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Connecting workforce and postsecondary education: Legislative trends

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Presentation Roadmap

- Introduction to ECS
- Workforce and postsecondary alignment in policy
- Themes of workforce-postsecondary alignment
- State policy examples



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- ECS believes in the power of peer-informed learning to drive education policy change and successful student outcomes.
- ECS helps state leaders learn from what's worked, what hasn't, and focus on what's next.

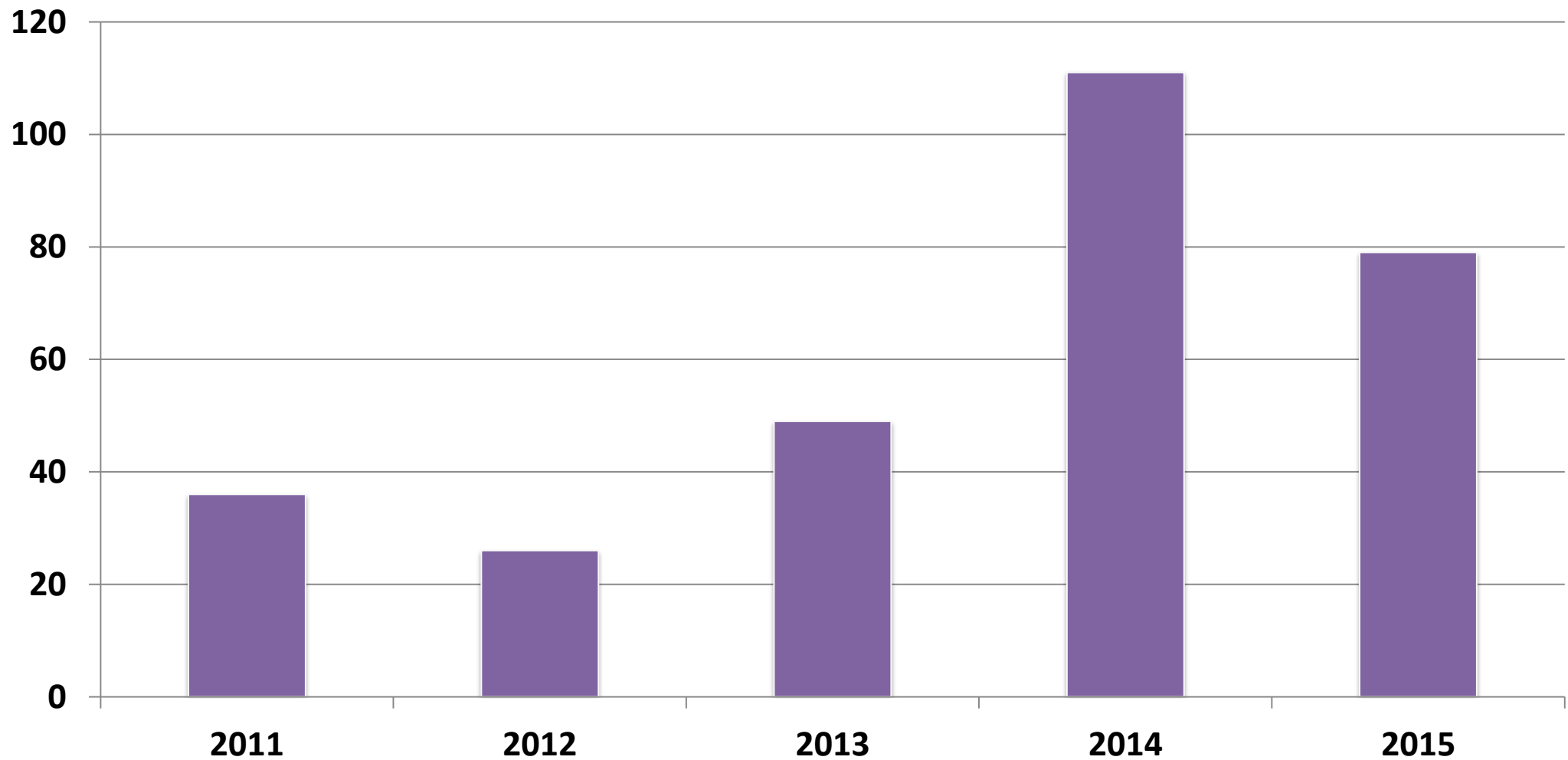
Connecting Workforce and Postsecondary

- Alignment of postsecondary education programs with workforce needs is a top-level state policy topic and is trending upward.
- The alignment conversation is informed by discussions of:
 - ROI for individual degrees
 - Outcome measure for performance-funding
 - Curricular design and creating “employable” graduates



Trending Topic

Workforce/PS Alignment Bills Introduced, 2011-15



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Themes of Policy Actions

- Financial incentives
- Targets programs and pathways
- Longitudinal data-systems
- Establishment of working groups



Financial Incentives

- **For Students:**
 - **SD SB 233 (2013)** – Creates a scholarship program for individuals that agree to stay in South Dakota to work as a teacher in critical needs fields.
- **For Institutions:**
 - **IN HB 1003 (2014)** – Provides funding for institutions to support cooperative arrangements with businesses that provide training for students.
 - **LA H.B. 1033 (2014)** – Creates the Workforce and Innovation for a Stronger Economy (WISE) Fund. The performance-based fund provides funds to community colleges that are filling state workforce needs.



Targeted Programs and Pathways

- **Broad focus:**
 - TX HB 2628 (2015) – Requires the THECB to review each field of study curriculum to ensure alignment with academic and industry needs and to support attainment of industry-recognized certificates or degrees.
 - CT SB 868 (2013) – Ensures that courses offered by regional community-technical colleges directly correlate with workforce shortage needs.
- **Narrow focus:**
 - IN SB 331 (2014) – Builds pathways for military veterans to enter the teaching profession
 - MD SB 677 (2015) – Develops master plan to address shortage of ECE workers.

Longitudinal Data-systems

- **KY SB 83 (2013)** – Establishes the Office of Education and Workforce Statistics to collect statewide education and workforce data.
- **WI Act 20 (2013)** – Adds the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Workforce Development to the statewide longitudinal data system to better track student achievement and workforce preparedness.
- **TX HB 1287 (2015)** – Requires postsecondary institution websites to display employment data.

Working Groups

- **NJ AB 4671 (2015)** – Establishes NJ Commission on Higher Education and Business Partnerships to identify the workforce and economic development needs of the state and to study the current roles of institutions in meeting those needs
- **ID HCR 53 (2013)** – Establishes a working group of industry leaders and educational institutions to develop policy recommendations focused on linking educational opportunities and workforce needs.

Takeaways

- Significant state policy activity aimed at establishing and strengthen linkages between workforce and postsecondary education.
- Policy addresses financial, curricular, and informational issues.
- Set-up to be a major thrust of policy activity at federal and state level in 2016.



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