



WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES
OFFICE OF THE MINORITY LEADER

BUILDING 1, ROOM M-260
1900 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST
CHARLESTON 25305

TIM MILEY
MINORITY LEADER

(304) 340-3240

May 17, 2016

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Tim Armstead, Speaker
West Virginia House of Delegates
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Building 1, Room 228-M
Charleston, WV 25301

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable William P. Cole, III
President of the Senate
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Building 1, Room 229-M
Charleston, WV 25301

Dear Speaker Armstead and President Cole:

Please find enclosed a draft resolution that I submitted for introduction near the end of the 2016 legislative session. While this resolution was not introduced in time for consideration during session, I believe that the study has merit and should be considered during the interim process. The resolution calls for the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study the sustainability of the state's current higher education system and make recommendations on how the state can better support our higher education institutions. As you will note from the sponsor list, this resolution had broad bipartisan support and sponsorship.

As our colleges and universities continue to face significant cuts in state funding, it is imperative that the Legislature analyzes our state's higher education system to eliminate inefficiencies and duplication. A comprehensive audit of West Virginia's higher education system can show the Legislature, the Higher Education Policy Commission and the Council for Community and Technical College Education where cost savings can be found and illustrate the hard policy decisions that must be made to achieve those cost savings.

I would appreciate your consideration of the content of this resolution as a topic to be discussed during the 2016 interim period.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy R. Miley".

Timothy R. Miley
Minority Leader

Enclosures

QBD

2948

SPONSOR LIST 2016

As of 1/19/16

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House Concurrent Resolution Number

(BY DELEGATES MILEY, ANDERSON, RODIGHIERO,
ESPINOSA, D. EVANS, FRICH, ROHRBACH, COOPER,
ELDRIDGE

SEE ATTACHED LIST FOR ADDITIONAL SPONSORS)

[Introduced]

1 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study the sustainability of the
2 state’s current system of higher education and how the state can better support the public
3 institutions of higher education.

4 Whereas, West Virginia is moving through a dramatic transformation during which
5 fundamental regulatory and supply and demand changes have sufficiently altered the trajectory
6 of the state’s coal and natural gas sectors. The state is facing significant budgetary challenges
7 and a current path that is not sustainable; and

8 Whereas, The best way to further the state’s priorities is not to rely on decades-old models
9 that seek to preserve the status quo, but instead, lies in questioning whether our current way of
10 doing business is sustainable and identifying new solutions; and

11 Whereas, It is essential that the leaders of the state reinvent the manner in which the state
12 conducts business in order to meet certain goals, including the goal of maintaining productive
13 institutions of higher education that educate the workforce of tomorrow and continue to be
14 economic engines that help to drive the state’s economy; therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

1 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is requested to study and review
2 the sustainability of the state's current system of higher education and how the state can better
3 support the institutions; and, be it

4 *Further Resolved*, That in conducting the study, the Committee review the following issues
5 related to success of the institutions: How to increase retention and graduation rates; how to
6 maintain affordable tuition; how to increase access to institutions; how to promote economic
7 achievement through education; and, be it

8 *Further Resolved*, That in conducting the study, the Committee review the following issues
9 related to efficiency of institutional oversight: The amount of time institutions spend on multiple
10 levels of approvals and reporting activities to the State; the amount of time institutions spend
11 interacting with the State Treasurer's and Auditor's offices; and whether the Higher Education
12 Policy Commission should be a coordinating or second-step governing body; and, be it

13 *Further Resolved*, That in conducting the study, the Committee review the following issues
14 related to institutional funding: Whether all eighteen of the state's four-year and two-year
15 institutions are viable as currently constituted; how the institutions should they be transformed if
16 they are not currently viable; whether the institutions should share administrative expenses; and
17 the effectiveness of the governing boards at each institution; and, be it

18 *Further Resolved*, That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance report to the
19 Legislature, on the first day of the regular session 2017, on its findings, conclusions and
20 recommendations together with drafts of any legislation to effectuate its recommendations; and,
21 be it

22 *Further Resolved*, That the expenses necessary to conduct this study, to prepare a report
23 and to draft necessary legislation be paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee
24 on Government and Finance.