

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 193

Introduced by Assembly Member Liu
(Principal coauthor: Senator Scott)

March 11, 2004

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 193—Relative to higher education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 193, as introduced, Liu. Higher education.

This measure would declare that a top priority in future state policy and budgets would be the provision of opportunities for high-quality higher education consistent with the Master Plan for Higher Education in California. The measure would declare that the Legislature is committed to access to higher education for all qualified Californians, to high-quality teaching and programs of excellence on the campuses of California's public community colleges and universities, to educational equity through a diverse and representative student body and faculty, and to cost-effectiveness in institutional operations in serving students. The measure would also specify ways through which to achieve the provision of adequate opportunities for students to attend public higher education in California.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Higher education has long served as the key
- 2 engine for California's economic prosperity and quality of life;
- 3 and
- 4 WHEREAS, Californians have long embraced the concept that
- 5 higher education is both a public good and a private good, and the



1 state has established the best public higher education system in the
2 world; and

3 WHEREAS, California's public community colleges and
4 universities provide economic and social benefits that far
5 outweigh the costs to the taxpayers; and

6 WHEREAS, California's colleges and universities are an
7 essential resource for providing all Californians with the
8 educational services they need to become economically
9 self-sufficient and productive members of our society, which
10 results in a higher quality of life for all; and

11 WHEREAS, Between 2005 and 2015, the number of
12 college-age young people will increase much faster in California
13 than in any other state, and therefore California's existing colleges
14 and universities will need to accommodate 20 to 30 percent more
15 students in fall 2015 than were enrolled in fall 2003; and

16 WHEREAS, California now has the opportunity to provide a
17 college education over the next decade to 1,800,000 Californians
18 who will otherwise not have a chance to benefit from higher
19 education; and

20 WHEREAS, California's state budget has both a short-term and
21 a long-term deficit in revenues compared with current and
22 projected expenditures, and our public colleges and universities
23 are therefore expected to serve an increasing number of students
24 without a comparable increase in state funding; and

25 WHEREAS, Economic prosperity and the availability of good
26 jobs require continued scientific innovation and a growth in
27 economic productivity made possible by advanced knowledge and
28 skills; and

29 WHEREAS, The completion of vocational programs, associate
30 degrees, baccalaureates, and more advanced higher education
31 degrees is essential for individuals and families to achieve
32 economic security; and

33 WHEREAS, The demographic composition of California is
34 changing rapidly, and the overall rate of college participation will
35 fall unless California achieves an increased rate of college
36 participation for groups previously underrepresented in our
37 colleges and universities; and

38 WHEREAS, The opportunity to enroll in college is the prime
39 factor motivating students to perform well in high school and to
40 complete a rigorous academic curriculum; and



1 WHEREAS, A cornerstone of the 1960 Master Plan for Higher
2 Education in California, adopted under the leadership of the late
3 Clark Kerr, was the promise that the “state would assure all
4 qualified students access to a quality higher education”; and

5 WHEREAS, The State of California has been unable to expand
6 opportunities for higher education in recent years to the extent
7 required by a growing number of high school graduates, thus
8 retreating from the promise of the 1960 Master Plan; and

9 WHEREAS, The proportion of the state budget that is devoted
10 to higher education has been cut dramatically in the past 20 years;
11 now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
13 *thereof concurring*, That the California State Legislature declares
14 that a top priority in future state policy and budgets is the provision
15 of opportunities for high-quality higher education consistent with
16 the Master Plan for Higher Education in California, including all
17 feasible steps to accomplish all of the following:

- 18 (a) Preparation of students to undertake collegiate level study.
- 19 (b) Encouragement of students to attend college.
- 20 (c) Provision of financial assistance to ensure affordability for
21 all college students.

22 (d) Provision of the instructional and physical capacity to
23 provide higher education for all eligible and motivated students
24 leaving high school; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the California State Legislature is committed to
26 each of the four general policy goals expressed below:

- 27 (a) Access to higher education for all qualified Californians.
- 28 (b) High-quality teaching and programs of excellence on the
29 campuses of California’s public community colleges and
30 universities.
- 31 (c) Educational equity through a diverse and representative
32 student body and faculty.

33 (d) Cost-effectiveness in institutional operations in serving
34 students; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the provision of adequate opportunities for
36 students to attend public higher education in California shall be
37 achieved in the following three ways:

- 38 (a) Governing boards of the three segments of public higher
39 education shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the most



1 efficient use of limited state resources to accomplish all of the
2 following:

- 3 (1) Enrollment of eligible students.
- 4 (2) Acceleration of student progress to a degree.
- 5 (3) Responsiveness to the highest state priorities.

6 (b) The Legislature and the Governor shall collaboratively
7 develop and implement a long-term student fee policy to provide
8 gradual, moderate, and predictable fee increases that alleviate the
9 'boom and bust' cycles of the past, with the availability of
10 adequate need-based financial aid to ensure that higher education
11 is affordable for all students.

12 (c) The State of California, and its taxpayers, shall provide
13 adequate and appropriate public investment in higher education to
14 ensure that all California high school graduates can attend a public
15 college or university to secure the benefits of a college education;
16 and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy
18 of this resolution to each member of the Regents of the University
19 of California, the Trustees of the California State University, and
20 the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

