboration, collaboration with the community  
27 served, and dispute resolution for the center. The following  
28 individuals shall comprise the coordinating and planning council:

29 (a) The president of Washington State University, or his or her  
30 designee;

31 (b) The provost of Washington State University, or his or her  
32 designee;

33 (c) The president of Everett Community College;

34 (d) A representative of one other institution of higher education  
35 that offers baccalaureate or graduate degree programs at the center;

36 (e) The director of the council, as the nonvoting chair;

37 (f) A community leader appointed by the president of Everett  
38 Community College;

1 (g) A community leader appointed by the president of Washington  
2 State University; and

3 (h) A community leader appointed by the mayor of Everett.

4 The coordinating and planning council may appoint other groups, as  
5 appropriate, to advise on administration and operations, and may alter  
6 its own composition by agreement of all the members.

7 (6) Washington State University shall assume leadership of the  
8 center upon completion of a plan for meeting the academic needs of the  
9 region and successful establishment of an engineering degree program.  
10 The plan must build on the strengths of the institutions, reflecting  
11 each institution's mission, in order to provide the region with the  
12 highest standard of educational programs, research, and service to the  
13 community. The plan must address expansion of the range and depth of  
14 educational opportunities in the region and include strategies that:

15 (a) Build upon baccalaureate and graduate degree offerings at the  
16 center;

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

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

24 (d) Coordinate delivery of lower and upper division courses to  
25 maximize student opportunities and resources; and

26 (e) Transfer budget support and resources for the center from  
27 Everett Community College to Washington State University.

28 Center partners must implement the plan with careful attention to  
29 the academic and professional standards established and maintained by  
30 each institution and by the appropriate accrediting bodies, and to the  
31 historic role of each institution's governing board in setting policy.  
32 The plan must be completed by July 1, 2013. The transfer of the  
33 responsibility for the management and operation of the University  
34 Center of North Puget Sound to Washington State University must occur  
35 by July 1, 2014.

36 (7)(a) Academic programming and delivery at the center must be  
37 developed in accordance with the missions of Washington State

1 University, Everett Community College, and other institutions of higher  
2 education that have a presence at the center.

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

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

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

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

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

30 (9) Washington State University has responsibility for  
31 infrastructure development and maintenance for the center. All  
32 infrastructure operating and maintenance costs are to be shared in what  
33 is deemed to be an equitable and fair manner based on space allocation,  
34 special cost, and other relevant considerations. Washington State  
35 University may make infrastructure development and maintenance  
36 decisions in consultation with the council described in subsection (5)  
37 of this section.

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

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

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

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

21 ((+3)) (2) Despite recent growth in nursing education capacity,  
22 shortages still persist for registered nurses. According to a June  
23 2007 study by the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho  
24 center for health workforce studies, the average age of Washington's  
25 registered nurses was forty-eight years. More than a third were fifty-  
26 five years of age or older. Consequently, the high rate of registered  
27 nurses retiring from nursing practice over the next two decades will  
28 significantly reduce the supply. This reduction comes at the same time  
29 as the state's population grows and ages. The registered nurse  
30 education capacity in Washington has a large impact on the supply of  
31 registered nurses in the state. If the rate of graduation in  
32 registered nursing does not increase, projections show that supply in  
33 Washington will begin to decline by 2015. In contrast, if graduation  
34 rates increased by four hundred per year, the supply of registered  
35 nurses would meet estimated demand by the year 2021.

36 ((+4)) (3) Subject to specific funding to support up to fifty  
37 full-time equivalent students in a bachelor of nursing program, the

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this act takes effect July 1,  
6 2014.

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

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