
SUBSTITUTE SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8401

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Carlson, Johnson, Shin, Jacobsen, McAuliffe, Schmidt, Rasmussen and B. Sheldon)

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/03.

1 WHEREAS, Education is the most important function of the state of
2 Washington and is essential to the economic health, cultural diversity,
3 civic vitality, and political well-being of the state and the nation;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, There is significant evidence that citizens benefit by
6 having an opportunity to access the education and training that will
7 allow them to contribute to the healthy future of not only themselves
8 and their families but also to the community at large; and

9 WHEREAS, The state will need to provide higher education
10 opportunities for at least a projected thirty-three thousand six
11 hundred more citizens by the year 2010 just to maintain current
12 postsecondary participation rates; and

13 WHEREAS, Our schools, through education reform, are expected to
14 prepare an evergrowing number of high school graduates for entry into
15 postsecondary education or the incredibly competitive work environment;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, A growing number of citizens affected by the fluctuations
18 in the economic climate and shifts in employment opportunities enter
19 and reenter the state's educational institutions to prepare them for
20 participation in the rapidly changing workplace; and

1 WHEREAS, Washington's citizens would be better served through
2 access to high quality education without institutional or
3 organizational barriers to ensure being able to make smooth progress
4 through all levels of education they desire; and

5 WHEREAS, Washington does not have a seamless education system nor
6 does it have a system of coordinated education planning; and

7 WHEREAS, Collaboration and coordination among all sectors of
8 education including but not limited to prekindergarten, the K-12
9 system, the community and technical college system, the four-year
10 college and universities, and the independent colleges and private
11 career schools is essential to developing an educated citizenry;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the State of
13 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That an interim
14 study be conducted through the collaborative work of the Senate
15 committee on education, the Senate committee on higher education, the
16 House of Representatives committee on education, and the House of
17 Representatives committee on higher education; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That cochairs be designated by the members
19 of the study group, one cochair representing K-12 education and one
20 cochair representing higher education; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the interim study group develop
22 recommendations to the legislature regarding the development of a
23 "Master Plan for Education -- Prekindergarten through University" to
24 support the students' needs, focusing on the organization and
25 management of delivery systems, to achieve the goal of eliminating
26 barriers to a seamless education. The recommendations will address but
27 not be limited to issues of access, achievement, accountability,
28 affordability, and quality of our schools and institutions of higher
29 education. In developing the recommendations, the committees shall
30 involve interested parties including but not limited to educators
31 including staff, faculty, administration, and governing board members,
32 from both the public and private sector; regional and national public
33 policy groups and state organizations; advocacy groups; researchers;
34 business and labor leaders; community leaders; parents; and students.
35 An interim report shall be completed by December 1, 2003, and a final
36 report by December 1, 2004.

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