
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2707

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By House Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Kenney, Priest, Sommers, Jarrett, McCoy, Chase and Hudgins)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to higher education branch campuses; amending RCW
2 28B.45.050 and 28B.80.510; adding new sections to chapter 28B.45 RCW;
3 adding a new section to chapter 28B.30 RCW; creating a new section;
4 recodifying RCW 28B.80.510 and 28B.45.050; and repealing RCW
5 28B.45.070, 28B.80.500, and 28B.80.520.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.45 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 (1) In 1989, the legislature created five branch campuses to be
10 operated by the state's two public research universities. Located in
11 growing urban areas, the branch campuses were charged with two
12 missions:

13 (a) Increasing access to higher education by focusing on upper
14 division and graduate programs, targeting placebound students, and
15 operating as models of a two plus two educational system in cooperation
16 with the community colleges; and

17 (b) Promoting regional economic development by responding to demand
18 for degrees from local businesses and supporting regional economies
19 through research activities.

1 (2) Fifteen years later, the legislature finds that branch campuses
2 are responding to their original mission:

3 (a) Branch campuses accounted for half of statewide upper division
4 and graduate public enrollment growth since 1990;

5 (b) Branch campuses have grown steadily and enroll increasing
6 numbers of transfer students each year;

7 (c) Branch campuses enroll proportionately more older and part-time
8 students than their main campuses and attract increasing proportions of
9 students from nearby counties;

10 (d) Although the extent of their impact has not been measured,
11 branch campuses positively affect local economies and offer degree
12 programs that roughly correspond with regional occupational
13 projections; and

14 (e) The capital investments made by the state to support branch
15 campuses represent a significant benefit to regional economic
16 development.

17 (3) However, the legislature also finds the policy landscape in
18 higher education has changed since the original creation of the branch
19 campuses. Demand for access to baccalaureate and graduate education is
20 increasing rapidly. Economic development efforts increasingly
21 recognize the importance of focusing on local and regional economic
22 clusters and improving collaboration among communities, businesses, and
23 colleges and universities. Each branch campus has evolved into a
24 unique institution, and it is appropriate to assess the nature of this
25 evolution to ensure the role and mission of each campus is aligned with
26 the state's higher education goals and the needs of the region where
27 the campus is located.

28 (4) Therefore, it is the legislature's intent to recognize the
29 unique nature of Washington's higher education branch campuses,
30 reaffirm the role and mission of each, and set the course for their
31 continued future development.

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

34 (1) The primary mission of the higher education branch campuses
35 created under this chapter remains to expand access to baccalaureate
36 and master's level graduate education in under-served urban areas of
37 the state in collaboration with community and technical colleges.

1 (2) Branch campuses shall collaborate with the community and
2 technical colleges in their region to develop articulation agreements,
3 dual admissions policies, and other partnerships to ensure that branch
4 campuses serve as innovative models of a two plus two educational
5 system. Other possibilities for collaboration include but are not
6 limited to joint development of curricula and degree programs,
7 colocation of instruction, and arrangements to share faculty.

8 (3) However, the legislature recognizes there are alternative
9 models for achieving this primary mission. Some campuses may have
10 additional missions in response to regional needs and demands. At
11 selected branch campuses, an innovative combination of instruction and
12 research targeted to support regional economic development may be
13 appropriate to meet the region's needs for both access and economic
14 viability. Other campuses should focus on becoming models of a two
15 plus two educational system through continuous improvement of
16 partnerships and agreements with community and technical colleges.
17 Still other campuses may be best suited to transition to a four-year
18 comprehensive university or be removed from designation as a branch
19 campus entirely.

20 (4) It is the legislature's intent that each branch campus be
21 funded commensurate with its unique mission, the degree programs
22 offered, and the institutional combination of instruction and research,
23 but at a level less than a research university.

24 (5) In consultation with the higher education coordinating board,
25 a branch campus may propose legislation to authorize practice-oriented
26 or professional doctoral programs if: (a) Unique research facilities
27 and equipment are located near the campus; or (b) the campus can
28 clearly demonstrate student and employer demand in the region that is
29 linked to regional economic development.

30 (6) It is not the legislature's intent to have each campus chart
31 its own future path without legislative guidance. Instead, the
32 legislature intends to consider carefully the mission and model of
33 education that best suits each campus and best meets the needs of
34 students, the community, and the region.

35 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.45.050 and 1991 c 205 s 11 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

37 Washington State University and Eastern Washington University ((are

1 ~~responsible for providing upper division and graduate level)) shall~~
2 ~~collaborate with one another and with local community colleges in~~
3 ~~providing educational pathways and programs to the citizens of the~~
4 ~~Spokane area((, under rules or guidelines adopted by the joint center~~
5 ~~for higher education. However, before any degree is authorized under~~
6 ~~this section it shall be subject to the review and approval of the~~
7 ~~higher education coordinating board. Washington State University shall~~
8 ~~meet its responsibility through the operation of a branch campus in the~~
9 ~~Spokane area. Eastern Washington University shall meet its~~
10 ~~responsibility through the operation of programs and facilities in~~
11 ~~Spokane)).~~

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Each branch campus shall examine its
13 instructional programs, costs, research initiatives, student enrollment
14 characteristics, and regional context and make a recommendation by
15 January 15, 2005, to the higher education committees of the senate and
16 house of representatives for the future evolution of the campus. The
17 recommendations must address:

18 (a) The model of education that best suits the campus, including
19 the possibility of continuing as a two plus two model, making a
20 transition to a four-year university or some other alternative;

21 (b) The mission that best suits the campus, including the
22 possibility of focusing on upper division baccalaureate education,
23 combining instruction and research targeted to support regional
24 economic development, or some other alternative;

25 (c) Data and analysis that illustrate how the model will increase
26 baccalaureate and master's degree production; and

27 (d) An estimate of the costs to implement the recommendation.

28 (2) In developing its recommendation, each branch campus shall
29 solicit input from students, local community and technical colleges,
30 the main campus and other four-year institutions, and community
31 stakeholders such as economic development councils and business and
32 labor leaders.

33 (3) The higher education coordinating board, in cooperation with
34 the branch campuses, shall develop parameters and a standard format for
35 the evaluation and recommendations to permit comparison by the
36 legislative committees.

1 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28B.80.510 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 7 s 8 are each amended
2 to read as follows:

3 (~~In rules and guidelines adopted for purposes of chapter 7, Laws~~
4 ~~of 1989 1st ex. sess.,~~) The higher education coordinating board shall
5 adopt performance measures to ensure a collaborative partnership
6 between the community and technical colleges and the (~~four-year~~
7 ~~institutions~~) branch campuses. The partnership shall be one in which
8 the community and technical colleges prepare students for transfer to
9 the upper-division programs of the branch campuses and the branch
10 campuses work with community and technical colleges to enable students
11 to transfer and obtain degrees efficiently.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) RCW 28B.80.510 as amended by this act is
13 recodified as a new section in chapter 28B.45 RCW.

14 (2) RCW 28B.45.050 as amended by this act is recodified as a new
15 section in chapter 28B.30 RCW.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The following acts or parts of acts are each
17 repealed:

18 (1) RCW 28B.45.070 (Authorization subject to legislative
19 appropriation) and 1989 1st ex.s. c 7 s 14;

20 (2) RCW 28B.80.500 (Branch campuses--Adjustment of enrollment lids)
21 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 7 s 2; and

22 (3) RCW 28B.80.520 (Branch campuses--Facilities acquisition) and
23 1989 1st ex.s. c 7 s 9.

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