

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 304

WHEREAS, Missouri currently ranks 30th in the nation in number of our 25-34 year olds with a degree past high school; and

WHEREAS, a key component to creating a better Missouri is striving to have an educated workforce in our state for the future; and

WHEREAS, there is an indisputable correlation between the economic prosperity of a state and the level of education of its workforce; and

WHEREAS, according to the Lumina Foundation for Education, the United States, for years, led the world as the most successful and prosperous nation because our citizens had typically been the most educated, yet our nation now ranks 10th among industrialized nations in the percentage of young adults with college degrees; and

WHEREAS, our current ranking of 30th in the nation in number of 25-34 year olds with a degree past high school places Missouri behind our neighboring states of Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois; and

WHEREAS, as part of our long-term strategy and plan for creating an educated workforce, we must move more of our young people into an education experience past high school if we are going to compete with our neighboring states and the rest of the world; and

WHEREAS, the strategy cannot simply focus on higher education, but must take place along the entire spectrum of education from early childhood to higher education;

WHEREAS, the members of the Missouri Senate are a dedicated group of individuals who should lead in developing this long-term strategy and plan:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-fifth General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby create the Missouri Senate Educated Workforce 2020 Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall be responsible for developing long-term plans and strategies for:

- a. An early childhood education system where every child enters elementary school with the tools needed to succeed by ensuring access to quality early childhood education and support for stay-at-home parents; and
- b. An elementary and secondary education system that educates students that are capable of attending and succeeding at institutions of higher education; and
- c. A higher education system that is designed to successfully prepare graduates for competition in the global economy; and
- d. Any other aspects of education policy that the Committee deems appropriate for creating an educated workforce in our state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall elect a chairperson and a vice chairperson for the Committee who shall serve during the pendency of the Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the authority of the Committee shall terminate on December 31, 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall be authorized to call upon any department, office, division, or agency of this state to assist in gathering information pursuant to its objective; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staff of Senate Research shall provide such legal, research, clerical, technical, and bill drafting services as the Committee may require in the performance of its duties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee, its members, and any staff assigned to the Committee shall receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Committee.