
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2929

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Carlson, Huff, Jacobsen, Foreman, Sehlin and Silver)

Read first time 02/05/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to telecommunications, telecommunications planning,
2 and higher education technology; amending RCW 43.105.032; adding a new
3 section to chapter 43.105 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an
4 expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that up-to-date
7 technology is a critical ingredient in the preparation of an educated
8 and knowledgeable work force and citizenry. Expansion of access to
9 higher education through distance learning is an activity that merits
10 the support of the state legislature.

11 The development of a distance education system using technology
12 will provide great opportunities for change in the delivery of
13 educational services and deserves due deliberation and coordinated
14 policy planning to ensure that the high standards of program quality
15 and cost-efficient service are enhanced.

16 The legislature finds that, in order to facilitate lifelong
17 learning, educational technology systems must be coordinated among all
18 educational sectors, with the other entities of federal, state, and
19 local government, and be readily accessible to the general population

1 of the state. It is the intent of the legislature to make maximum use
2 of a common telecommunications backbone network in building or
3 expanding education technology systems.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The higher education network and distance
5 education committee is established with the purpose of designing a
6 higher education distance education network and implementation plan.

7 The department of information services shall convene, in
8 cooperation with the higher education coordinating board, a committee
9 to assist in the development of the design and implementation plan.
10 The committee shall include the following members or their designees:
11 The director of the department of information services; the executive
12 director of the higher education coordinating board; one community or
13 technical college president, appointed by the state board for community
14 and technical colleges; one president of a public baccalaureate
15 institution, appointed by the council of presidents; the state
16 librarian; the superintendent of public instruction; and on a nonvoting
17 basis, one representative of private colleges and one representative of
18 the computer or telecommunications industry, each appointed by the
19 higher education coordinating board. The committee may appoint
20 advisory subcommittees including, but not limited to, persons
21 representing: The state board of education, the work force training
22 and education coordinating board, the state board for community and
23 technical colleges, the commission on student learning, the higher
24 education coordinating board, educational service districts, higher
25 education administrators, faculty, classified staff, secondary
26 education teachers, parents, students, private institutions of higher
27 education, public libraries, and representatives of the technology and
28 telecommunication industry.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The network design shall: (a) Maximize
30 existing networks and video telecommunications resources owned or
31 operated by the state; (b) minimize duplication of technology resources
32 and education programs or degrees at institutions; (c) provide optimum
33 geographic and social distribution of the benefits of a network; (d)
34 ensure that the network can be expanded and upgraded, is based on an
35 open-architecture model, and connects to national and worldwide
36 information infrastructures; (e) foster partnerships among public,
37 private, and nonprofit entities, including private institutions of

1 higher education; and (f) provide for future access by public entities
2 on a no-cost or low-cost basis. Such entities shall include, but are
3 not limited to public libraries, public hospitals, public schools, and
4 public service agencies.

5 (2) The design shall detail which sites shall be connected to the
6 network and the technologies to be used at each site. In developing
7 the design, the committee shall evaluate the benefits of purchasing
8 additional hardware versus leasing network services from the public or
9 private sector.

10 (3) The implementation plan shall prioritize investments into
11 phases to be funded by the legislature. The plan shall also
12 incorporate specific funding options that are appropriate for the 1997
13 supplemental budget and subsequent biennial budgets. The committee
14 shall ensure that in each phase: (a) The addition of a site or sites
15 to the network will result in a completed link and the capability to
16 operate distance education programs; (b) the sites added in each phase
17 have an approved service delivery plan in accordance with section 4 of
18 this act; and (c) each phase has completed a request for proposal
19 process.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Working in conjunction with the committee,
21 the higher education coordinating board shall approve a service
22 delivery plan, including an assessment of community needs, programming,
23 and service levels, that provides for effective use of network
24 resources at each site included in the design of the network. The
25 board shall also approve a network governance structure, ensuring
26 participation by all members of the network.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The committee shall submit for approval or
28 modification, the higher education distance education network design
29 and implementation plan to the information services board. Upon
30 approval the board shall submit the design and implementation plan to
31 the office of financial management and the relevant fiscal and policy
32 committees of the legislature by October 1, 1996.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 43.105 RCW
34 to read as follows:

35 (1) The department of information services may receive such gifts,
36 grants, legislative appropriations, and endowments from public or

1 private sources as may be made from time to time, in trust or
2 otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the higher
3 education distance education network and expend the same or any income
4 therefrom according to the terms of the gifts, grants, or endowments.

5 (2) The higher education technology account is hereby established
6 in the custody of the state treasurer. The department of information
7 services shall deposit in the account all moneys received from gifts,
8 grants, or endowments for education technology. Moneys in the account
9 may be spent only for implementation of the higher education network.
10 Disbursements from the account shall be on authorization of the
11 director of the department with approval of the information services
12 board. The account is subject to the allotment procedure provided
13 under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for
14 disbursements.

15 **Sec. 7.** RCW 43.105.032 and 1992 c 20 s 8 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 There is hereby created the Washington state information services
18 board. The board shall be composed of ~~((nine))~~ twelve members.
19 ~~((Seven))~~ Eight members shall be appointed by the governor, one of
20 ~~((which))~~ whom shall be a representative of higher education, one of
21 whom shall be a representative of K-12 education, one of ~~((which))~~ whom
22 shall be a representative of an agency under a state-wide elected
23 official other than the governor, and ~~((one))~~ two of ~~((which))~~ whom
24 shall be ~~((a))~~ representatives of the private sector. One member shall
25 represent the judicial branch and be appointed by the chief justice of
26 the supreme court. ~~((One member shall represent the legislative branch~~
27 ~~and shall be selected by the president of the senate and the speaker of~~
28 ~~the house of representatives.))~~ One member shall represent the house
29 of representatives and shall be selected by the speaker of the house of
30 representatives, and one member shall represent the senate and shall be
31 appointed by the president of the senate. The representatives of the
32 house of representatives and senate shall not be from the same
33 political party. These members shall constitute the membership of the
34 board with full voting rights. Members of the board shall serve at the
35 pleasure of the appointing authority. The director shall be ~~((an ex~~
36 ~~officio, nonvoting))~~ a voting member of the board. The board shall
37 select a chairperson from among its members.

1 Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner that the original
2 appointments were made.

3 A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum
4 for the transaction of business.

5 Members of the board shall be compensated for service on the board
6 in accordance with RCW 43.03.240 and shall be reimbursed for travel
7 expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall
9 expire June 30, 1997.

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