
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4402

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Sells, Haler, Pollet, Senn, Condotta, Stambaugh, Kilduff, Dolan, Bergquist, Stonier, Muri, Tarleton, Gregerson, Ormsby, and Ortiz-Self; by request of Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

Read first time 01/18/17. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 WHEREAS, Chapter 238, Laws of 1991 created the Workforce Training
2 and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) to provide
3 planning, coordinating, evaluation, and policy analysis for the state
4 training system as a whole and to provide advice to the Governor and
5 the Legislature concerning the training system in cooperation with
6 the agencies that comprise the state training system and the
7 Washington Student Achievement Council; and

8 WHEREAS, The Workforce Board is a unique partnership of business,
9 labor, education, and training organizations dedicated to creating a
10 highly skilled workforce that meets the needs of Washington
11 businesses and workers; and

12 WHEREAS, The state faces the workforce challenges of: (1) Not
13 enough workers with the education and training to fill key openings,
14 hampering the ability of Washington's businesses to remain
15 competitive in an increasingly global economy, and (2) a workforce
16 that is growing older and increasingly diverse, bringing with it
17 falling workforce participation rates and lower education and skill
18 attainment among many target populations that are needed to fill new
19 job openings; and

20 WHEREAS, RCW 28C.18.080 requires the Workforce Board to update
21 the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education
22 every four years, and the plan was last updated in 2012; and

1 WHEREAS, Students, workers, and employers have wide ranging
2 education and training needs; and

3 WHEREAS, By viewing the workforce system as a series of
4 interconnected pathways, with multiple options for workers,
5 jobseekers, and students to advance, the Workforce Board is able to
6 outline strategies to strengthen these pathways so more Washington
7 residents become economically self-sufficient, while also helping
8 Washington businesses find the skilled workers they depend on; and

9 WHEREAS, The purpose of the 2016 state comprehensive plan for
10 training and education is to provide direction to the workforce
11 development system; and

12 WHEREAS, To meet the challenges of the next ten years workforce
13 partners must work together as a seamless, customer-focused system;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, This edition of the state comprehensive plan for
16 workforce development represents the first time the Workforce Board
17 will also submit a combined plan for workforce development to the
18 federal Departments of Labor and Education, in accordance with the
19 requirements of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
20 of 2014; and

21 WHEREAS, The Workforce Board coordinated an inclusive process of
22 work groups and public forums to reach agreement on the strategies
23 identified in the 2016 state strategic plan for workforce
24 development, under the leadership of the Workforce Board's labor and
25 business representatives; and

26 WHEREAS, The strategies identified in the 2016 state strategic
27 plan for workforce development represent the consensus of critical
28 constituencies across the workforce system, including business,
29 labor, and the agencies delivering workforce services; and

30 WHEREAS, The 2016 state comprehensive plan, titled *Talent and*
31 *Prosperity for All*, emphasizes the following four strategic
32 priorities:

33 (1) Achieving a more welcoming, streamlined customer experience
34 in the workforce system by blending and braiding the delivery of
35 services more effectively;

36 (2) Strengthening the breadth and quality of the workforce
37 system's engagement with the business community, emphasizing sector
38 strategies and a focus on in-demand industries;

1 (3) Ensuring a workforce system that is universally accessible
2 for all customers, leveraging technology and other tools to identify
3 and remove barriers to access; and

4 (4) Refining Washington's performance accountability system to
5 inform a process of continual, data-driven improvement; and

6 WHEREAS, The provisions of the comprehensive plan and updates
7 approved by the Legislature become the state's workforce policy
8 unless legislation is enacted to alter the policies set forth
9 therein;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
11 of the State of Washington, the Senate concurring, hereby approve the
12 2016 state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.

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