

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 134

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND SUPPORTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDU-
3 CATION'S GOAL THAT 60 PERCENT OF IDAHO CITIZENS AGES 25-34 EARN A POST-
4 SECONDARY DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE BY 2020 TO MEET THE STATE'S WORKFORCE
5 NEEDS.

6 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 WHEREAS, Idaho must grow talent within the state to fuel innovation and
8 competitiveness to support a robust economy; and

9 WHEREAS, increased education attainment improves the quality of life
10 for Idahoans by providing access to jobs with higher wages that support fami-
11 lies and create opportunities for personal financial security; and

12 WHEREAS, the jobs of the future are increasingly automated and technol-
13 ogy driven; and

14 WHEREAS, the state must support an education system in which students
15 graduate with the knowledge and skills that maximize their potential for
16 success in the workforce while providing businesses with the necessary tal-
17 ent to thrive; and

18 WHEREAS, there will continue to be a shortage of Idahoans with postsec-
19 ondary degrees, certificates and education credentials to meet future work-
20 force needs; and

21 WHEREAS, bolstering postsecondary academic and career technical educa-
22 tion opportunities in high demand fields, such as health care, information
23 technology, advanced manufacturing and transportation are increasingly im-
24 portant in meeting workforce needs; and

25 WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has set a goal that 60 percent of
26 citizens ages 25-34 attain a postsecondary degree or certificate by 2020;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, currently only 40 percent of citizens have a postsecondary de-
29 gree or certificate; and

30 WHEREAS, Idaho must increase the number of citizens ages 25-34 with a
31 postsecondary degree or a certificate by at least five percentage points a
32 year in order to reach the 60 percent goal; and

33 WHEREAS, 52 percent of Idaho's high school graduates are pursuing
34 higher education within one year of high school graduation; and

35 WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted local college and career advising pro-
36 grams and dual credit, career technical and advanced placement programs to
37 help students jump-start their higher education by setting college and car-
38 eer goals and earning college credit while in high school; and

39 WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has implemented the Direct Admis-
40 sions initiative to provide Idaho high school graduates the opportunity to
41 enroll in an Idaho public higher education institution; and

42 WHEREAS, 28 percent of Idaho adults over the age of 25 have attended col-
43 lege but have not completed a degree; and

1 WHEREAS, Idaho's colleges and universities have undertaken initiatives
2 to address college access, affordability, retention and graduation; and

3 WHEREAS, it is imperative that Idaho commit to efficiently and effec-
4 tively increasing postsecondary degrees and certificates; and

5 WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has joined the Complete College
6 American Alliance of States to become a recognized leader in talent creation
7 and workforce development; and

8 WHEREAS, Idaho must encourage families to prepare our children for edu-
9 cational attainment by helping them prepare for school, encouraging them to
10 read and value education.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
12 sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Repre-
13 sentatives concurring therein, that Idaho's education system kindergarten
14 through career should focus on ensuring that Idaho students are prepared for
15 success at the postsecondary level and in the workforce.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that parents, the State Board of Education, the
17 State Department of Education, the Division of Professional-Technical Ed-
18 ucation, the public higher education institutions, the Department of Labor
19 and the Department of Commerce work with educators, representatives from
20 business and industry, the Governor and the Legislature to promote policies
21 and programs that ensure Idaho is making progress toward the "60 by 20" goal
22 and that the State Board of Education will report annually to the Legislature
23 on such progress.