
Higher Education Committee

SCR 8404

Brief Description: Approving the 2006 update to the state comprehensive plan for workforce training.

Sponsors: Senators Shin, Delvin and Kilmer; by request of Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requests approval of the 2006 update to the state comprehensive plan, *High Skills, High Wages*.

Hearing Date: 3/19/07

Staff: Jennifer Thornton (786-7111).

Background:

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB) was created in 1991 to provide planning, coordination, evaluation, monitoring, and policy analysis for the state training system as a whole, and to advise the Governor and Legislature concerning the training system.

The WTECB updates the State Comprehensive Plan for Workforce Training and Education (Comprehensive Plan) every two years. The Legislature is required, following public hearings, to approve or make changes to the updates. The provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and its updates that are approved by the Legislature become the state's workforce policy unless legislation is enacted to alter the policies.

The Comprehensive Plan includes the following 10 strategic opportunities for the next two years:

- (1) increase high school graduation rates;
- (2) expand the availability of career pathways that span secondary and post-secondary education and training;
- (3) increase post-secondary education and training capacity;
- (4) increase financial aid and retention support for workforce education students;

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

- (5) increase adult basic education skills and English language instruction that is integrated with occupational skills training;
- (6) improve coordination between workforce and economic development in key economic clusters;
- (7) expand and sustain skill panels;
- (8) expand customized training for current workers;
- (9) expand the availability of a work readiness credential; and
- (10) develop state and local agreements on service integration to improve services to customers.

Summary of Bill:

The House of Representatives and Senate approve the 2006 update to the state Comprehensive Plan, High Skills, High Wages, that is submitted by the WTECB.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.