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**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8421**

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**State of Washington**

**58th Legislature**

**2004 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Carlson, Kohl-Welles, Schmidt, Berkey and Winsley; by request of Higher Education Coordinating Board

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1       WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board is required by law  
2 to prepare a strategic master plan for higher education every four  
3 years; and

4       WHEREAS, The Legislature and Governor enacted House Bill No. 2076  
5 during the 2003 legislative session in part to reaffirm and strengthen  
6 the board's strategic planning role and to guide development of the  
7 2004 plan; and

8       WHEREAS, The bill directs the board to present the 2004 interim  
9 strategic master plan to the Legislature and Governor by December 15,  
10 2003; and

11       WHEREAS, The Legislature is to conduct public hearings on the  
12 interim plan, and, by concurrent resolution, approve or recommend  
13 changes to the interim plan; and

14       WHEREAS, The board is directed to submit the final plan by June of  
15 the year in which the concurrent resolution is enacted; and

16       WHEREAS, The bipartisan legislative work group created by House  
17 Bill No. 2076 fulfilled its responsibility to define legislative  
18 expectations and provide policy direction for the statewide strategic  
19 master plan; and

1           WHEREAS, The board, in accordance with House Bill No. 2076,  
2 developed an interim strategic master plan that proposes a vision and  
3 identifies goals and priorities for the higher education system in  
4 Washington state and identifies strategies for achieving the board's  
5 goals; and

6           WHEREAS, The board revised the draft interim plan in response to  
7 public testimony during public hearings in November 2003 in Spokane and  
8 Seattle and presented the interim plan to the Legislature and Governor  
9 as required by the statute;

10          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of  
11 the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, That the Higher  
12 Education Coordinating Board be commended for its work in preparing the  
13 2004 Interim Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education; and

14          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature concur in the board's  
15 statements of the mission and vision for higher education and support  
16 the core values reflected in the interim plan; and

17          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature concur in the board's  
18 goals for higher education:

19           (1) Increase by approximately 20 percent the total number of  
20 students who earn college degrees and earn job training credentials in  
21 Washington each year; and

22           (2) Respond to the state's economic needs; and

23          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature endorse the board's  
24 strategies to achieve the higher education goals by 2010:

25           (1) Increase public college and university enrollment;

26           (2) Improve educational efficiency through such means as increasing  
27 the number of transfer students; reducing remedial course work among  
28 recent high school graduates; reducing the number of students who  
29 graduate with excess credits; reducing the number of credits earned by  
30 transfer students that do not apply to their degrees; increasing  
31 student retention; and working with institutions to identify other  
32 efficiencies;

33           (3) Promote innovation in service delivery, such as identifying  
34 planning and decision-making models that promote regional collaboration  
35 and strengthen the two-plus-two system; permitting flexibility in  
36 course offerings by community colleges and branch campuses as  
37 appropriate to each region; enabling comprehensive institutions to

1 offer more bachelor of applied science degrees; and allowing  
2 partnerships of public and private institutions to receive high demand  
3 enrollment funding;

4 (4) Address higher education budget needs by funding enrollments at  
5 the average rates for comparable institutions nationwide; address  
6 tuition by permitting colleges to have unrestricted tuition-setting  
7 authority for all students; and address financial aid by requiring  
8 schools to supplement state grants for low-income students, funding the  
9 state need grant to reach board goals, and maintaining the purchasing  
10 power of other state financial aid programs;

11 (5) Improve higher education's responsiveness to the state's  
12 economic needs by creating an ongoing program to identify high demand  
13 fields and recognize higher instructional costs; using an  
14 incentive-based approach to dedicate a portion of all new enrollments  
15 for high demand programs; increasing state research funding; supporting  
16 the two-year college system's strategies to increase student success in  
17 job training and basic skills programs; and developing a new financial  
18 aid program to support adults who work full time and go to college part  
19 time; and

20 (6) Improve K-12/higher education linkages to promote student  
21 success in college by expanding access to dual-credit programs;  
22 increasing the number of K-12 students who complete a rigorous high  
23 school curriculum; improving communication to students, families, and  
24 schools of what students must know and do to be considered ready for  
25 college; and revising current state minimum college admission  
26 requirements to ensure college-bound students are encouraged to take  
27 the courses they need to prepare for college-level work; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature concur with the  
29 board's recommendation that the state should review governance options  
30 and consider consolidating the higher education functions performed by  
31 the Higher Education Coordinating Board, the State Board for Community  
32 and Technical Colleges, and the Work Force Training and Education  
33 Coordinating Board into one state governing board; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in the final 2004 strategic master  
35 plan, the board shall articulate options for state action and shall  
36 provide guidance to the institutions of higher education for carrying  
37 out the strategies, and shall provide measurable performance indicators

1 and benchmarks to gauge progress toward achieving the statewide goals  
2 of the strategic master plan for higher education; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the board shall develop cost  
4 projections to guide the state and the institutions of higher education  
5 in developing operating and capital budget proposals for the 2005-07  
6 biennium and future biennia, and that the board will evaluate and  
7 report to the Legislature and Governor on whether the higher education  
8 institutions' 2005-07 operating and capital budget proposals align with  
9 or implement the statewide strategic master plan; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating  
11 Board work with the public higher education institutions to ensure that  
12 their strategic plans are aligned with and promote the implementation  
13 of the statewide strategic master plan.

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