
SENATE BILL 5424

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Braun, Boehnke, Cortes, Dozier, King, and Lovick

Read first time 01/22/25. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a health sciences campus of the
2 University of Washington; adding new sections to chapter 28B.20 RCW;
3 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that with the coming
6 "silver tsunami" our state needs additional services from behavioral
7 health, dental, nursing and relevant providers. The state further
8 finds that the University of Washington behavioral health and medical
9 sciences programs are nationally renowned, with the expertise for the
10 needed additional services.

11 Therefore, the legislature intends to create the University of
12 Washington health sciences campus in order to provide the necessary
13 services that our communities require.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Evergreen State College is abolished
15 effective July 1, 2026, and its powers, duties, and functions are
16 hereby transferred to the University of Washington under chapter
17 28B.20 RCW as the University of Washington health sciences campus.
18 All references to The Evergreen State College in the Revised Code of
19 Washington shall be construed to mean the University of Washington
20 health sciences campus. The University of Washington health sciences

1 campus shall assume ownership responsibility for all land, buildings,
2 and property of The Evergreen State College.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The University of Washington health sciences campus is
6 established effective July 1, 2026.

7 (2) The University of Washington health sciences campus shall
8 assume ownership of all land, buildings, and property of The
9 Evergreen State College in this chapter.

10 (3) The mission of the University of Washington health sciences
11 campus is to provide baccalaureate and graduate degrees that are
12 integral to supporting the health care system and meeting the health
13 needs of Washingtonians. The mission will be achieved by working in
14 partnership with the health care sector and business and industry, as
15 well as local and global organizations to develop academic programs
16 that foster economic vitality and create prosperous, healthy
17 communities.

18 (4) The board of regents of the University of Washington shall
19 appoint a nine-member advisory committee consisting of representation
20 from the health care sector, business, and community representatives
21 to provide advice and counsel regarding the administration of the
22 University of Washington health sciences campus. The advisory
23 committee must work with relevant stakeholders in determining what
24 degrees will be offered to meet the health care system's workforce
25 needs. At minimum, the degrees offered must support the nursing,
26 dental, and behavioral health provider workforce. The curriculum for
27 each respective degree must be singularly focused on preparing
28 students for a profession in their health care field. For purposes of
29 this subsection, "the behavioral health provider workforce" means
30 addiction counselors, mental health counselors, therapists, social
31 workers, and related providers.

32 (5) (a) The board of regents of the University of Washington
33 shall:

34 (i) Immediately appoint a new interim chancellor of the
35 University of Washington health sciences campus and begin a
36 comprehensive search for a chancellor and leadership of the
37 institute;

38 (ii) Conduct a formal program review of all academic degrees and
39 programs offered by The Evergreen State College and identify closure

1 dates for programs not aligned with the university's mission by July
2 1, 2028. The University of Washington health sciences campus has
3 until July 1, 2030, to close programs not conforming with the
4 academic mission; and

5 (iii) Establish a coordinating and planning council responsible
6 for long-range and strategic planning, interinstitutional
7 collaboration, collaboration with the community served, and dispute
8 resolution for the university. The coordinating and planning council
9 must include the following individuals:

10 (A) The chancellor of the University of Washington health
11 sciences campus, or his or her designee;

12 (B) The provost of the University of Washington health sciences
13 campus, or his or her designee;

14 (C) The president of South Puget Sound Community College;

15 (D) A student enrolled at the University of Washington health
16 sciences campus, following the full establishment of the campus,
17 which may be no later than July 1, 2030, appointed by the
18 coordinating and planning council;

19 (E) The chair of the board of regents of the University of
20 Washington, as the nonvoting chair;

21 (F) A community leader appointed by the chair of the board of
22 regents of the University of Washington; and

23 (G) A community leader appointed by the mayor of Olympia.

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

27 (6) By July 1, 2026, the board of regents must adopt a policy
28 that establishes credit or course equivalencies for all credits
29 earned from The Evergreen State College. If a suitable equivalency
30 does not exist at the University of Washington health sciences
31 campus, credits or course equivalencies may be awarded for comparable
32 alternatives at the University of Washington, Seattle; University of
33 Washington, Bothell; or University of Washington, Tacoma. It is the
34 legislature's intent that students who earned credits from The
35 Evergreen State College are awarded sufficient credits or course
36 equivalencies from the University of Washington to maintain their
37 current academic standing.

38 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20
39 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) By July 1, 2028, the board of regents of the University of
2 Washington shall submit a 10-year plan to the appropriate committees
3 of the legislature on financial solubility and sustainability of the
4 University of Washington health sciences campus including, but not
5 limited to:

6 (a) Current and projected enrollment of the University of
7 Washington health sciences campus as well as tuition revenue;

8 (b) Current and planned academic program offerings in alignment
9 with the mission of the institute and regional, state, and national
10 needs;

11 (c) Capital construction needs based on the change in mission of
12 the institute;

13 (d) Current and expected operating budget needs to address the
14 change in mission of the institute;

15 (e) Current and future plans to meet ongoing debt servicing needs
16 of The Evergreen State College; and

17 (f) Planned sales or other dispositions of any properties
18 formerly owned by The Evergreen State College.

19 (2) This section expires August 1, 2029.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The code reviser shall note wherever The
21 Evergreen State College's duties are transferred or consolidated
22 under this act to the University of Washington health sciences
23 campus. The code reviser shall prepare legislation for the 2026
24 regular session that changes all statutory references from The
25 Evergreen State College to the University of Washington health
26 sciences campus.

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