

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 65

Introduced by Assembly Member Ruskin

April 22, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 65—Relative to higher education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 65, as introduced, Ruskin. Joint Committee on the Master Plan for Higher Education.

This measure would establish the Joint Committee on the Master Plan for Higher Education. The measure would provide that the joint committee would consist of a number of Assembly Members and Senators to be determined by the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Committee on Rules. The committee would be established to review the Master Plan for Higher Education and create a framework to ensure that higher education continues to thrive, among other things. The measure would allow the Senate Committee on Rules and the Assembly Committee on Rules to make money available to the joint committee from their respective operating funds.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Education is the most important function of the
- 2 State of California and is essential to the cultural, political, and
- 3 economic health of the state and the nation; and
- 4 WHEREAS, California's population is rich in ethnic and cultural
- 5 diversity, which is a resource that should continually be developed
- 6 to ensure the ongoing success of the state and its residents; and

1 WHEREAS, California has developed an extraordinary higher
2 educational system with an unprecedented investment of public
3 and private moneys and the energy and commitment of countless
4 individuals; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1960, California established a master plan for
6 the development, expansion, and integration of the facilities,
7 curriculum, and standards of higher education in junior colleges,
8 the California State University system, the University of California
9 system, and other institutions of higher education in the state to
10 meet the needs of the state during the 10 years following the master
11 plan's establishment; and

12 WHEREAS, The 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education was
13 a precedent-setting document that envisioned a place for every
14 Californian, regardless of background or income, and the 2009–10
15 Master Plan review effort seeks to continue the wisdom and
16 opportunity included by the original framers; and

17 WHEREAS, The drafters of the 1960 Master Plan for Higher
18 Education foresaw a changing California and a postsecondary
19 education system that would adapt to, meet, and overcome the
20 demands inherent with change; and

21 WHEREAS, Since the adoption of the 1960 Master Plan for
22 Higher Education, the master plan has been reviewed periodically
23 by the Commission for the Review of the Master Plan for Higher
24 Education, the Coordinating Council for Higher Education, the
25 Joint Committee for Review of the Master Plan in Higher
26 Education, and the California Postsecondary Education
27 Commission; and

28 WHEREAS, California is at a crossroad as our economy
29 demands a highly skilled workforce, yet a significant number of
30 our next generation are not being prepared to meet our economic
31 demands; and

32 WHEREAS, The recent economic downturn has taken a toll on
33 the state's fiscal support for public higher education; however, the
34 economy will revive, and this Master Plan review can set a
35 framework for funding priorities when funds become available to
36 restore and increase the state's support for its colleges and
37 universities and invest in preparing its future workforce; now,
38 therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
40 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California

1 hereby establishes the Joint Committee on the Master Plan for
2 Higher Education for the purposes of reviewing the Master Plan
3 for Higher Education and creating a framework to ensure that our
4 higher education system continues to thrive and contribute to a
5 healthy and prosperous future for California and its students; and
6 be it further

7 *Resolved*, That the joint committee shall consist of as many
8 members of the Assembly, including one co-chair, as are appointed
9 to the committee by the Speaker of the Assembly, and as many
10 members of the Senate, including one co-chair, as are appointed
11 to the committee by the Senate Committee on Rules, provided that
12 the members appointed from each house shall be appointed in
13 equal number; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the joint committee and its members shall have
15 and exercise all of the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon
16 investigating committees and their members by the Joint Rules of
17 the Senate and the Assembly as they are adopted and amended
18 from time to time, which provisions are incorporated herein and
19 made applicable to this committee and its members; and be it
20 further

21 *Resolved*, That the Senate Committee on Rules may make money
22 available from the Senate Operating Fund, as it deems necessary,
23 for the expenses of the joint committee and its members. Any
24 expenditure of money shall be made in compliance with policies
25 set forth by the Senate Committee on Rules and shall be subject
26 to the approval of the Senate Committee on Rules; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Assembly Committee on Rules may make
28 money available from the Assembly Operating Fund, as it deems
29 necessary, for the expenses of the joint committee and its members.
30 Any expenditure of money shall be made in compliance with
31 policies set forth by the Assembly Committee on Rules and shall
32 be subject to the approval of the Assembly Committee on Rules;
33 and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the joint committee is authorized to act until
35 November 30, 2010, at which time the committee's existence shall
36 terminate; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the joint committee shall submit a report at the
38 end of the legislative session to the Legislature on its activities;
39 and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall transmit
- 2 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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