
SENATE BILL 6490

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senator Hobbs

Read first time 01/17/08. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to a University of Washington branch campus at Lake
2 Stevens; and amending RCW 28B.45.010, 28B.45.012, and 28B.45.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.45.010 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 7 s 1 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 The legislature finds that the benefits of higher education should
7 be more widely available to the citizens of the state of Washington.
8 The legislature also finds that a citizen's place of residence can
9 restrict that citizen's access to educational opportunity at the upper
10 division and graduate level.

11 Because most of the state-supported baccalaureate universities are
12 located in areas removed from major metropolitan areas, the legislature
13 finds that many of the state's citizens, especially those citizens
14 residing in the central Puget Sound area, the Snohomish, Island, and
15 Skagit county region, the Tri-Cities, Spokane, Vancouver, and Yakima,
16 have insufficient and inequitable access to upper-division
17 baccalaureate and graduate education.

18 This lack of sufficient educational opportunities in urban areas
19 makes it difficult or impossible for place-bound individuals, who are

1 unable to relocate, to complete a baccalaureate or graduate degree. It
2 also exacerbates the difficulty financially needy students have in
3 attending school, since many of those students need to work, and work
4 is not always readily available in some communities where the
5 baccalaureate institutions of higher education are located.

6 The lack of sufficient educational opportunities in metropolitan
7 areas also affects the economy of the underserved communities.
8 Businesses benefit from access to the research and teaching
9 capabilities of institutions of higher education. The absence of these
10 institutions from some of the state's major urban centers prevents
11 beneficial interaction between businesses in these communities and the
12 state's universities.

13 The Washington state master plan for higher education, adopted by
14 the higher education coordinating board, recognizes the need to expand
15 upper-division and graduate educational opportunities in the state's
16 large urban centers. The board has also attempted to provide a means
17 for helping to meet future educational demand through a system of
18 branch campuses in the state's major urban areas.

19 The legislature endorses the assignment of responsibility to serve
20 these urban centers that the board has made to various institutions of
21 higher education. The legislature also endorses the creation of branch
22 campuses for the University of Washington and Washington State
23 University.

24 The legislature recognizes that, among their other
25 responsibilities, the state's comprehensive community colleges share
26 with the four-year universities and colleges the responsibility of
27 providing the first two years of a baccalaureate education. It is the
28 intent of the legislature that the four-year institutions and the
29 community colleges work as cooperative partners to ensure the
30 successful and efficient operation of the state's system of higher
31 education. The legislature further intends that the four-year
32 institutions work cooperatively with the community colleges to ensure
33 that branch campuses are operated as models of a two plus two
34 educational system.

35 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.45.012 and 2004 c 57 s 1 are each amended to read
36 as follows:

37 (1) In 1989, the legislature created five branch campuses to be

1 operated by the state's two public research universities. Located in
2 growing urban areas, the branch campuses were charged with two
3 missions:

4 (a) Increasing access to higher education by focusing on upper
5 division and graduate programs, targeting placebound students, and
6 operating as models of a two plus two educational system in cooperation
7 with the community colleges; and

8 (b) Promoting regional economic development by responding to demand
9 for degrees from local businesses and supporting regional economies
10 through research activities.

11 (2) Fifteen years later, the legislature finds that branch campuses
12 are responding to their original mission:

13 (a) Branch campuses accounted for half of statewide upper division
14 and graduate public enrollment growth since 1990;

15 (b) Branch campuses have grown steadily and enroll increasing
16 numbers of transfer students each year;

17 (c) Branch campuses enroll proportionately more older and part-time
18 students than their main campuses and attract increasing proportions of
19 students from nearby counties;

20 (d) Although the extent of their impact has not been measured,
21 branch campuses positively affect local economies and offer degree
22 programs that roughly correspond with regional occupational
23 projections; and

24 (e) The capital investments made by the state to support branch
25 campuses represent a significant benefit to regional economic
26 development.

