
SENATE BILL 5322

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senators Berkey, Shin, Haugen, Schoesler, Hobbs, Kilmer and Marr

Read first time 01/17/2007. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to identifying sites and programs for a four-year
2 institution of higher education serving the Snohomish-Island-Skagit
3 county region; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the needs of over
6 ten thousand students are forecast to be unmet by 2025 without state
7 action to improve access to higher education in the Snohomish-Island-
8 Skagit county region. The legislature further finds that the
9 Snohomish-Island-Skagit county region needs a four-year comprehensive
10 institution of higher education to serve the demands of Washington
11 businesses. The legislature further finds that there is no idle
12 expansion capacity in public institutions of higher education in the
13 region. The legislature intends to expedite the development of a new
14 four-year comprehensive institution of higher education with a
15 polytechnical focus in the Snohomish-Island-Skagit county region. The
16 legislature further intends that this new institution shall focus on
17 providing polytechnical baccalaureate degrees in applied science,
18 engineering, and applied computer science, that prepare graduates to
19 compete in the global marketplace.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The office of financial management shall
2 assess options and make a recommendation on alternative sites and
3 secure purchase options for an institution of higher education in the
4 Snohomish-Island-Skagit county region. The office of financial
5 management shall evaluate sites based on, but not limited to, the
6 following criteria:

7 (a) Meeting the unmet baccalaureate needs in the region including
8 high-demand program needs;

9 (b) Accessibility from existing and planned transportation
10 infrastructure;

11 (c) Availability of land in Everett, Marysville, and the north
12 Snohomish county area;

13 (d) Whether the parcel size allows flexibility for future growth
14 and expansion;

15 (e) The costs of land acquisition;

16 (f) Whether the land is impacted by environmental hazards; and

17 (g) Meeting the objectives of the master business plan.

18 (2) The office of financial management shall develop specific
19 operational and management plans needed to establish the institution,
20 including but not limited to:

21 (a) A master business plan for design and implementation, including
22 public-private partnerships;

23 (b) A governance model; and

24 (c) A plan for comprehensive, four-year programs with a
25 polytechnical focus to be offered that addresses regional demographic
26 pressures and workforce needs.

27 (3) Planning and analysis shall be done in coordination with the
28 local community.

29 (4) The office of financial management shall report its
30 recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the
31 senate and house of representatives by December 1, 2007.

32 (5) The office of financial management shall contract with an
33 outside neutral consultant to carry out the provisions of this section.

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