
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8425

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles and Sheahan; by request of Higher Education Coordinating Board)

Read first time 02/04/2000.

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 interests 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 subsequently enacted to revise those policies; and

13 WHEREAS, The Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board
14 submitted the initial master plan to the Legislature in December 1987,
15 and submitted updates to the plan in December 1992, January 1996, and
16 January 2000; and

17 WHEREAS, During the process used to develop the 2000 master plan,
18 the board consulted with students and families, educators, business,
19 labor, and civic organizations representing a cross-section of
20 Washington citizens; and

1 WHEREAS, The board learned that the need and expectation for higher
2 education among Washington citizens will continue to grow through the
3 next decade, because of population increases as well as the demands of
4 the state's increasingly technology-based economy; and

5 WHEREAS, The board identified the challenge of meeting future
6 demand for college education should a greater proportion of Washington
7 citizens seek upper division and graduate level study by the year 2010;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The board has spelled out its commitment to continuing to
10 expand enrollment opportunities for Washington students, to keep public
11 higher education affordable for students and families, and to provide
12 financial assistance to those who cannot otherwise afford to go to
13 college; and

14 WHEREAS, The board identified five specific goals for the state to
15 address higher education needs in the next ten years:

16 (1) Making student learning the yardstick by which institutional
17 accountability, effectiveness, and efficiency is measured;

18 (2) Linking students' participation in higher education to their
19 achievement in the K-12 grades;

20 (3) Providing the information citizens need to make the best use of
21 the learning pathways available to them;

22 (4) Enhancing higher education opportunity through greater use of
23 e-learning technologies and by increasingly efficient use of public
24 facilities; and

25 (5) Helping colleges and universities meet student needs and
26 compete in an increasingly competitive and complex education
27 marketplace; and

28 WHEREAS, The board challenged itself, students, and families, the
29 public and private institutions, the private sector, and the state to
30 each accept its individual responsibilities and to collaborate in the
31 development of solutions; and

32 WHEREAS, The board described an implementation plan to guide the
33 state's response to the needs of higher education and to estimate the
34 costs of the strategies;

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the State of
36 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That the
37 Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board be commended for its
38 dedication and commitment to the State of Washington in producing the

1 2000 update of the master plan for higher education titled "The 21st
2 Century Learner"; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature thank the board for
4 describing many of the challenges facing the state in its attempts to
5 provide the postsecondary education and training our citizens need to
6 fulfill their personal goals and participate fully in the world of the
7 twenty-first century; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature reaffirm its
9 commitment to create postsecondary opportunities in response to actual
10 demand from citizens for access to high-quality education and training
11 programs; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the board reexamine its assumptions
13 with regard to projected upper division and graduate enrollments, and
14 that the plan reexamine the role of the community and technical
15 colleges in meeting the postsecondary needs of a significant portion of
16 Washington's population; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the board reexamine its assumptions
18 with regard to the capital needs of the community and technical
19 colleges and the four-year institutions of higher education, including
20 their branch campuses; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature approve the following
22 recommendations of the 2000 update of the master plan:

23 (1) That solutions to the challenge may be found in strategies that
24 (a) make student learning the yardstick by which institutional
25 accountability, effectiveness, and efficiency is measured; and (b) link
26 students' participation in higher education to their achievement in the
27 K-12 grades;

28 (2) Provide the information citizens need to make the best use of
29 the learning pathways available to them, and support outreach efforts
30 designed to ensure that the higher education system reflects the
31 diversity of the state's population;

32 (3) Expand the use of e-learning technologies and use public
33 facilities to the fullest extent possible; and

34 (4) Help colleges and universities meet student needs and compete
35 in an increasingly competitive and complex education marketplace; and

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the board examine alternatives to
37 address the operating and capital budget needs that are identified in
38 the 2000 update of the master plan; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the board proceed with the
2 implementation of the 2000 update of the master plan as described in
3 "The 21st Century Learner" and report to the 2001 Legislature on
4 progress toward implementing its strategies.

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