

2SSB 5636 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Higher Education

NOT CONSIDERED 04/09/2011

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.30
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The legislature finds that access to baccalaureate and graduate
6 degree programs continues to be limited for residents of north
7 Snohomish, Island, and Skagit counties. Studies conducted by the state
8 board for community and technical colleges, the higher education
9 coordinating board, and the council of presidents confirm that
10 enrollment in higher education compared to demand in this geographic
11 region lags behind enrollment in other parts of the state, particularly
12 for upper-division courses leading to advanced degrees.

13 (2) The legislature also finds that access to high employer demand
14 programs of study is imperative for the state's global competitiveness
15 and economic prosperity, particularly those degrees in the science,
16 technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields that align with
17 the workforce skill demands of the regional economy, that support the
18 aerospace industry, and provide skilled undergraduate and
19 graduate-degree engineers required by the largest employers in the
20 aerospace industry cluster.

21 (3) The legislature finds that meeting the long-range goal of
22 greatly expanded access for the population of the region to the widest
23 array of baccalaureate and graduate programs can best be accomplished
24 by assigning responsibility to a research university with multiple
25 experiences in similar settings.

26 (4) Management and leadership of the University Center of North
27 Puget Sound is assigned to Washington State University to meet the
28 needs of the Everett metropolitan area and the north Snohomish, Island,
29 and Skagit county region and the state of Washington for baccalaureate
30 and graduate degrees offered by a state university. The chief

1 executive officer of the University Center of North Puget Sound is the
2 director who reports to the president of Washington State University.
3 The director shall manage the activities and logistics of operating the
4 center, make policy and planning recommendations to the council in
5 subsection (5) of this section, and implement decisions of the council.

6 (5)(a) Washington State University and Everett Community College
7 must collaborate with community leaders, and other four-year
8 institutions of higher education that offer programs at the University
9 Center of North Puget Sound to serve the varied interests of students
10 in the region. To this end, a coordinating and planning council must
11 be established to be responsible for long-range and strategic planning,
12 interinstitutional collaboration, collaboration with the community
13 served, and dispute resolution for the center. The following
14 individuals shall comprise the coordinating and planning council:

15 (i) The president of Washington State University, or his or her
16 designee;

17 (ii) The president of Everett Community College;

18 (iii) Two representatives of two other institutions of higher
19 education that offer baccalaureate or graduate degree programs at the
20 center;

21 (iv) The director of the council, as the nonvoting chair;

22 (v) A community leader appointed by the president of Everett
23 Community College; and

24 (vi) A community leader appointed by the mayor of Everett.

25 (b) The coordinating and planning council may appoint other groups,
26 as appropriate, to advise on administration and operations, and may
27 alter its own composition by agreement of all the members.

28 (6)(a) Washington State University shall assume leadership of the
29 center upon completion and approval by the legislature as provided
30 under (d) of this subsection of a strategic plan for meeting the
31 academic needs of the region and successful establishment of an
32 engineering degree program. The strategic plan must build on the
33 strengths of the institutions, reflecting each institution's mission,
34 in order to provide the region with the highest standard of educational
35 programs, research, and service to the community. The strategic plan
36 must include a multibiennium budget that addresses both operating and
37 capital expenses required to effectively implement the plan. The
38 strategic plan shall be developed with the collaboration of the

1 University Center at Everett Community College and all the institutions
2 of higher education that provide baccalaureate degrees at the
3 University Center, and community leaders.

4 (b) Center partners must implement the strategic plan with careful
5 attention to the academic and professional standards established and
6 maintained by each institution and by the appropriate accrediting
7 bodies, and to the historic role of each institution's governing board
8 in setting policy.

9 (c) The strategic plan must address expansion of the range and
10 depth of educational opportunities in the region and include strategies
11 that:

12 (i) Build upon baccalaureate and graduate degree offerings at the
13 center;

14 (ii) Meet projected student enrollment demands for baccalaureate,
15 graduate, and certificate programs in the region;

16 (iii) Meet employers' needs for skilled workers by expanding high
17 employer demand programs of study as defined in RCW 28B.50.030, with an
18 initial and ongoing emphasis by Washington State University on
19 undergraduate and graduate science, technology, mathematics, and
20 engineering degree programs, including a variety of engineering
21 disciplines such as civil, mechanical, aeronautical, and aerospace
22 manufacturing;

23 (iv) Coordinate delivery of lower and upper division courses to
24 maximize student opportunities and resources; and

25 (v) Transfer budget support and resources for the center from
26 Everett Community College to Washington State University.

27 (d) The strategic plan must be completed by December 1, 2012, and
28 submitted to the legislature for review. The strategic plan shall be
29 considered approved if the legislature does not take further action on
30 the strategic plan during the 2013 legislative session. The transfer
31 of the responsibility for the management and operation of the
32 University Center of North Puget Sound to Washington State University
33 must occur by July 1, 2014.

34 (7)(a) Academic programming and delivery at the center must be
35 developed in accordance with the missions of Washington State
36 University, Everett Community College, and other institutions of higher
37 education that have a presence at the center.

1 (b) Each institution shall abide by the guidelines for university
2 centers adopted by the higher education coordinating board.

3 (c) Each institution shall award all degrees and certificates
4 granted in the programs it delivers at the center.

5 (d) The coordinating council described in subsection (5) of this
6 section shall establish a process for prioritizing new programs and
7 revising existing programs that facilitates timeliness of new
8 offerings, recognizes the internal processes of the proposing
9 institutions, and addresses each proposal's fit with the needs of the
10 region.

