
SUBSTITUTE SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8404

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Kilmer, Jarrett, Hewitt, Delvin, Jacobsen, Shin, and Pflug; by request of Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/09.

1 WHEREAS, Chapter 238, Laws of 1991 created the workforce training
2 and education coordinating board to provide planning, coordination,
3 evaluation, monitoring, and policy analysis for the state training
4 system as a whole and advice to the governor and legislature concerning
5 the training system, in cooperation with the agencies that comprise the
6 state training system and the higher education coordinating board; and

7 WHEREAS, Section 2, chapter 130, Laws of 1995 requires the board to
8 update the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and
9 education and requires the legislature, following public hearings, to
10 approve or make changes to the updates; and

11 WHEREAS, The state faces the workforce challenges of: (1) Ensuring
12 all Washington youth receive the education, training, and support they
13 need for success in postsecondary education and/or work; (2) providing
14 Washington adults, including those with barriers to education and
15 employment, with access to lifelong education, training, and employment
16 services; and (3) meeting the workforce needs of industry by preparing
17 students, current workers, and dislocated workers with the skills
18 employers need; and

19 WHEREAS, The state comprehensive plan for 2008 has a ten-year

1 horizon through 2018 and the following eight strategic opportunities on
2 which to focus:

3 (1) Increase high school graduation rates and ensure youth are
4 prepared for further education and/or work;

5 (2) Expand the availability of career pathways that span secondary
6 and postsecondary education and training;

7 (3) Increase postsecondary education and training capacity to close
8 the gap between the need of employers for skilled workers and the
9 supply of Washington residents prepared to meet that need;

10 (4) Increase financial aid and support services for workforce
11 education students to provide greater access to training and boost
12 retention and completion;

13 (5) Increase adult basic skills and English language instruction
14 that is integrated with occupational skills training to assist
15 illiterate populations, immigrants, low-income workers, and unemployed
16 individuals to improve their employment opportunities;

17 (6) Improve coordination between workforce and economic development
18 in key economic clusters through initiatives such as Industry Skill
19 Panels and Centers of Excellence;

20 (7) Meet employee education and training needs through employer and
21 employee accountable customized training, workplace-based learning,
22 flexible methods of education delivery, and cost-efficient new ways of
23 funding employee training; and

24 (8) Identify barriers for improving and expanding employment,
25 education, and training services and remove those barriers; and

26 WHEREAS, The state comprehensive plan includes: Assessments of our
27 state's employment opportunities and skills needs, the present and
28 future workforce, three goals, and more than sixty strategies for
29 meeting the workforce challenges; and identifies entities responsible
30 for carrying out the strategies; and

31 WHEREAS, The workforce training and education coordinating board
32 used an inclusive process of work groups and public hearings and
33 contact with approximately 3,500 individuals to develop consensus on
34 the strategies identified in the plan and has secured the unanimous
35 endorsement of critical constituencies, including business, labor, and
36 the agencies delivering workforce services; and

37 WHEREAS, The provisions of the comprehensive plan and its updates

1 that are approved by the legislature become the state's workforce
2 policy unless legislation is enacted to alter the policies set forth
3 therein;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate of the state of
5 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, hereby approve the
6 2008-2018 state comprehensive plan for workforce training, "High
7 Skills, High Wages."

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