CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE BILL 2694

Chapter 25, Laws of 2010

61st Legislature
2010 1st Special Session

UNIVERSITY CENTER--NURSING PROGRAM--BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/10

Passed by the House April 12, 2010
Yeas 96  Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 12, 2010
Yeas 43  Nays 2

BRAD OWEN
President of the Senate
Approved April 23, 2010, 1:52 p.m.

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is HOUSE BILL 2694 as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BARBARA BAKER
Chief Clerk

FILED
April 23, 2010

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE
Governor of the State of Washington

Secretary of State
State of Washington
AN ACT Relating to a bachelor of science in nursing program at the University Center; adding a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW; creating a new section; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

(1) RCW 28B.50.901 assigns responsibility for the north Snohomish, Island, and Skagit counties' higher education consortium to Everett Community College. In April of 2009, Everett Community College opened Gray Wolf Hall, the new home of the University Center of North Puget Sound. The University Center currently offers over twenty bachelor's and master's degrees from six partner universities.

(2) Although Everett Community College offers an associate degree nursing program that graduates approximately seventy to ninety students per year, the University Center does not offer a bachelor of science in nursing. Some graduates of the Everett Community College program are able to articulate to the bachelor of science in nursing program offered by the University of Washington—Bothell at its Bothell campus.
(3) Despite recent growth in nursing education capacity, shortages still persist for registered nurses. According to a June 2007 study by the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho center for health workforce studies, the average age of Washington's registered nurses was forty-eight years. More than a third were fifty-five years of age or older. Consequently, the high rate of registered nurses retiring from nursing practice over the next two decades will significantly reduce the supply. This reduction comes at the same time as the state's population grows and ages. The registered nurse education capacity in Washington has a large impact on the supply of registered nurses in the state. If the rate of graduation in registered nursing does not increase, projections show that supply in Washington will begin to decline by 2015. In contrast, if graduation rates increased by four hundred per year, the supply of registered nurses would meet estimated demand by the year 2021.

(4) Subject to specific funding to support up to fifty full-time equivalent students in a bachelor of nursing program, the University Center at Everett Community College, in partnership with the University of Washington-Bothell, shall offer a bachelor of science in nursing program with capacity for up to fifty full-time students.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2010.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. If specific funding for the purposes of this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by June 30, 2010, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and void.

Passed by the House April 12, 2010.
Passed by the Senate April 12, 2010.
Approved by the Governor April 23, 2010.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 23, 2010.