

2SSB 5914 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Appropriations

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that over the
4 next decade, large numbers of Washington students will graduate from
5 high school and seek access to higher education. Washington's new
6 knowledge-based economy demands ever-increasing levels of education and
7 training from our work force. The legislature also recognizes that
8 there is insufficient access in some urban areas of the state with
9 greatest population density. These areas could benefit educationally
10 and economically from expanded baccalaureate and graduate education
11 opportunities. With increased demand and limited resources to provide
12 such expansion, the legislature finds it necessary to examine
13 thoroughly and objectively the prospect of creating additional
14 educational opportunities in underserved areas such as southwest
15 Washington and the central Puget Sound region.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state institute for
17 public policy shall develop evaluation criteria and identify data
18 necessary to study the feasibility of creating additional public
19 baccalaureate and graduate education opportunities in underserved areas
20 of the state. The criteria must be rigorous, objective, and applicable
21 to various regions of the state. The study methodology must include
22 consultation with community leaders. The criteria must include but not
23 be limited to the following:

- 24 (a) A detailed regional analysis of student demand and supply of
25 degree programs from existing higher education institutions;
26 (b) Population and demographic projections for a region;
27 (c) Potential regional economic development, including types of
28 businesses and employers and their educational and work force training
29 needs;

1 (d) Evaluation of alternative models of providing baccalaureate and
2 professional graduate education in a region, including expanding
3 existing partnerships between community and technical colleges and
4 four-year institutions;

5 (e) Examination of the possible role and mission of new or modified
6 higher education institutions in a region, including the possibility of
7 an innovative combination of instruction and research suitable for
8 meeting a region's needs for access as well as support the expansion of
9 a region's economic viability;

10 (f) Analysis of short and long-term operating and capital costs;
11 and

12 (g) A balance between local or regional interests and statewide
13 needs.

14 (2) Once the evaluation criteria, data, and methodology have been
15 developed, the institute shall conduct the first feasibility study in
16 southwest Washington.

17 (3) The institute shall submit its findings from the first
18 feasibility study to the higher education and fiscal committees of the
19 senate and house of representatives by December 15, 2004.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
21 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
22 June 30, 2004, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
23 void."

EFFECT: Before conducting a feasibility study for additional
baccalaureate and graduate education in southwest Washington, the
Institute must first develop evaluation criteria and identify the data
necessary to conduct a study that is rigorous, objective, and could be
applied in various regions of the state. A balance between local or
regional interests and statewide needs is added to the list of analyses
that are part of the study. Once the criteria, data, and methodology
are developed, the Institute will conduct the first study in southwest
Washington. A null and void clause is added to the bill.

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