
SENATE BILL 5978

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Kilmer, Rockefeller, Sheldon, Hargrove, Delvin, Berkey and Shin

Read first time 02/09/2007. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

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 and Clallam counties and recommend to the legislature solutions to the
7 higher education needs. Solutions that the board should consider
8 include, but should not be limited to, establishment of new
9 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 the four
7 counties; (b) two members of the house of representatives, appointed by
8 the speaker of the house of representatives; (c) two members of the
9 senate, appointed by the president of the senate; and (d) eight
10 education or business leaders from within each of the four counties.

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

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

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

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

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