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**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8401**

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**State of Washington**

**65th Legislature**

**2017 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Bailey, Rolfes, Hasegawa, Chase, Rivers, Zeiger, Keiser, Saldaña, and Kuderer; by request of Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

Read first time 01/18/17. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1           WHEREAS, Chapter 238, Laws of 1991 created the Workforce Training  
2 and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) to provide  
3 planning, coordinating, evaluation, and policy analysis for the state  
4 training system as a whole and to provide advice to the Governor and  
5 the Legislature concerning the training system in cooperation with  
6 the agencies that comprise the state training system and the  
7 Washington Student Achievement Council; and

8           WHEREAS, The Workforce Board is a unique partnership of business,  
9 labor, education, and training organizations dedicated to creating a  
10 highly skilled workforce that meets the needs of Washington  
11 businesses and workers; and

12           WHEREAS, The state faces the workforce challenges of: (1) Not  
13 enough workers with the education and training to fill key openings,  
14 hampering the ability of Washington's businesses to remain  
15 competitive in an increasingly global economy, and (2) a workforce  
16 that is growing older and increasingly diverse, bringing with it  
17 falling workforce participation rates and lower education and skill  
18 attainment among many target populations that are needed to fill new  
19 job openings; and

20           WHEREAS, RCW 28C.18.080 requires the Workforce Board to update  
21 the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education  
22 every four years, and the plan was last updated in 2012; and

1       WHEREAS, Students, workers, and employers have wide ranging  
2 education and training needs; and

3       WHEREAS, By viewing the workforce system as a series of  
4 interconnected pathways, with multiple options for workers,  
5 jobseekers, and students to advance, the Workforce Board is able to  
6 outline strategies to strengthen these pathways so more Washington  
7 residents become economically self-sufficient, while also helping  
8 Washington businesses find the skilled workers they depend on; and

9       WHEREAS, The purpose of the 2016 state comprehensive plan for  
10 training and education is to provide direction to the workforce  
11 development system; and

12       WHEREAS, To meet the challenges of the next ten years workforce  
13 partners must work together as a seamless, customer-focused system;  
14 and

15       WHEREAS, This edition of the state comprehensive plan for  
16 workforce development represents the first time the Workforce Board  
17 will also submit a combined plan for workforce development to the  
18 federal Departments of Labor and Education, in accordance with the  
19 requirements of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act  
20 of 2014; and

21       WHEREAS, The Workforce Board coordinated an inclusive process of  
22 work groups and public forums to reach agreement on the strategies  
23 identified in the 2016 state strategic plan for workforce  
24 development, under the leadership of the Workforce Board's labor and  
25 business representatives; and

26       WHEREAS, The strategies identified in the 2016 state strategic  
27 plan for workforce development represent the consensus of critical  
28 constituencies across the workforce system, including business,  
29 labor, and the agencies delivering workforce services; and

30       WHEREAS, The 2016 state comprehensive plan, titled *Talent and*  
31 *Prosperity for All*, emphasizes the following four strategic  
32 priorities:

33       (1) Achieving a more welcoming, streamlined customer experience  
34 in the workforce system by blending and braiding the delivery of  
35 services more effectively;

36       (2) Strengthening the breadth and quality of the workforce  
37 system's engagement with the business community, emphasizing sector  
38 strategies and a focus on in-demand industries;

1 (3) Ensuring a workforce system that is universally accessible  
2 for all customers, leveraging technology and other tools to identify  
3 and remove barriers to access; and

4 (4) Refining Washington's performance accountability system to  
5 inform a process of continual, data-driven improvement; and

6 WHEREAS, The provisions of the comprehensive plan and updates  
7 approved by the Legislature become the state's workforce policy  
8 unless legislation is enacted to alter the policies set forth  
9 therein;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of  
11 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, hereby approve  
12 the 2016 state comprehensive plan for workforce training and  
13 education.

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