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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1482**

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**State of Washington**

**64th Legislature**

**2015 Regular Session**

**By** House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Pollet, Zeiger, Stanford, Haler, Bergquist, and Tarleton)

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 the current availability of high school  
20 completion, certificate, associate, baccalaureate, and graduate  
21 higher education in various regions of the state and the capacity

1 needed at higher education institutions to meet the state's  
2 educational attainment goals. The state board for community and  
3 technical colleges, the public and private four-year institutions of  
4 higher education, the workforce training and education coordinating  
5 board, and the office of financial management shall collaborate with  
6 the council in conducting the study.

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

9 (a) Assess the projected student demand for postsecondary  
10 education through 2023 in various geographical regions of the state  
11 including consideration of multiple educational pathways and student  
12 demographic, economic, and educational backgrounds, the mix of  
13 degrees and credentials needed, current trends, and improvements in  
14 educational delivery;

15 (b) Use, among other information, data and analyses developed for  
16 the needs assessment in RCW 28B.77.080.

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

31 (a) Increasing capacity at existing institutions of higher  
32 education;

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

35 (c) Establishing new, additional regional institutions of higher  
36 education;

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

39 (e) Allowing community and technical colleges to grant  
40 traditional and applied baccalaureate degrees;

1 (f) The impact of additional student e-learning opportunities;  
2 and

3 (g) Other options for expansion.

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

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

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

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