

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND DIRECTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCA-
3 TION, THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
4 TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP CHARGED WITH DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL, INCLUD-
5 ING PROPOSED LEGISLATION, TO STRENGTHEN THE LINKAGE BETWEEN IDAHO'S
6 PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS AND IDAHO'S WORKFORCE NEEDS.

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

8 WHEREAS, Idaho has a significant opportunity to help improve the wage
9 levels of its workforce; and

10 WHEREAS, Idaho employers experience significant difficulty in fill-
11 ing critical positions due to a shortage of workers having appropriate job
12 skills, experience and education; and

13 WHEREAS, significant employment opportunities exist in expanding
14 fields such as aerospace technology, health care, information technology,
15 advanced manufacturing, accounting, computer controlled tool and die pro-
16 duction and other professional careers; and

17 WHEREAS, well paid jobs are also immediately available for skilled
18 workers in diesel mechanics, auto body repair and mechanics, carpentry,
19 industrial electricians, construction management, advanced welding skills
20 for stainless steel and aluminum, production of carbon fiber products and
21 other mechanical trades; and

22 WHEREAS, appropriate basic education to enhance job skills is available
23 in Idaho high schools, technical postsecondary schools and Idaho community
24 colleges; and

25 WHEREAS, many employers offer advanced skill training through spe-
26 cially designed apprentice and intern programs; and

27 WHEREAS, Idaho colleges and universities offer enhanced education in
28 all professional, engineering, medical, business, computer science and re-
29 lated technologies; and

30 WHEREAS, there is a challenge establishing effective communication be-
31 tween industry and our educational institutions; and

32 WHEREAS, the 2013 K-12 Educational System Interim Committee determined
33 that the Legislature, as policymakers should ask experts in the fields of ed-
34 ucation, commerce and labor to collaborate in development of an action plan
35 to fully serve the economic needs of Idaho citizens and the economic opportu-
36 nities of Idaho business and industry.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
38 sion of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
39 the Senate concurring therein, that members of the Idaho State Board of Edu-
40 cation, representatives from the Idaho Department of Commerce and the Idaho
41 Department of Labor, should convene a working group to develop a robust plan
42 including proposed measures and benchmarks to strengthen the ties between
43 our public education systems and Idaho's business and industry. Such a plan

1 should be submitted to the First Regular Session of the Sixty-third Legisla-
2 ture.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in their collaboration and development of
4 the plan, the representatives from the Department of Commerce, the Depart-
5 ment of Labor and the Board of Education should invite representatives from
6 Idaho businesses and industry as well as educators in our K-12 and postsec-
7 ondary systems to participate and share their expertise and insight into
8 proposals that will strengthen the link between Idaho's public educational
9 systems and our workforce needs.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a plan should include policy recommen-
11 dations, including proposed legislation, to implement the provisions of the
12 plan.