
HOUSE BILL 2249

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Takko and Haigh

Read first time 02/28/2005. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to evaluating the need for a new four-year
2 institution of higher education; creating new sections; making an
3 appropriation; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that, over the
6 next decade, large numbers of Washington students will graduate from
7 high school and seek access to higher education. Washington continues
8 to lag significantly behind other states in its production of students
9 with baccalaureate degrees and graduate degrees. The legislature
10 further finds that in Clark and Cowlitz counties, the two largest
11 counties in southwest Washington, the baccalaureate attainment rate is
12 less than the state average, and less than half the rate of Seattle.

13 (2) The legislature also finds that a new public four-year
14 institution of higher education has not been created in the state of
15 Washington since 1967. The three comprehensive institutions of higher
16 education were created in the late 1890s when the state normal schools
17 were established and no new comprehensive institution of higher
18 education has been created since then.

1 (3) The legislature further finds that although several regions of
2 the state do not have reasonable access to a four-year institution of
3 higher education, population growth in southwest Washington clearly
4 outstrips availability of higher education options. Nearly five
5 hundred thousand people live and work in the region. Creation of an
6 additional four-year institution or the conversion of an existing
7 institution should complement the existing structure and provide
8 additional options for students.

9 (4) The legislature intends to create a four-year baccalaureate
10 degree-granting institution following the completion of the report
11 required in section 2 of this act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state institute for
13 public policy is directed to evaluate and recommend to the legislature
14 whether a four-year baccalaureate degree-granting institution should be
15 created in southwest Washington.

16 (2) The institute shall:

17 (a) Analyze data indicating demand for and access to four-year
18 degrees in the region; and

19 (b) Conduct a comprehensive review of existing estimates of needs
20 for specific degree programs.

21 (3) In conducting the evaluation, the institute shall consult with
22 the higher education coordinating board, the state board for community
23 and technical colleges, the work force training and education
24 coordinating board, the existing research and regional institutions,
25 and local community colleges. The higher education coordinating board,
26 the state board for community and technical colleges, the work force
27 training and education coordinating board, and the existing research
28 and comprehensive institutions shall provide data to the institute
29 necessary to complete this study.

30 (4) By December 1, 2005, the institute shall provide a report to
31 the legislature and the governor recommending the type of four-year
32 baccalaureate degree-granting institution to be created and a schedule
33 for constructing and staffing the new institution. In addition, the
34 report shall estimate the costs to establish the new institution,
35 including, but not limited to: Land acquisition, master plan, design
36 and construction, staffing, and number of enrollments.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of one hundred fifty thousand
2 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from
3 the general fund to The Evergreen State College for the fiscal year
4 ending June 30, 2006, to carry out the purposes of this act.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires June 30, 2006.

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