
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8428

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Bauer, Wood, Kohl, Hale, Sheldon, Prince, Drew, McAuliffe and Rasmussen

Read first time 02/01/96. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 WHEREAS, Chapter 370, Laws of 1985, created the Washington Higher
2 Education Coordinating Board to plan, coordinate, and provide policy
3 analysis for higher education and to represent the broad public
4 interest above the interest of individual colleges and universities;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Section 4, chapter 370, Laws of 1985, requires the board
7 to prepare and update a master plan for higher education and requires
8 the Legislature, by concurrent resolution, to "approve or recommend
9 changes" to the master plan and its subsequent updates; and

10 WHEREAS, The provisions of the master plan that are approved by the
11 Legislature become state higher education policy unless legislation is
12 enacted to revise those policies; and

13 WHEREAS, The Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board
14 submitted the initial master plan to the Legislature for approval in
15 December 1987, and submitted updates to the plan in December 1992 and
16 January 1996; and

17 WHEREAS, During the most recent process used to update the plan,
18 the board, through a public opinion survey and public meetings, learned
19 that Washington residents have high expectations for the postsecondary
20 system including accountability, quality, and a high level of access
21 for themselves and their children; and

1 WHEREAS, The board reported that Washington's public and private
2 colleges, universities, and career schools would need to provide
3 opportunities for a minimum of an additional 84,100 full-time
4 equivalent students in the year 2010, if Washington is to provide its
5 residents the education and training necessary to keep pace with the
6 demands of an ever-changing world; and

7 WHEREAS, The board has identified the areas where potential
8 solutions to the access challenge may lie and recognized that, in this
9 era of rapid change, many questions must be addressed to clarify the
10 role that each area may play in defining solutions to the access
11 challenge; and

12 WHEREAS, The board challenged itself, the students, the
13 institutions, and the Legislature to each accept its individual
14 responsibilities and to collaborate in the development of potential
15 solutions; and

16 WHEREAS, The Legislature and the Washington Higher Education
17 Coordinating Board recognize that the master plan is a living document,
18 responding to the constantly changing world of access to information
19 and the needs of Washington citizens; and

20 WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes that the historic methods and
21 systems for delivering postsecondary education and training may be
22 partially obsolete by the year 2010;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the State of
24 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That the
25 Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board be commended for its
26 dedication and commitment to the State of Washington in producing the
27 1996 update of the master plan for higher education titled "The
28 Challenge for Higher Education"; and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature thank the board for
30 describing many of the daunting challenges facing the state in its
31 attempts to provide the postsecondary education and training that our
32 citizens need to navigate in the world of the twenty-first century
33 successfully; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature approve the following
35 recommendations of the 1996 update of the master plan:

36 (1) That, by the year 2010, Washington's system of postsecondary
37 education needs to provide opportunities for at least 84,100 additional
38 full-time equivalent students in quality programs of postsecondary
39 education and training; and

1 (2) That solutions to this enrollment challenge, in part, may be
2 found in the following areas: (a) The shift in focus from teaching to
3 learning; (b) the use of technology to increase and redefine access,
4 improve quality, and offer alternative methods of instruction; (c) the
5 expansion of partnerships among educational sectors, and with local
6 communities, business, and labor; (d) the provision of financial aid
7 for needy students; and (e) the use of existing institutional
8 capacities in a way that ensures provision of a cost-effective,
9 efficient, and accountable educational enterprise; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the board solicit advice from a
11 diverse group of people, including students, faculty, and staff, from
12 all education sectors; business and labor representatives; community
13 leaders; innovators; and experts from other states to further refine
14 the solution options described in the 1996 master plan update; and that
15 the board report to the 1997 Legislature with refinements to the plan
16 in areas that include, but need not be limited to:

17 (1) Recommendations to the institutions and the Legislature on
18 appropriate state and institutional roles for providing remedial and
19 developmental education; and

20 (2) An initial list of duplicative and low-productivity programs;
21 a process for examining those programs that might be reconfigured,
22 consolidated, or eliminated; and a recommendation on a process to
23 eliminate programs not conducive to consolidation or reconfiguration;
24 and

25 (3) Recommendations on ways to further restructure the ways that
26 the state delivers and supports higher education including the
27 expansion of partnerships with the K-12 school system, reducing
28 boundaries, expanding the use of 2 + 2 programs and extended degree
29 centers, providing students opportunities to make smooth transitions as
30 they move among education levels and sectors and into the workplace,
31 the development of a data system to track student progress between
32 levels and sectors, reducing institutional and student barriers to
33 encourage improvements in time-to-degree, and emphasizing the role of
34 teacher preparation programs; and

35 (4) Recommendations on the governance structure and state framework
36 for the integration of technology into the entire education enterprise
37 while recognizing that enhancing learning through technology requires
38 more than just the access to equipment, services, and networks; it
39 requires new ways of teaching, new roles for learners, new learning

1 goals, different uses of time and resources, and a strong support
2 system for educators; and

3 (5) Recommendations for streamlining the program approval process
4 including (a) a recognition of the programs offered by the independent
5 institutions, and (b) changes in procedure that enable the institutions
6 to respond rapidly to meet the emerging needs of the state;

7 (6) A study of existing physical capacity with locations of
8 population growth centers; and

9 (7) Increasing access to quality learning to support the board's
10 enrollment plan. A plan to accomplish this should be submitted to the
11 board and should address the system-wide or institutional plan for
12 restructuring, use of technologies, partnerships, or other means of
13 providing access to quality learning at lower cost. The plan should
14 propose enrollment and efficiency goals against which progress on the
15 plan can be assessed.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 1997 Legislature respond by
17 concurrent resolution to the refinements brought forward by the Higher
18 Education Coordinating Board.

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