
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4404

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Kenney, Cox, Sells, Priest, Jarrett, Conway, Ormsby and Linville; by request of Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

Read first time 02/01/2005. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 WHEREAS, Chapter 238, Laws of 1991, created the work force training
2 and education coordinating board to provide planning, coordination,
3 evaluation, monitoring, and policy analysis for the state training
4 system as a whole, and advice to the governor and legislature
5 concerning the training system, in cooperation with the agencies that
6 comprise the state training system and the higher education
7 coordinating board; and

8 WHEREAS, Section 2, chapter 130, Laws of 1995, requires the board
9 to update the state comprehensive plan for work force training and
10 education every two years and requires the legislature, following
11 public hearings, to approve or make changes to the updates; and

12 WHEREAS, The state faces the work force challenges of: (1) Closing
13 the gap between the need of employers for skilled workers and the
14 supply of Washington residents prepared to meet that need; (2) enabling
15 workers to make smooth transitions so they may fully benefit from the
16 new, changing economy; and (3) assisting disadvantaged youth, persons
17 with disabilities, new labor market entrants, recent immigrants, and
18 low-wage workers in moving up the job ladder during their lifetimes;
19 and

1 WHEREAS, The state comprehensive plan sets forth the following six
2 strategic opportunities for the next two years:

3 (1) Increasing postsecondary education and training capacity at the
4 subbaccalaureate level, targeting our resources to expand capacity in
5 programs that prepare individuals for the jobs that are in highest
6 demand, and at the same time ensuring that all individuals, especially
7 target populations, have access to a broad range of education,
8 training, and retraining opportunities;

9 (2) Reducing dropouts and integrating career guidance into the
10 school curricula, building on the success of community partnerships
11 that implement effective dropout/retrieval programs, and holding our
12 schools accountable for engaging and retaining students through
13 graduation;

14 (3) Expanding and sustaining industry skill panels using
15 partnerships of employers, educators, and labor to foster innovation
16 and enable industries and public partners to be proactive, addressing
17 changing needs quickly and competently;

18 (4) Increasing training linked to retention support for low-income
19 individuals because with the growth of our work force slowing and the
20 increasing diversity of our population, it is essential we develop
21 career pathways that enable low-income workers to advance, meeting the
22 needs of employers for skilled workers and our social goal of family
23 self-sufficiency;

24 (5) Increasing basic skills and English as a second language
25 instruction that is integrated with occupational skills training since
26 without education and training opportunities, our illiterate
27 population, immigrants, low-income workers, and unemployed can be stuck
28 in dead ends; and

29 (6) Expanding customized training for incumbent workers to help our
30 businesses be more competitive in the world and our workers more
31 competitive in the labor market as in today's economic context, there
32 is an increasing need to train and retrain incumbent workers to keep
33 pace with technological advances and to take advantage of high-
34 performance practices; and

35 WHEREAS, The state comprehensive plan includes: (1) Assessments of
36 our state's employment opportunities and skills needs, the present and
37 future work force, and the current work force development system; (2)

1 goals and strategies for meeting the work force challenges; and (3) a
2 description of the performance management system for work force
3 development as required under chapter 238, Laws of 1991; and

4 WHEREAS, The work force training and education coordinating board
5 used an inclusive process of public hearings and contact with
6 approximately 3,500 individuals to develop consensus on the priorities
7 identified in the plan and has secured the unanimous endorsement of
8 critical constituencies, including business, labor, and the agencies
9 delivering work force services; and

10 WHEREAS, The provisions of the comprehensive plan and its updates
11 that are approved by the legislature become the state's work force
12 policy unless legislation is enacted to alter the policies set forth
13 therein;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
15 of the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, hereby approve the
16 2004 update to the state comprehensive plan for work force training,
17 "High Skills, High Wages."

--- END ---