
House Concurrent Resolution 4408

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Wallace, Haigh, and Sells

Prefiled 01/10/08. Read first time 01/14/08. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board is charged under
2 RCW 28B.76.200 with developing a statewide strategic master plan for
3 higher education, encompassing all sectors including the two-year
4 system, workforce training, the four-year institutions, and financial
5 aid; and

6 WHEREAS, The legislature enacted chapter 458, Laws of 2007,
7 requiring the strategic master plan to present a vision, measurable
8 goals, and priorities spanning a ten-year period of time, with
9 strategies for expanding access, affordability, quality, efficiency,
10 and accountability; and

11 WHEREAS, The law provides that the legislature shall by concurrent
12 resolution approve or recommend changes to the plan, following public
13 hearings, after which the board shall incorporate legislative changes
14 and adopt a final plan by June of the year in which the legislature
15 passes the concurrent resolution; and

16 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board from February
17 through November 2007 conducted regular public meetings of the board
18 and the board's advisory council and in fall 2007 organized public
19 forums and focus group meetings around the state bringing educational,

1 business, and community leaders together to engage stakeholders and the
2 public in developing ideas for the strategic master plan; and

3 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board received input for
4 the plan from a wide range of perspectives through presentations
5 provided by leaders from the legislature, business, public and
6 independent baccalaureate institutions, community and technical
7 colleges, workforce training agencies, the common school system, and
8 representatives of the governor, students, faculty, and communities of
9 color, economists, and other experts; and

10 WHEREAS, The final report issued by Washington Learns called for a
11 world-class, learner-focused seamless educational system from preschool
12 through higher education and articulated a vision for the improvement
13 of educational attainment at all levels of the educational system in
14 the state of Washington, a vision that lies at the heart of the
15 proposed 2008 update of the master plan submitted by the higher
16 education coordinating board; and

17 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board finds that while
18 many of the world's developed nations have made huge gains in the
19 educational attainment levels of their populations, the United States
20 has not and Washingtonians aged twenty-five to thirty-four actually are
21 less well educated than Washingtonians aged forty-five to fifty-four;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Demographic projections indicate the population of
24 Washington will grow thirty-seven percent by the year 2030 while the
25 state's population simultaneously becomes much more diverse; and

26 WHEREAS, Over seventy percent of the workforce of the year 2030 is
27 currently employed, and many will be required to upgrade their skills
28 to keep up with technological and other workplace changes; and

29 WHEREAS, One out of four people age eighteen to twenty-four does
30 not have a high school diploma and Washington's undereducated working
31 population is equal in size to its next ten high school graduating
32 classes; and

33 WHEREAS, Global competition, process automation, the increased pace
34 of technological change, and the progressively shortened life span of
35 many products has and will continue to result in worker layoffs, and
36 laid off workers will need to retool their skills in order to be
37 reemployed; and

1 WHEREAS, Our growing economy also depends on a skilled workforce
2 including workers who have completed certificates, associate degrees,
3 and apprenticeship programs; and

4 WHEREAS, Washington must attract annually to the state over thirty-
5 six thousand people who hold at least a bachelor's degree in order to
6 fill the jobs being created by the state's economy, a net in-migration
7 of highly educated workers second among Washington's Global Challenge
8 State peers, behind only California, which attracts about thirty-nine
9 thousand similarly educated people annually; and

10 WHEREAS, Depending on other states and nations to provide
11 educational attainment levels necessary to fill the best jobs being
12 created in Washington may not be a sustainable economic strategy and
13 misses the opportunity to prepare Washington residents for some of the
14 best jobs being created by Washington's economy; and

15 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board recommends
16 creating opportunities for Washington residents and fueling the growth
17 of Washington's economy by increasing annual production of certificates
18 and two-year degrees by nine thousand four hundred to an annual total
19 of thirty-six thousand two hundred by 2018 and recommends increasing
20 bachelor's degree production by 2018 to a benchmark level equal to the
21 seventy-fifth percentile of degree production in the Global Challenge
22 States and increasing advanced degree production to a benchmark level
23 equal to the fiftieth percentile of degree production in the Global
24 Challenge States; and

25 WHEREAS, The proposed master plan update recommends raising
26 educational attainment by addressing diversity, raising expectations in
27 the common school system, promoting lifelong learning, and improving
28 affordable access, and recommends a series of strategies for promoting
29 economic growth, innovation, and funding for accountability and
30 results;

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of
32 the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, That the statewide
33 strategic master plan update submitted by the higher education
34 coordinating board on December 15, 2007, be approved; and

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the higher education coordinating
36 board shall actively involve public and independent two-year and
37 four-year institutions, private vocational schools, the council of
38 presidents, the independent colleges of Washington, the state board for

1 community and technical colleges, the workforce training and education
2 coordinating board, faculty, students, representatives of business and
3 other interested stakeholders, the office of financial management, and
4 appropriate committees of the legislature in collaboratively refining
5 the strategies and specifying next steps required to implement
6 strategies recommended in the 2008 update of the master plan; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the higher education coordinating
8 board shall report to the higher education committees of the House of
9 Representatives and the Senate on progress implementing the 2008 update
10 of the master plan by February 1, 2009.

--- END ---