

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 115

BY TYMESON

A Concurrent Resolution requesting the Legislative Council to establish an interim study committee to examine the costs and benefits of Iowa joining the Midwestern Higher Education Compact.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Iowa take pride in having a well-educated workforce and citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Iowa's skyrocketing postsecondary education costs, while keeping pace with the rising tuition costs at public postsecondary institutions in many other states, are reducing the accessibility and affordability that Iowans have come to expect from Iowa's public postsecondary institutions; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact is to promote interstate cooperation and resource sharing in higher education among Midwestern states; and

WHEREAS, states that are members of the compact have increased educational access for their citizens while attracting students from other states; NOW

THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Legislative Council is requested to create an interim study committee to examine the costs and benefits of joining the Midwestern Higher Education Compact; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the interim study committee membership shall be comprised of ten voting members, who shall be members of the General Assembly,

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1 and shall include additional members as nonvoting, ex
2 officio members, including but not limited to
3 representatives from the area education agencies,
4 accredited public and nonpublic schools, accredited
5 private postsecondary institutions, community
6 colleges, institutions of higher education under the
7 control of the state board of regents, cities, and
8 counties; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the charge of the
10 committee shall be to estimate the savings and
11 revenues the state could realize from joining the
12 compact; identify the costs of joining the compact,
13 both in membership dues and as Iowa students cross
14 Iowa's borders to attend institutions in other states;
15 review the resources the compact offers, programs
16 sponsored by the compact, and the program agreements
17 reached; and examine examples of regional cooperation
18 and innovation in the delivery of educational
19 services; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the interim study
21 committee shall submit its findings and
22 recommendations in a report to the General Assembly by
23 December 15, 2004.

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