27 (3) However, the legislature also finds the policy landscape in
28 higher education has changed since the original creation of the branch
29 campuses. Demand for access to baccalaureate and graduate education is
30 increasing rapidly. Economic development efforts increasingly
31 recognize the importance of focusing on local and regional economic
32 clusters and improving collaboration among communities, businesses, and
33 colleges and universities. Each branch campus has evolved into a
34 unique institution, and it is appropriate to assess the nature of this
35 evolution to ensure the role and mission of each campus is aligned with
36 the state's higher education goals and the needs of the region where
37 the campus is located.

1 (4) Therefore, it is the legislature's intent to recognize the
2 unique nature of Washington's higher education branch campuses,
3 reaffirm the role and mission of each, and set the course for their
4 continued future development.

5 (5) It is the further intent of the legislature that the campuses
6 be identified by the following names: University of Washington
7 Bothell, University of Washington Tacoma, University of Washington
8 North Sound, Washington State University Tri-Cities, and Washington
9 State University Vancouver.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.45.020 and 2005 c 258 s 3 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 (1) The University of Washington is responsible for ensuring the
13 expansion of baccalaureate and graduate educational programs in the
14 (~~central~~) Puget Sound area under rules or guidelines adopted by the
15 higher education coordinating board and in accordance with
16 proportionality agreements emphasizing access for transfer students
17 developed with the state board for community and technical colleges.
18 The University of Washington shall meet that responsibility through the
19 operation of at least (~~two~~) three branch campuses. One branch campus
20 shall be located in the Tacoma area. Another branch campus shall be
21 collocated with Cascadia Community College in the Bothell-Woodinville
22 area. A third branch campus, the University of Washington North Sound,
23 shall be located in Lake Stevens.

24 (2) At the University of Washington Tacoma, a top priority is
25 expansion of upper division capacity for transfer students and graduate
26 capacity and programs. Beginning in the fall of 2006, the campus may
27 offer lower division courses linked to specific majors in fields not
28 addressed at local community colleges. The campus shall admit lower
29 division students through coadmission or coenrollment agreements with
30 a community college, or through direct transfer for students who have
31 accumulated approximately one year of transferable college credits. In
32 addition to offering lower division courses linked to specific majors
33 as addressed above, the campus may also directly admit freshmen and
34 sophomores gradually and deliberately in accordance with the campus
35 plan submitted to the higher education coordinating board in 2004.

36 (3) At the University of Washington Bothell, a top priority is
37 expansion of upper division capacity for transfer students and graduate

1 capacity and programs. The campus shall also seek additional
2 opportunities to collaborate with and maximize its (~~collocation~~
3 ~~collocation~~) colocation with Cascadia Community College. Beginning
4 in the fall of 2006, the campus may offer lower division courses linked
5 to specific majors in fields not addressed at local community colleges.
6 The campus may admit lower division students through coadmission or
7 coenrollment agreements with a community college, or through direct
8 transfer for students who have accumulated approximately one year of
9 transferable college credits. In addition to offering lower division
10 courses linked to specific majors as addressed above, the campus may
11 also directly admit freshmen and sophomores gradually and deliberately
12 in accordance with the campus plan submitted to the higher education
13 coordinating board in 2004.

14 (4) At the University of Washington North Sound, a top priority is
15 expansion of upper division capacity for transfer students and graduate
16 capacity and programs in high demand programs with a particular focus
17 on science, technology, and engineering. The campus may offer lower
18 division courses linked to specific majors in fields not addressed at
19 local community colleges. In addition to offering lower division
20 courses linked to specific majors as provided in this subsection, the
21 campus may also directly admit freshmen and sophomores gradually and
22 deliberately in accordance with the campus plan to be submitted to the
23 higher education coordinating board. The campus shall admit students
24 through coadmission or coenrollment agreements with a community college
25 emphasizing access for transfer students codeveloped by the University
26 of Washington and the state board for community and technical colleges.

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