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SENATE BILL 6632

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2004 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Carlson, B. Sheldon, Schmidt, Shin,  
Jacobsen, Winsley and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/27/2004. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to part-time faculty of community and technical  
2 colleges; amending RCW 28B.50.4892; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5            (1) The part-time faculty in the community and technical colleges  
6 provide a valuable contribution to quality instruction;

7            (2) The part-time faculty are essential to the success of the open  
8 access opportunities provided by the two-year colleges to the citizens  
9 of Washington;

10           (3) The two-year colleges employ a core of skilled, well-trained  
11 faculty whose contributions are critical to the quality and breadth of  
12 program offerings;

13           (4) The community and technical colleges have an essential role in  
14 educating and retraining high-skilled workers who are vital to the  
15 economic health of the communities of Washington;

16           (5) It is vital to attract and retain highly skilled faculty  
17 capable of preparing students to transfer to four-year colleges and  
18 universities and for the work force;

1 (6) Low and stagnating salaries as well as the lack of career  
2 advancement options for part-time faculty are detrimental to the morale  
3 of all faculty;

4 (7) Part-time faculty contribute to the learning environment  
5 offered to the students through advising and attention that all good  
6 educators bring to their profession; and

7 (8) Although progress has been made since the initial work of the  
8 best practices task force in 1996, additional progress needs to be made  
9 to improve and implement best practices for part-time community and  
10 technical college faculty.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.50.4892 and 1996 c 120 s 3 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 (1) The legislature finds that community colleges and technical  
14 colleges have an obligation to carry out their roles and missions in an  
15 equitable fashion. The legislature also finds that governing boards  
16 for community colleges and technical colleges have a responsibility to  
17 provide leadership and guidance to their colleges in the equitable  
18 treatment of part-time faculty teaching in the community and technical  
19 colleges.

20 (2) The state board for community and technical colleges shall  
21 convene a task force to conduct a review and update of the best  
22 practices audit of compensation packages and conditions of employment  
23 for part-time faculty in the community and technical college system  
24 conducted in 1996 and reported on in 1998. The task force shall  
25 include but need not be limited to part-time faculty, full-time  
26 faculty, members of the state board, community college administrators,  
27 and members of community college and technical college governing  
28 boards. In performing the review and update of the audit, the task  
29 force shall focus on the employment of part-time faculty, and shall  
30 include the following issues in its deliberations: Salary issues,  
31 provision of health and retirement benefits, the implications of  
32 increased reliance on part-time rather than full-time faculty, the  
33 implications of workload definitions, and tangible and intangible ways  
34 to recognize the professional stature of part-time faculty.

35 (3) The task force shall report its findings to the state board,  
36 local governing boards, and other interested parties by August 30,  
37 ((1996)) 2004. The report shall include recommendations on a review of

1 the status of the set of best practices principles for the colleges to  
2 follow in their employment of part-time faculty developed in 1996.  
3 (~~By September 30, 1996,~~) The state board for community and technical  
4 colleges shall adopt and periodically update a set of best practices  
5 principles for colleges in the community and technical college system  
6 to follow in their employment of part-time faculty. The board shall  
7 use the best practices principles in the development of (~~its 1997-99~~)  
8 each biennial operating budget request. The board shall encourage and,  
9 to the extent possible, require each local governing board to adopt,  
10 revise, and implement the principles.

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