
SUBSTITUTE SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8421

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Carlson, Kohl-Welles, Schmidt, Berkey and Winsley; by request of Higher Education Coordinating Board)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/04.

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 and utilize
26 the capacity of the independent colleges and universities;

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

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

1 limited baccalaureate programs through a pilot project with the
2 approval of the higher education coordinating board; encouraging
3 community colleges to offer limited upper-division coursework to meet
4 specific program and economic development needs of the community with
5 approval of the state board for community and technical colleges;
6 enabling comprehensive institutions to offer more bachelor of applied
7 science degrees; and allowing partnerships of public and private
8 institutions to receive high demand enrollment funding;

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

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

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

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in the final 2004 strategic master
34 plan, the board shall articulate options for state action and shall
35 provide guidance to the institutions of higher education for carrying
36 out the strategies, and shall provide measurable performance indicators
37 and benchmarks to gauge progress toward achieving the statewide goals
38 of the strategic master plan for higher education; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the board shall develop cost
2 projections to guide the state and the institutions of higher education
3 in developing operating and capital budget proposals for the 2005-07
4 biennium and future biennia, and that the board will evaluate and
5 report to the Legislature and Governor on whether the higher education
6 institutions' 2005-07 operating and capital budget proposals align with
7 or implement the statewide strategic master plan; and
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating
9 Board work with the public higher education institutions to ensure that
10 their strategic plans are aligned with and promote the implementation
11 of the statewide strategic master plan.

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