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SENATE BILL 6107

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senator Chase

Read first time 04/16/15. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to the assignment of intellectual property rights  
2 at institutions of higher education; and amending RCW 28B.10.630.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.10.630 and 2010 1st sp.s. c 14 s 1 are each  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (1) It is the intent of the legislature that state universities  
7 (~~engage in~~) promote the practical application and commercialization  
8 of research and other economic development and workforce development  
9 activities that benefit the (~~intermediate and long-term~~) economic  
10 vitality of Washington. State universities are expected to develop  
11 and strengthen university-industry relationships through the conduct  
12 of research, the support of company formation and job generation, and  
13 collaborative training. The state universities, using a collaborative  
14 process that may include both in-house resources and independent  
15 contractors with necessary technical expertise or innovative  
16 processes, must perform one or more of the following functions:

17 (a) Provide collaborative research and technology transfer  
18 opportunities;

19 (b) Publicize their commercialization processes and include an  
20 explanation of how to access commercialization resources at the  
21 (~~universities~~) university;

1 (c) Develop mechanisms for pairing researchers, entrepreneurs,  
2 and investors. Such mechanisms are to include, but are not limited  
3 to, developing guides, web sites, or workshops on funding  
4 opportunities, on entrepreneurship and the process of starting a  
5 company, and on university-industry relations;

6 (d) Host events to connect researchers to entrepreneurs,  
7 investors, and individuals from the state's technology-based  
8 industries; and

9 (e) Provide opportunities for training undergraduate and graduate  
10 students through direct involvement in research and industry  
11 interactions.

12 (2) In carrying out the functions in this section, the  
13 universities:

14 (a) May provide university-administered facilities and other  
15 resources to students, staff, and faculty for their use, including  
16 but not limited to use in extramurally funded research, such as  
17 through grants, contracts, or donations, consistent with the public  
18 mission of the university, if the university does not impose a  
19 requirement to assign intellectual property or other intangible  
20 assets that may thereby be created, or assert a financial interest in  
21 such assets, except as may be required by an extramural sponsor of  
22 research;

23 (b) May require assignment of, or have a financial interest in  
24 intellectual property or other intangible assets developed by  
25 students, staff, or faculty only through agreements entered into on a  
26 voluntary basis;

27 (c) May not, in employment agreements with student or faculty  
28 employees, require assignment of or assert a financial interest in  
29 their inventions; and

30 (d) May work with and through the ((higher education coordinating  
31 board)) student achievement council.

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