
SENATE BILL 6542

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senator Chase

Read first time 01/30/12. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to the assignment of intellectual property rights
2 at institutions of higher education; and amending RCW 28B.10.630.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.10.630 and 2010 1st sp.s. c 14 s 1 are each
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (1) It is the intent of the legislature that state universities
7 (~~engage in~~) promote the practical application and commercialization
8 of research and other economic development and workforce development
9 activities that benefit the (~~intermediate and long term~~) economic
10 vitality of Washington. State universities are expected to develop and
11 strengthen university-industry relationships through the conduct of
12 research, the support of company formation and job generation, and
13 collaborative training. The state universities, using a collaborative
14 process that may include both in-house resources and independent
15 contractors with necessary technical expertise or innovative processes,
16 must perform one or more of the following functions:

17 (a) Provide collaborative research and technology transfer
18 opportunities;

1 (b) Publicize their commercialization processes and include an
2 explanation of how to access commercialization resources at the
3 ((universities)) university;

4 (c) Develop mechanisms for pairing researchers, entrepreneurs, and
5 investors. Such mechanisms are to include, but are not limited to,
6 developing guides, web sites, or workshops on funding opportunities, on
7 entrepreneurship and the process of starting a company, and on
8 university-industry relations;

9 (d) Host events to connect researchers to entrepreneurs, investors,
10 and individuals from the state's technology-based industries; and

11 (e) Provide opportunities for training undergraduate and graduate
12 students through direct involvement in research and industry
13 interactions.

14 (2) In carrying out the functions in this section, the
15 universities:

16 (a) May provide university-administered facilities and other
17 resources to students, staff, and faculty for their use, including but
18 not limited to use in extramurally funded research, such as through
19 grants, contracts, or donations, consistent with the public mission of
20 the university, if the university does not impose a requirement to
21 assign intellectual property or other intangible assets that may
22 thereby be created, or assert a financial interest in such assets,
23 except as may be required by an extramural sponsor of research;

24 (b) May require assignment of, or have a financial interest in
25 intellectual property or other intangible assets developed by students,
26 staff, or faculty only through agreements entered into on a voluntary
27 basis;

28 (c) May not, in employment agreements with student or faculty
29 employees, require assignment of or assert a financial interest in
30 their inventions; and

31 (d) May work with and through the higher education coordinating
32 board.

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