
HOUSE BILL 1196

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Bray, Neher, Jacobsen, Ludwig, Grant, Nealey, Rayburn, Inslee and G. Fisher.

Read first time January 23, 1991. Referred to Committee on Higher Education. Referred 1/28/91 to Committee on Energy and Utilities.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington state center for environmental
2 and molecular sciences; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) The technology and associated sciences that are necessary to
6 clean up hazardous waste are not sufficiently advanced to make many
7 waste management and environmental restoration efforts efficient and
8 cost-effective.

9 (2) A lack of personnel trained in waste management and
10 environmental restoration technologies will significantly impede future
11 clean-up efforts.

12 (3) Research and development in molecular science may result in
13 scientific breakthroughs that will assist future waste management and
14 environmental restoration efforts, and lead to the design and

1 development of new materials and processes that will advance scientific
2 knowledge and technology.

3 (4) Research and development in the environmental and molecular
4 sciences will require expertise that cuts across traditional areas of
5 research, research efforts that require highly interdisciplinary
6 approaches in the biological and physical sciences, and
7 interdisciplinary education and training programs. Accordingly, the
8 research and education in this area will require a blending of
9 molecular science and technology and interdisciplinary education and
10 training.

11 (5) Hanford has been cited as a centerpiece in the federal
12 government's research and development efforts in molecular science and
13 waste management and environmental restoration.

14 (6) The state of Washington and its institutions of higher
15 education could benefit greatly from the technical and scientific
16 expertise available at Hanford.

17 (7) The Washington State University branch campus in the Tri-Cities
18 has a unique opportunity to help the state capitalize on this
19 opportunity due to its close physical proximity to the department of
20 energy's center for environmental excellence and its molecular science
21 center situated at the Pacific Northwest laboratory.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By September 1, 1991, Washington State
23 University shall submit to the higher education coordinating board for
24 approval a proposal for the long-term development of a center for
25 environmental and molecular sciences at Washington State
26 University/Tri-Cities.

27 A number of purposes are envisioned for the center and are
28 delineated in this section. It is to be understood that the
29 accomplishment of these purposes will require the active support of

1 Washington State University/Pullman and, where clearly appropriate, the
2 cooperative involvement of other educational, governmental, and
3 industrial partners, such as the Pacific Northwest laboratory.

4 The center shall be designed to accomplish the following purposes:

5 (1) Coordinate the relationship of Washington State University with
6 the federal government's waste management and environmental restoration
7 efforts at the Hanford site, the Pacific Northwest laboratory's
8 molecular science center and center for environmental excellence, and
9 other environmental and molecular science research and technology
10 efforts at the Hanford site, to ensure that all available expertise is
11 utilized in aiding these programs, as well as ensuring that Washington
12 State University is able to participate in these efforts.

13 (2) Develop upper-division and graduate instructional programs in
14 environmental assessment and remediation technology and molecular
15 sciences, as approved by the higher education coordinating board.

16 (3) Enhance research capabilities at Washington State
17 University/Tri-Cities and Washington State University/Pullman in
18 molecular science and hazardous waste management and environmental
19 restoration technology by blending forefront molecular science research
20 and waste management and environmental restoration educational efforts.

21 (4) Ensure that the state of Washington and its institutions of
22 higher education benefit from the technical and scientific expertise at
23 Hanford and the Tri-Cities.

24 (5) Develop the expertise necessary to assist in technology
25 transfer of molecular science and hazardous waste research and
26 development efforts to private industry, institutions of higher
27 education, and other governmental agencies.

28 (6) Foster strong cooperative relationships among the federal
29 government, the state, and businesses and industries interested in
30 hazardous waste and molecular science research and development.

1 (7) Initiate collaborative research programs with Hanford
2 contractors, staff, facilities, and equipment in support of
3 instructional programs.

4 (8) Ensure that the molecular science and hazardous waste expertise
5 of all Washington universities and colleges is made available to aid
6 the federal research efforts.

7 Education and research programs offered through the center shall
8 supplement and not supplant other education and research programs
9 offered at Washington State University/Tri-Cities and Washington State
10 University/Pullman. Moreover, the activities and programs of the
11 Washington state center for environmental and molecular sciences shall
12 be integrated with related activities and programs at Washington State
13 University/Pullman.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The proposal provided for in section 2
15 of this act shall include:

16 (1) A review of existing relationships among federal entities and
17 principal contractors at Hanford with Washington's institutions of
18 higher education;

19 (2) A description of methods for coordinating relationships between
20 Washington State University and the Pacific Northwest laboratory's
21 molecular science center and center for environmental excellence, as
22 well as other research efforts at the Hanford site;

23 (3) A description of the upper-division and graduate program
24 curricula necessary at Washington State University to educate and train
25 professionals needed to enhance Washington's efforts in molecular
26 science and hazardous waste science and technology;

27 (4) An assessment of the research capabilities needed at Washington
28 State University in molecular science and hazardous waste management

1 and environmental restoration technology to improve the efficiency of
2 clean-up efforts in the Tri-Cities and other areas in Washington;

3 (5) An estimate of the expertise and support necessary to assist in
4 technology transfer of molecular science and hazardous waste research
5 and development efforts;

6 (6) Recommendations on ways to provide maximum benefit to the
7 citizens of Washington from the research at Hanford and the Tri-Cities;
8 and

9 (7) Estimated operating and facilities costs of the center.

10 The higher education coordinating board shall review the proposal.
11 In making its review, the higher education coordinating board shall
12 evaluate both policy and fiscal aspects of the proposal and shall
13 specifically review the center's proposed role and mission within the
14 context of the development plan for branch campuses of Washington State
15 University. The higher education coordinating board shall make
16 recommendations to the governor and the legislature by January 1, 1992,
17 on: (a) Whether to establish a Washington state center for
18 environmental and molecular sciences, and, if so, (b) the long-term
19 development of the center.