
SENATE BILL 6499

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senator Erwin

Read first time 01/25/94. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to branch campuses; amending RCW 28B.45.010; adding
2 a new section to chapter 28B.45 RCW; creating a new section; and
3 providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.45.010 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 7 s 1 are each amended
6 to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds that the benefits of higher education should
8 be more widely available to the citizens of the state of Washington.
9 The legislature also finds that a citizen's place of residence can
10 restrict that citizen's access to educational opportunity at the upper
11 division and graduate level.

12 Because most of the state-supported baccalaureate universities are
13 located in areas removed from major metropolitan areas, the legislature
14 finds that many of the state's citizens, especially those citizens
15 residing in the central Puget Sound area, the northern Puget Sound
16 area, the Tri-Cities, Spokane, Vancouver, and Yakima, have insufficient
17 and inequitable access to upper-division baccalaureate and graduate
18 education.

1 This lack of sufficient educational opportunities in urban areas
2 makes it difficult or impossible for place-bound individuals, who are
3 unable to relocate, to complete a baccalaureate or graduate degree. It
4 also exacerbates the difficulty financially needy students have in
5 attending school, since many of those students need to work, and work
6 is not always readily available in some communities where the
7 baccalaureate institutions of higher education are located.

8 The lack of sufficient educational opportunities in metropolitan
9 areas also affects the economy of the underserved communities.
10 Businesses benefit from access to the research and teaching
11 capabilities of institutions of higher education. The absence of these
12 institutions from some of the state's major urban centers prevents
13 beneficial interaction between businesses in these communities and the
14 state's universities.

15 The Washington state master plan for higher education, adopted by
16 the higher education coordinating board, recognizes the need to expand
17 upper-division and graduate educational opportunities in the state's
18 large urban centers. The board has also attempted to provide a means
19 for helping to meet future educational demand through a system of
20 branch campuses in the state's major urban areas.

21 The legislature endorses the assignment of responsibility to serve
22 these urban centers that the board has made to various institutions of
23 higher education. The legislature also endorses the creation of branch
24 campuses for the University of Washington ((and)), Washington State
25 University, and Western Washington University.

26 The legislature recognizes that, among their other
27 responsibilities, the state's comprehensive community colleges share
28 with the four-year universities and colleges the responsibility of
29 providing the first two years of a baccalaureate education. It is the
30 intent of the legislature that the four-year institutions and the
31 community colleges work as cooperative partners to ensure the
32 successful and efficient operation of the state's system of higher
33 education. The legislature further intends that the four-year
34 institutions work cooperatively with the community colleges to ensure
35 that branch campuses are operated as models of a two plus two
36 educational system.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.45 RCW
38 to read as follows:

1 Western Washington University is responsible for providing upper-
2 division and graduate-level higher education programs to the citizens
3 of the Snohomish county, under rules or guidelines adopted by the
4 higher education coordinating board.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The higher education coordinating board
6 shall conduct a feasibility study of property owned by the port of
7 Everett as to cost and suitability for a branch campus of Western
8 Washington University.

9 (2) The higher education coordinating board shall report its
10 findings and recommendations to the fiscal and higher education
11 committees of the legislature by December 1, 1994.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall take
13 effect July 1, 1996.

--- END ---