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HOUSE BILL 2278

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Dunshee, Jarrett, Kenney, Cox, Ormsby, Newhouse and Shabro

Read first time 03/04/2005. Referred to Committee on Capital Budget.

1 AN ACT Relating to prioritization of higher education capital  
2 projects; and amending RCW 28B.76.220.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.76.220 and 2004 c 275 s 8 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1)(a) Beginning with the ((2005-2007)) 2007-2009 biennial capital  
7 budget submittal and thereafter, the public four-year institutions, in  
8 consultation with the council of presidents and the higher education  
9 coordinating board, shall prepare a single prioritized individual  
10 ranking of the individual projects proposed by the four-year  
11 institutions as provided in subsection (2) of this section. As the  
12 project ranking is developed, public four-year institutions shall  
13 include staff from the office of financial management and the fiscal  
14 committees of the legislature in their discussions.

15 (b) The public four-year institutions may aggregate minor works  
16 project requests into priority categories without separately ranking  
17 each minor project, ((provided that)) if these aggregated minor works  
18 requests are ranked within the overall list, and if each project meets

1 the definition of minor works according to the capital budget  
2 instructions developed by the office of financial management.

3 (c) All other individual projects shall be rated and ranked  
4 according to a point system that incorporates the following priorities:

5 (i) Statewide priorities: The legislature shall, by concurrent  
6 resolution, establish statewide priorities for capital projects for the  
7 public four-year institutions. Statewide priorities may include, but  
8 are not limited to, expanding capacity in particular academic programs,  
9 addressing measurable unmet demand for expanded capacity in different  
10 geographic regions of the state, implementing particular models of  
11 service delivery, or improving alignment between operating and capital  
12 budgets. The statewide priorities may also be incorporated into  
13 performance contracts negotiated between the state and public four-year  
14 institutions. The concurrent resolution shall provide guidance for the  
15 allocation of points for projects that meet the statewide priorities.

16 (ii) Preservation: For repairs and improvements to existing  
17 facilities and systems, the rating and ranking of individual projects  
18 must be based first on the facility condition index for the building as  
19 established by the joint legislative audit and review committee.  
20 Institutions with a higher level of preservation shall receive a  
21 greater number of points. Other criteria or factors ((that)) may  
22 include, but are not limited to, the age and condition of buildings or  
23 systems, the programmatic suitability of the building or system, and  
24 the activity/occupancy level supported by the building or system.

25 (iii) Utilization: For projects creating new space or capacity,  
26 the ratings and rankings of projects must be based first upon  
27 ((criteria or factors that include, but are not limited to, measuring  
28 existing capacity and progress toward meeting increased space  
29 utilization levels as determined)) the utilization of existing space as  
30 measured by standards established by the higher education coordinating  
31 board. Institutions with a higher level of space utilization shall  
32 receive a greater number of points.

33 (d) The project ranking shall not be implemented by assigning an  
34 equal number of overall points to each public four-year institution,  
35 but shall reflect an assignment of points to individual projects based  
36 on the priorities and criteria established under this section.

37 (2) The single prioritized four-year project list shall be approved  
38 by the governing boards of each public four-year institution and shall

1 be submitted to the office of financial management and the higher  
2 education coordinating board concurrent with the institution's  
3 submittal of their biennial capital budget requests.

4 (3)(a) The higher education coordinating board, in consultation  
5 with the office of financial management and the joint legislative audit  
6 and review committee, shall develop common definitions that public  
7 four-year institutions and the state board for community and technical  
8 colleges shall use in developing their project lists under this  
9 section.

10 (b) As part of its duties under RCW 28B.76.210, the higher  
11 education coordinating board shall, as part of its biennial budget  
12 guidelines, disseminate, by December 1st of each odd-numbered year, the  
13 criteria framework, including general definitions, categories, and  
14 rating system, to be used by the public four-year institutions in the  
15 development of the prioritized four-year project list. The criteria  
16 framework shall specify the general priority order of project types  
17 based on the priorities described in subsection (1) of this section and  
18 other criteria determined by the board, in consultation with the public  
19 four-year institutions.

20 (c) Under RCW 28B.76.210, the public four-year institutions shall  
21 submit a preliminary prioritized four-year project list to the higher  
22 education coordinating board by August 1st of each even-numbered year.

23 (d) The state board for community and technical colleges shall, as  
24 part of its biennial capital budget request, submit a single  
25 prioritized ranking of the individual projects proposed for the  
26 community and technical colleges. The state board for community and  
27 technical colleges shall submit an outline of the prioritized community  
28 and technical college project list to the higher education coordinating  
29 board under RCW 28B.76.210 by August 1st of each even-numbered year.

30 (4) The higher education coordinating board, in consultation with  
31 the public four-year institutions, shall resolve any disputes or  
32 disagreements arising among the four-year institutions concerning the  
33 ranking of particular projects. Further, should one or more governing  
34 boards of the public four-year institutions fail to approve the  
35 prioritized four-year project list as required in this section, or  
36 should a prioritized project list not be submitted by the public four-  
37 year institutions concurrent with the submittal of their respective

1 biennial capital budget requests as provided in subsection (2) of this  
2 section, the higher education coordinating board shall prepare the  
3 prioritized four-year institution project list itself.

4 (5) In developing any rating and ranking of capital projects  
5 proposed by the two-year and four-year public universities and  
6 colleges, the board:

7 (a) Shall be provided with available information by the public two-  
8 year and four-year institutions as deemed necessary by the board;

9 (b) May utilize independent services to verify, sample, or evaluate  
10 information provided to the board by the two-year and four-year  
11 institutions; and

12 (c) Shall have full access to all data maintained by the office of  
13 financial management and the joint legislative audit and review  
14 committee concerning the condition of higher education facilities.

15 (6) Beginning with the 2005-2007 biennial capital budget submittal,  
16 the higher education coordinating board shall, in consultation with the  
17 state board for community and technical colleges and four-year colleges  
18 and universities, submit its capital budget recommendations and the  
19 separate two-year and four-year prioritized project lists.

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