
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5978

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Kilmer, Rockefeller, Sheldon, Hargrove, Delvin, Berkey and Shin)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to assessing the higher education needs of the
2 Olympic and Kitsap peninsulas; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The higher education coordinating board
5 shall assess the higher education needs in Kitsap, Mason, Jefferson,
6 Clallam, and adjacent counties and recommend to the legislature
7 solutions to the higher education needs. Solutions that the board
8 should consider include, but should not be limited to, establishment of
9 new baccalaureate institutions, expansion of existing institutions to
10 include baccalaureate degrees, and colocation of institutions. In
11 conducting its assessment, the board shall take into account but not be
12 limited to the following: Population growth, higher education
13 participation rates, economic demand and workforce needs, and drive and
14 commute times to existing institutions of higher education.

15 (2) The board may contract for an assessment of sites to meet
16 higher education needs in the counties.

17 (3) In conducting the assessment and siting study, the higher
18 education coordinating board shall consult with the state board for

1 community and technical colleges, the workforce education and training
2 coordinating board, the local business community, and the existing
3 research and comprehensive institutions.

4 (4) The board shall assemble a local advisory committee to assist
5 in the conduct of the assessment and siting study. The committee shall
6 include: (a) One city official from each city within Kitsap, Mason,
7 Jefferson, and Clallam counties; (b) two members of the house of
8 representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
9 representatives; (c) two members of the senate, appointed by the
10 president of the senate; and (d) eight education or business leaders
11 from within Kitsap, Mason, Jefferson, and Clallam counties.

12 (5) The recommendations to the legislature shall include, but are
13 not limited to: (a) The type of baccalaureate institution or
14 institutions to be established; (b) a business and operations plan for
15 the institution if a new institution is recommended; (c) potential
16 sites for establishment of an institution; (d) identification of site
17 acquisition costs; and (e) identification of costs and a process for
18 completing a master plan for higher education expansion.

19 (6) The local advisory committee shall receive staff and logistical
20 support from the board.

21 (7) Nonlegislative members of the local advisory committee shall be
22 reimbursed for travel expenses under RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

23 (8) The board shall provide an interim report to the legislature
24 and the governor by January 15, 2008, and a final report by December 1,
25 2008.

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