
HOUSE BILL 1640

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Koster, Scott, Jacobsen, Stevens, Costa, Sehlin, D. Schmidt, Elliot, Radcliff, Sherstad, Blanton, Thompson, Cole and Ogden

Read first time 02/02/95. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the postsecondary education needs of the
2 Snohomish, Island, and Skagit county area; creating new sections;
3 making an appropriation; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Snohomish, Island, and Skagit counties are
6 three of the fastest-growing counties in the state of Washington, with
7 Snohomish county in particular having added nearly one hundred fifty
8 thousand persons in the decade between 1984 and 1994, constituting
9 forty-one percent growth. This three-county region includes hundreds
10 of high technology firms, major military installations, and one of the
11 world's largest manufacturing exporters. Employers in this rapidly
12 growing area will require an increasingly diverse work force, including
13 more and more employees with upper division college credentials. Yet
14 there is no four-year institution of higher education or branch campus
15 in this three-county area, and a demographic study commissioned by the
16 community shows an unmet need for nearly seven thousand five hundred
17 people by the year 2012.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The higher education coordinating board
2 shall evaluate the postsecondary education needs of the Snohomish,
3 Island, and Skagit county area and based upon the findings of area
4 unmet need, evaluate and determine the appropriate organizational model
5 for providing lower, upper, and graduate level programs, as well as
6 other higher education needs. The board shall provide its
7 recommendations concerning the preferred organizational model and a
8 time-phased plan for implementing those recommendations to the
9 legislature and governor by November 30, 1995.

10 In developing the model, the board shall, in consultation with the
11 city of Everett and the tri-county area, consider a full array of
12 alternative methods, financing, and governance structures, as well as
13 public-private partnership opportunities, for providing postsecondary
14 programs. The board shall consider, but need not be limited to, the
15 following planning priorities:

16 (1) Responding to the higher education, training, and skills
17 development needs of traditional student populations as well as older,
18 employed individuals, and existing professionals in the tri-county
19 area, including an analysis of program sequencing that analyzes the
20 types of disciplines that best respond to the needs of employers and
21 the tri-county community;

22 (2) Emphasizing teaching and instruction as the primary mission and
23 goal;

24 (3) Incorporating and emphasizing existing and future educational
25 information technology in the delivery of instructional programs;

26 (4) Looking at cost-effective and innovative methods of providing
27 campus facilities and construction;

28 (5) Providing effective transfer provisions for students from
29 Washington's extensive community and technical college system;

30 (6) Designing a higher education facility that is consistent with
31 the policies of the growth management act and regional transportation
32 laws and planning;

33 (7) Complementing the programs and missions of nearby public and
34 private institutions, facilities, and military installations, including
35 pursuing public-private partnerships, equipment-sharing opportunities,
36 on and off-site training opportunities, and other potential
37 innovations; and

38 (8) Evaluating the potential use of available publicly owned
39 property in the city of Everett as a site for an educational facility.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of two hundred fifty thousand
2 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
3 the biennium ending June 30, 1997, from the state building construction
4 account to the higher education coordinating board for campus
5 evaluation under this act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 2 of this act is necessary for the
7 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or
8 support of the state government and its existing public institutions,
9 and shall take effect immediately.

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