## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

## BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO UNDERTAKE AND COMPLETE A STUDY OF STATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

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

WHEREAS, in recognizing the advantages of having a highly educated and professionally skilled citizenry, the state of Idaho has adopted the following ambitious goal: to see at least 60% of Idahoans earn a postsecondary certificate or degree; and

WHEREAS, since 1989, the cost of attending a college or university has doubled, rising eight times faster than incomes have; and

WHEREAS, public institutions of higher education play a vital role in producing an educated citizenry and a vibrant economy; and

WHEREAS, the modern American higher education system was created by the Morrill Land-Grant Acts of 1862 and 1890 for the purpose of promoting academic and practical "education for the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life," instead of reserving the benefits of higher education to the social and economic elite; and

WHEREAS, American colleges and universities have been described as the "holy grail" of higher education, producing, in the last century, many of the world's breakthrough advances in science, medicine, technology, and other crucial fields of endeavor; and

WHEREAS, changes in technology and instructional delivery methods should make higher education more affordable and accessible, not less; and

WHEREAS, the high cost of public higher education is increasingly dissuading many students from pursuing a degree, even though the purpose of public colleges and universities is to make higher education available to all who seek it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislative Council is authorized to appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study of state funding for public institutions of higher education, with the goal of making higher education more accessible and affordable to Idaho students. The Legislative Council shall determine the number of legislators and membership from each house appointed to the committee and shall authorize the committee to receive input, advice, and assistance from interested and affected parties who are not members of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee consider the findings and recommendations in the Final Report of the Task Force on Higher Education, issued October 13, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nonlegislative members of the committee may be appointed by the cochairs of the committee who are appointed by the Leg-

islative Council. Nonlegislative members of the committee shall not be reimbursed from legislative funds for per diem, mileage, or other expenses and shall not have voting privileges regarding the committee's recommendations or proposed legislation.

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall report its findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, if any, to the First Regular Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature.