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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2929**

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**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; adding a new section to chapter 43.105  
3 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

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

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

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

1 of a common telecommunications backbone network in building or  
2 expanding education technology systems.

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

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

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

1 on a no-cost or low-cost basis. Such entities shall include, but are  
2 not limited to public libraries, public hospitals, public schools, and  
3 public service agencies.

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

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

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

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

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

34 (1) The department of information services may receive such gifts,  
35 grants, legislative appropriations, and endowments from public or  
36 private sources as may be made from time to time, in trust or

1 otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the higher  
2 education distance education network and expend the same or any income  
3 therefrom according to the terms of the gifts, grants, or endowments.

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

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall  
15 expire June 30, 1997.

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