
HOUSE BILL 1482

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Pollet, Zeiger, Stanford, Haler, Bergquist, and Tarleton

Read first time 01/21/15. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to an analysis of regional higher education
2 capacity to meet educational attainment goals; creating a new
3 section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that in
6 order to meet the statewide educational attainment goals adopted by
7 the student achievement council in the ten-year roadmap and
8 encouraged by the legislature and to meet the needs of the state's
9 economy and provide residents with an opportunity to advance their
10 well-being and quality of life, the legislature needs to make
11 informed decisions regarding the state's capacity at institutions of
12 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016. The legislature
13 intends to make decisions regarding capacity at the institutions of
14 higher education based on strong analyses of existing capacity and
15 projected demand. The legislature's goal is to determine where
16 capacity is inadequate to meet the needs and goals for specific
17 geographical areas, populations, and degree and certificate needs.

18 (2) The student achievement council shall conduct a study to
19 assess the gap between demand for higher education in various regions
20 of the state and the capacity of higher education institutions as
21 defined in RCW 28B.10.016 to meet demand. The state board for

1 community and technical colleges, the public four-year institutions
2 of higher education, the workforce training and education
3 coordinating board, and the office of financial management, shall
4 collaborate with the council in conducting the study.

5 (3) The student achievement council may hire a consultant to
6 conduct all or part of the study. Specifically, the council shall:

7 (a) Assess the operational and physical capacity at institutions
8 of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 including
9 consideration of projected expansion through capital and other
10 projects and the impact of e-learning on capacity. The council shall
11 use data provided by the state board for community and technical
12 colleges and the public four-year institutions of higher education to
13 assess operational capacity and physical capacity;

14 (b) Assess the projected student demand for postsecondary
15 education through 2023 in various geographical regions of the state
16 including consideration of multiple educational pathways and student
17 backgrounds, the mix of degrees and credentials needed, current
18 trends, and improvements in educational delivery;

19 (c) Use, among other information, data and analyses developed for
20 the needs assessment in RCW 28B.77.080.

21 (4) An initial report to the governor and appropriate committees
22 of the legislature must present the results of the study, including
23 options for meeting regional capacity deficiencies and additional
24 resources needed to meet educational attainment goals. The initial
25 report shall include an assessment of whether the ability to meet the
26 statewide educational attainment goals is constrained in regional
27 areas of the state. The assessment must address whether there is a
28 lack of accessible public baccalaureate granting institutions to
29 serve the demand in regional areas of the state, including Bellevue,
30 Seattle, and Yakima, and whether existing community and technical
31 colleges could expand their baccalaureate degree granting capacity.
32 The initial report must recommend whether further planning to
33 implement various options is needed. Options for higher education
34 capacity expansion may include, but are not limited to:

35 (a) Increasing capacity at existing institutions of higher
36 education;

37 (b) Allowing for branch campuses at existing institutions of
38 higher education to become regional institutions;

39 (c) Establishing new, additional regional institutions of higher
40 education;

1 (d) Expanding partnerships between community and technical
2 colleges and public four-year institutions of higher education;

3 (e) Allowing community and technical colleges to grant
4 traditional and applied baccalaureate degrees; and

5 (f) Other options for expansion.

6 (5)(a) By December 1, 2015, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
7 the student achievement council shall submit a status report to the
8 governor and the legislature.

9 (b) By December 1, 2016, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
10 the student achievement council shall submit the initial report to
11 the governor and the legislature.

12 (6) This section expires July 1, 2017.

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