
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2684

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Kenney, Sullivan, Lias, Hasegawa, Simpson, Nelson, Goodman, and Chase)

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing opportunity centers at community
2 colleges; and adding a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) An opportunity employment and education center is established
7 within the Seattle community college district.

8 (2) The center shall:

9 (a) House various educational and social service providers and
10 integrate access to employment, counseling, and public benefit programs
11 and services as well as education, training, financial aid and
12 counseling services offered through community colleges;

13 (b) Identify and form partnerships with community-based
14 organizations that enhance the services and supports provided to
15 individuals using the center; and

16 (c) Provide services including but not limited to employment
17 security and workforce development council worksource services; job
18 listing, referral, and placement; job coaching; employment counseling,
19 testing, and career planning; unemployment insurance claim filing

1 assistance; cash grant programs run by the department of social and
2 health services; the basic food program; housing assistance; child
3 support assistance; child care subsidies; WorkFirst and temporary
4 assistance to needy families; general assistance and supplemental
5 security income facilitation; vocational rehabilitation services and
6 referrals; medicaid and medical services; alcoholism and drug addiction
7 treatment and support act referrals; case management and mental health
8 referrals; community college financial aid; support services; college
9 counseling services related to career pathways and basic skills
10 resources for English language learners; high school completion; and
11 adult basic education; and

12 (d) In partnership with the state board for community and technical
13 colleges, jointly develop evaluation criteria and performance
14 indicators that demonstrate the degree to which the center is
15 successfully integrating services and improving service delivery.

16 (3) The chancellor of the Seattle community college district and
17 technical colleges, or the chancellor's designee, shall convene an
18 opportunity policy work group charged with governing the opportunity
19 employment and education center. The work group membership shall
20 include, but not be limited to, representatives of the King county
21 workforce development council, north Seattle community college, the
22 employment security department, and the department of social and health
23 services. A chair shall be chosen from among the work group's
24 membership on an annual basis, with the chairmanship rotating among
25 participating agencies. The work group shall:

26 (a) Determine protocols for service delivery, develop operating
27 policies and procedures, develop cross-agency training for agency
28 employees located at the center, and develop a plan for a common
29 information technology framework that could allow for interagency
30 access to files and information, including any common application and
31 screening systems that facilitate access to state, federal, and local
32 social service and educational programs, within current resources and
33 to the extent federal privacy laws allow;

34 (b) Develop a release of information form that may be voluntarily
35 completed by opportunity center clients to facilitate the information
36 sharing outlined in subsection (3)(a) of this section. The form is
37 created to aid agencies housed at the opportunity center in determining
38 client eligibility for various social and educational services. The

1 form shall address the types of information to be shared, the agencies
2 with which personal information can be shared, the length of time
3 agencies may keep shared information on file, and any other issue areas
4 identified by the opportunity policy work group to comply with all
5 applicable federal and state laws;

6 (c) Review national best practices for program operation and
7 provide training to program providers both before opening the center
8 and on an ongoing basis; and

9 (d) Jointly develop integrated solutions to provide more
10 cost-efficient and customer friendly service delivery.

11 (4) Participating agencies shall identify and apply for any federal
12 waivers necessary to facilitate the intended goals and operation of the
13 center.

14 (5) The state board for community and technical colleges shall
15 report to legislative committees with subject areas of commerce and
16 labor, human services, and higher education on the following:

17 (a) By December 1, 2010, the board, in partnership with
18 participating agencies, shall provide recommendations on a proposed
19 site for an additional opportunity employment and education center; and

20 (b) By December 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the board shall
21 provide an evaluation of existing centers based on performance criteria
22 identified by the board and the opportunity policy work group. The
23 report shall also include data on any federal and state legislative
24 barriers to integration.

25 (6) All future opportunity centers shall be governed by the
26 provisions in this section and are subject to the same reporting
27 requirements.

--- END ---