
SENATE BILL 5864

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Berkey and Shin

Read first time 02/04/09. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to a University of Washington branch campus in
2 Snohomish county; and amending RCW 28B.45.010, 28B.45.012, and
3 28B.45.020.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.45.010 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 7 s 1 are each amended
6 to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds that the benefits of higher education should
8 be more widely available to the citizens of the state of Washington.
9 The legislature also finds that a citizen's place of residence can
10 restrict that citizen's access to educational opportunity at the upper
11 division and graduate level.

12 Because most of the state-supported baccalaureate universities are
13 located in areas removed from major metropolitan areas, the legislature
14 finds that many of the state's citizens, especially those citizens
15 residing in the central Puget Sound area, the Snohomish, Island, and
16 Skagit county region, the Tri-Cities, Spokane, Vancouver, and Yakima,
17 have insufficient and inequitable access to upper-division
18 baccalaureate and graduate education.

19 This lack of sufficient educational opportunities in urban areas

1 makes it difficult or impossible for place-bound individuals, who are
2 unable to relocate, to complete a baccalaureate or graduate degree. It
3 also exacerbates the difficulty financially needy students have in
4 attending school, since many of those students need to work, and work
5 is not always readily available in some communities where the
6 baccalaureate institutions of higher education are located.

7 The lack of sufficient educational opportunities in metropolitan
8 areas also affects the economy of the underserved communities.
9 Businesses benefit from access to the research and teaching
10 capabilities of institutions of higher education. The absence of these
11 institutions from some of the state's major urban centers prevents
12 beneficial interaction between businesses in these communities and the
13 state's universities.

14 The Washington state master plan for higher education, adopted by
15 the higher education coordinating board, recognizes the need to expand
16 upper-division and graduate educational opportunities in the state's
17 large urban centers. The board has also attempted to provide a means
18 for helping to meet future educational demand through a system of
19 branch campuses in the state's major urban areas.

20 The legislature endorses the assignment of responsibility to serve
21 these urban centers that the board has made to various institutions of
22 higher education. The legislature also endorses the creation of branch
23 campuses for the University of Washington and Washington State
24 University.

25 The legislature recognizes that, among their other
26 responsibilities, the state's comprehensive community colleges share
27 with the four-year universities and colleges the responsibility of
28 providing the first two years of a baccalaureate education. It is the
29 intent of the legislature that the four-year institutions and the
30 community colleges work as cooperative partners to ensure the
31 successful and efficient operation of the state's system of higher
32 education. The legislature further intends that the four-year
33 institutions work cooperatively with the community colleges to ensure
34 that branch campuses are operated as models of a two plus two
35 educational system.

36 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.45.012 and 2004 c 57 s 1 are each amended to read
37 as follows:

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

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

9 (b) Promoting regional economic development by responding to demand
10 for degrees from local businesses and supporting regional economies
11 through research activities.

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

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

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

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

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

25 (e) The capital investments made by the state to support branch
26 campuses represent a significant benefit to regional economic
27 development.

28 (3) However, the legislature also finds the policy landscape in
29 higher education has changed since the original creation of the branch
30 campuses. Demand for access to baccalaureate and graduate education is
31 increasing rapidly. Economic development efforts increasingly
32 recognize the importance of focusing on local and regional economic
33 clusters and improving collaboration among communities, businesses, and
34 colleges and universities. Each branch campus has evolved into a
35 unique institution, and it is appropriate to assess the nature of this
36 evolution to ensure the role and mission of each campus is aligned with
37 the state's higher education goals and the needs of the region where
38 the campus is located.

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

5 (5) It is the further intent of the legislature that the campuses
6 be identified by the following names: University of Washington
7 Bothell, University of Washington Tacoma, University of Washington
8 Snohomish county, Washington State University Tri-Cities, and
9 Washington State University Vancouver.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.45.020 and 2005 c 258 s 3 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 (1) The University of Washington is responsible for ensuring the
13 expansion of baccalaureate and graduate educational programs in the
14 (~~central~~) Puget Sound area under rules or guidelines adopted by the
15 higher education coordinating board and in accordance with
16 proportionality agreements emphasizing access for transfer students
17 developed with the state board for community and technical colleges.
18 The University of Washington shall meet that responsibility through the
19 operation of at least (~~two~~) three branch campuses. One branch campus
20 shall be located in the Tacoma area. Another branch campus shall be
21 collocated with Cascadia Community College in the Bothell-Woodinville
22 area. A third branch campus shall be located in Snohomish county.

23 (2) At the University of Washington Tacoma, a top priority is
24 expansion of upper division capacity for transfer students and graduate
25 capacity and programs. Beginning in the fall of 2006, the campus may
26 offer lower division courses linked to specific majors in fields not
27 addressed at local community colleges. The campus shall admit lower
28 division students through coadmission or coenrollment agreements with
29 a community college, or through direct transfer for students who have
30 accumulated approximately one year of transferable college credits. In
31 addition to offering lower division courses linked to specific majors
32 as addressed above, the campus may also directly admit freshmen and
33 sophomores gradually and deliberately in accordance with the campus
34 plan submitted to the higher education coordinating board in 2004.

35 (3) At the University of Washington Bothell, a top priority is
36 expansion of upper division capacity for transfer students and graduate
37 capacity and programs. The campus shall also seek additional

1 opportunities to collaborate with and maximize its (~~collocation~~
2 ~~[collocation]~~) colocation with Cascadia Community College. Beginning
3 in the fall of 2006, the campus may offer lower division courses linked
4 to specific majors in fields not addressed at local community colleges.
5 The campus may admit lower division students through coadmission or
6 coenrollment agreements with a community college, or through direct
7 transfer for students who have accumulated approximately one year of
8 transferable college credits. In addition to offering lower division
9 courses linked to specific majors as addressed above, the campus may
10 also directly admit freshmen and sophomores gradually and deliberately
11 in accordance with the campus plan submitted to the higher education
12 coordinating board in 2004.

13 (4) At the University of Washington Snohomish county, a top
14 priority is expansion of upper division capacity for transfer students
15 and graduate capacity and high-demand programs with a particular focus
16 on science, technology, and engineering. The campus may offer lower
17 division courses linked to specific majors in fields not addressed at
18 local community colleges. In addition to offering lower division
19 courses linked to specific majors as provided in this subsection, the
20 campus may also directly admit freshmen and sophomores gradually and
21 deliberately in accordance with the campus plan to be submitted to the
22 higher education coordinating board. The campus shall admit students
23 through coadmission or coenrollment agreements with a community college
24 emphasizing access for transfer students codeveloped by the University
25 of Washington and the state board for community and technical colleges.

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