11 (8)(a) Washington State University shall review center expansion
12 needs and consider capital facilities funding at least annually.
13 Washington State University and Everett Community College must
14 cooperate in preparing funding requests and bond financing for
15 submission to the legislature on behalf of development at the center,
16 in accordance with each institution's process and priorities for
17 advancing legislative requests.

18 (b) Washington State University shall design, construct, and manage
19 any facility developed at the center. Any facility developed at the
20 center with Everett Community College capital funding must be designed
21 by Everett Community College in consultation with Washington State
22 University. Building construction may be managed by Washington State
23 University via an interagency agreement which details responsibility
24 and associated costs. Building operations and management for all
25 facilities at the center must be governed by the infrastructure and
26 operating cost allocation method described in subsection (9) of this
27 section.

28 (9) Washington State University has responsibility for
29 infrastructure development and maintenance for the center. All
30 infrastructure operating and maintenance costs are to be shared in what
31 is deemed to be an equitable and fair manner based on space allocation,
32 special cost, and other relevant considerations. Washington State
33 University may make infrastructure development and maintenance
34 decisions in consultation with the council described in subsection (5)
35 of this section.

36 (10) In the event that conflict cannot be resolved through the
37 coordinating council described in subsection (5) of this section the

1 higher education coordinating board dispute resolution must be
2 employed.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.50.795 and 2010 1st sp.s. c 25 s 1 are each
4 amended to read as follows:

5 (1) (~~RCW 28B.50.901 assigns responsibility for the north~~
6 ~~Snohomish, Island, and Skagit counties' higher education consortium to~~
7 ~~Everett Community College. In April of 2009, Everett Community College~~
8 ~~opened Gray Wolf Hall, the new home of the University Center of North~~
9 ~~Puget Sound. The University Center currently offers over twenty~~
10 ~~bachelor's and master's degrees from six partner universities.~~

11 (+2)) Although Everett Community College offers an associate degree
12 nursing program that graduates approximately seventy to ninety students
13 per year, the University Center does not offer a bachelor of science in
14 nursing. Some graduates of the Everett Community College program are
15 able to articulate to the bachelor of science in nursing program
16 offered by the University of Washington-Bothell at its Bothell campus
17 or in Mt. Vernon but current capacity is not sufficient for all of the
18 graduates who are both interested and qualified.

19 ((+3)) (2) Despite recent growth in nursing education capacity,
20 shortages still persist for registered nurses. According to a June
21 2007 study by the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho
22 center for health workforce studies, the average age of Washington's
23 registered nurses was forty-eight years. More than a third were fifty-
24 five years of age or older. Consequently, the high rate of registered
25 nurses retiring from nursing practice over the next two decades will
26 significantly reduce the supply. This reduction comes at the same time
27 as the state's population grows and ages. The registered nurse
28 education capacity in Washington has a large impact on the supply of
29 registered nurses in the state. If the rate of graduation in
30 registered nursing does not increase, projections show that supply in
31 Washington will begin to decline by 2015. In contrast, if graduation
32 rates increased by four hundred per year, the supply of registered
33 nurses would meet estimated demand by the year 2021.

34 ((+4)) (3) Subject to specific funding to support up to fifty
35 full-time equivalent students in a bachelor of nursing program, the
36 University Center (~~at Everett Community College~~) of North Puget

1 Sound, in partnership with the University of Washington-Bothell, shall
2 offer a bachelor of science in nursing program with capacity for up to
3 fifty full-time students.

4 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) This act takes effect only after the
5 higher education coordinating board determines whether a needs
6 assessment and analysis is required and, if so, conducts a needs
7 assessment and viability determination under RCW 28B.76.230 and
8 recommends that the provisions in section 1 of this act occur.

9 (2) The higher education coordinating board must make a
10 recommendation under subsection (1) of this section by July 1, 2012.

11 (3) The higher education coordinating board shall notify the office
12 of financial management, the legislature, and the code reviser's office
13 of the board's recommendations regarding the provisions in section 1 of
14 this act.

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. RCW 28B.50.901 (Regional higher education
16 consortium management and leadership--Everett Community College--
17 Educational plan) and 2005 c 258 s 13 are each repealed."

18 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Assigns management and leadership of the University
Center of North Puget Sound to Washington State University.

Requires Washington State University to collaborate with the
University Center at Everett Community College and other university
partners that offer baccalaureate degrees at the University Center to
develop a strategic plan.

Requires that the strategic plan build on degrees offered at the
University Center; address demand for degrees by students and employers
and a variety of science, technology, mathematics, and engineering
disciplines; and include a multibiennium budget.

Creates a Coordinating and Planning Council (Council) to develop
the strategic plan. Permits the Council to alter their own membership
by agreement of all the members.

Includes membership of the Council as follows: The president of
WSU or his or her designee; the president of Everett Community College;
two representatives of other institutions of higher education that
offer baccalaureate or graduate degree programs at the center; the
director of the council, as the nonvoting chair; a community leader
appointed by the president of Everett Community College; and a
community leader appointed by the Mayor of Everett.

Requires that the strategic plan be completed by December 1, 2012, and be submitted to the legislature for review, and if the legislature takes no further action, that the transfer of operation and management occur by July 1, 2014.

Makes the act contingent on Higher Education Coordinating Board recommendations that are due by July 1, 2012.

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