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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4422

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State of Washington                      57th Legislature                      2002 Regular Session  
By Representatives Schual-Berke, Campbell, Cody, Skinner, Benson,  
Jackley and Haigh

Read first time 01/17/2002. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1            WHEREAS, An adequate supply of health care personnel is of critical  
2 importance to the well-being of Washington residents; and

3            WHEREAS, Washington state is facing a growing public health crisis  
4 because of a shortage of health care personnel; and

5            WHEREAS, The shortage of health care personnel threatens the  
6 ability of Washington residents to continue to obtain quality,  
7 accessible health care;

8            NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives,  
9 the Senate concurring, That a Health Care Work Force Commission is  
10 established. The commission shall consist of no more than seventeen  
11 members appointed in the following manner:

12            (1) Two members from the House of Representatives, one from the  
13 majority party and one from the minority party, to be appointed by the  
14 Speaker of the House;

15            (2) Two members from the Senate, one from the majority party and  
16 one from the minority party, to be appointed by the President of the  
17 Senate;

18            (3) One member shall represent hospitals, to be appointed by the  
19 Governor;

20            (4) One member shall represent public hospital districts, to be  
21 appointed by the Governor;

1 (5) One member shall represent nurses, to be appointed by the  
2 Governor;

3 (6) One member shall represent physicians, to be appointed by the  
4 Governor;

5 (7) One member shall represent allied health professionals, to be  
6 appointed by the Governor;

7 (8) One member shall represent long-term care providers, to be  
8 appointed by the Governor;

9 (9) One member shall represent the Washington State Department of  
10 Health;

11 (10) One member shall represent the Work Force Training and  
12 Education Coordinating Board;

13 (11) One member shall represent the Higher Education Coordinating  
14 Board;

15 (12) One member shall represent the State Board for Community and  
16 Technical Colleges;

17 (13) One member shall represent the Office of Superintendent of  
18 Public Instruction;

19 (14) One member shall represent organized labor, to be appointed by  
20 the Governor; and

21 (15) The Governor shall appoint a chairperson of the commission who  
22 has no connection to the health care industry and who shall represent  
23 the public at large; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That consistent with funds appropriated  
25 specifically for this purpose, the commission may hire staff, appoint  
26 technical advisory committees, and contract for professional  
27 assistance. State agencies, the Senate, and the House of  
28 Representatives may provide staff support upon request of the  
29 commission. The commission also has authority to seek and expend funds  
30 from private foundations; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in the conduct of its business, the  
32 commission shall have reasonable access to health care personnel and  
33 related work force data available to all state agencies. All state  
34 agencies shall provide the commission with all requested health  
35 personnel data and other relevant work force information maintained by  
36 their agencies in a timely manner; and

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That members of the commission shall  
38 receive no compensation for their service, except that travel expenses  
39 shall be reimbursed from whatever funds are made available to the

1 commission, pursuant to RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060, and for members of  
2 the Legislature appointed to the commission, travel expenses shall be  
3 reimbursed pursuant to RCW 44.04.120; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the commission shall develop a  
5 Washington state strategic plan for ensuring an adequate supply of  
6 health personnel and safeguarding the ability of the health care  
7 delivery system in Washington state to provide quality, accessible  
8 health care to residents of Washington, which shall:

9 (1) Identify ways to increase the capacity of health professions'  
10 training programs to prepare students to meet the increasing need for  
11 health care workers;

12 (2) Identify ways to improve the marketing and outreach of the  
13 health professions and improve recruitment of and support for students  
14 interested in them;

15 (3) Recommend changes to streamline entry to practice regulations  
16 and requirements. The commission shall not entertain discussions on  
17 changes to existing scopes of practice;

18 (4) Recommend changes to federal and state statutes and regulations  
19 that prevent stimulating and rewarding practice environments;

20 (5) Recommend ways to increase the diversity of health professions,  
21 engage families transitioning from welfare to work, and encourage other  
22 currently unemployed workers to seek jobs in the health care  
23 industries; and

24 (6) Identify existing funding mechanisms that may be used to  
25 implement the commission's recommendations; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the commission shall submit an interim  
27 report to the Governor and the Legislature on or before December 31,  
28 2002, and a final report to include a state strategic plan by December  
29 31, 2003. The commission shall cease to exist on December 31, 2003.

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