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HOUSE BILL 2959

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Carlson, Butler, Radcliff, O'Brien, Dunn and Mason

Read first time 01/23/98. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to higher education collaboration grants; and  
2 adding new sections to chapter 28B.10 RCW.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that it is in the  
5 public interest to encourage and enhance cooperation among institutions  
6 of higher education. It is the policy of the state to facilitate  
7 interinstitutional coordination, planning, and collaborative  
8 arrangements to avoid duplication and make efficient use of educational  
9 facilities, including independent institutions of higher education.

10            (2) In order to secure for the citizens of Washington the  
11 advantages that would accrue through cooperative programs that meet  
12 specific educational, business, and societal needs, the board may  
13 provide collaboration grants for the planning and design of programs  
14 offered by two or more four-year colleges and universities using  
15 appropriated funds. Collaboration grants shall increase access to  
16 four-year programs, use available infrastructure, avoid duplication,  
17 and encourage cooperation among four-year institutions of higher  
18 education.

1        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 2.**     Unless the context clearly requires  
2 otherwise the definitions in this section apply throughout sections 1  
3 through 4 of this act.

4        (1) "Instructional program" means a course of study leading to  
5 certification, licensure, or a degree at the baccalaureate, master's or  
6 doctoral level.

7        (2) "Independent institution of higher education" means a private,  
8 nonprofit educational institution, the main campus of which is  
9 permanently situated in the state, which is open to residents of the  
10 state, which does not restrict entry on racial or religious grounds,  
11 which provides programs of education beyond high school leading at  
12 least to the baccalaureate degree, and which is accredited by the  
13 Northwest association of schools and colleges.

14        (3) "Public institution of higher education" means a college or  
15 university as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

16        (4) "Board" means the higher education coordinating board.

17        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 3.**     The board, using funds appropriated  
18 therefor, may award collaboration grants for the planning and design of  
19 instructional programs. Collaborative grants may be used to fund  
20 proposals that include public and independent institutions of higher  
21 education. The criteria for awarding the grants must be uniform and  
22 applicable to all eligible colleges and universities and the proposals  
23 shall meet the following conditions:

24        (1) The program shall be offered by two or more eligible  
25 institutions of higher education;

26        (2) The collaboration among institutions of higher education shall  
27 be a cost-effective means to provide the program;

28        (3) The program shall expand student access; and

29        (4) The program shall make use of existing classroom space and  
30 faculty expertise.

31        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 4.**     The board shall assure continuing evaluation  
32 of the effectiveness of the collaboration grants authorized by section  
33 3 of this act, and before December of each even-numbered year shall  
34 submit a report to the governor and legislature. In administering the  
35 grants, the board shall require the use of appropriate fiscal  
36 procedures to ensure accountability of public funds.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    Sections 1 through 4 of this act are each  
2 added to chapter 28B.10 RCW.

3        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    If any provision of this act or its  
4 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
5 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
6 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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