
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4404

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Wallace, Carlyle, Sells, Morrell, White, and Kenney

Read first time 02/16/09. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 WHEREAS, The system of public higher education in Washington
2 includes eleven baccalaureate degree granting system campuses, ten
3 university centers, thirty-nine off-campus teaching sites around the
4 state, and thirty-four community and technical colleges, seven of which
5 also offer applied baccalaureate degrees on a pilot basis; and

6 WHEREAS, Residents in a number of regions in the state participate
7 less in baccalaureate education than the state average, and the state
8 average in Washington is well below the national average; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2008 the legislature unanimously approved Engrossed
10 Substitute House Concurrent Resolution No. 4408, approving the 2008
11 strategic master plan for higher education and thereby adopting as
12 state policy the plan's goals to significantly increase the number of
13 mid-level, baccalaureate, and advanced degrees conferred in Washington;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board worked
16 collaboratively with higher education institutions and stakeholders in
17 2008 to develop an implementation plan to address the goals and
18 objectives described in the strategic master plan; and

19 WHEREAS, A central planning principle of the implementation plan
20 calls for Washington's higher education system to expand on demand so

1 that new postsecondary educational resources are authorized when there
2 is demonstrated demand, and to ensure that new resources contribute to
3 and are in concert with all other parts of the existing system of
4 higher education; and

5 WHEREAS, The legislature has already developed comprehensive plans
6 to meet the higher education needs in Snohomish, Island, Skagit, King,
7 and Kitsap counties that will guide state investments and ensure that
8 new resources are deployed in a time and manner that are well matched
9 with student and employer demand; and

10 WHEREAS, The legislature recognizes the importance of creating a
11 more nimble system of learning that is student-centric, more welcoming
12 of nontraditional and underserved students, more tailored to today's
13 student needs and expectations, easier to access and use, and maximizes
14 the use of existing capacity at our two and four-year institutions; and

15 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board is undertaking, in
16 collaboration with the council of presidents, the state board for
17 community and technical colleges, and the independent colleges of
18 Washington, an examination of the structure of the current higher
19 education system and how that structure can be expanded and shaped over
20 the next twenty years to build off the recommendations of past planning
21 processes, and best meet the needs of the citizens while optimizing the
22 public investment in postsecondary education;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of
24 the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, That the higher
25 education coordinating board is commended for its initiative to develop
26 the system design plan; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the higher education coordinating
28 board is encouraged to include stakeholders and representatives of the
29 institutions and agencies that compose the higher education system in
30 Washington, as well as business, labor, and civic leaders across the
31 state, as it conducts the system design planning work; and

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the legislature will work with the
33 higher education coordinating board to gradually and deliberately
34 implement both the system design planning work and the implementation
35 plan for the strategic master plan for higher education.

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