

76th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2012 Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

MEASURE: HB 4059-A

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Komp
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Monroe

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 25 – 0 – 0

House

Yeas: Beyer, Buckley, Cowan, Freeman, Garrard, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Nolan, Read, Richardson, G. Smith, Thatcher, Whisnant

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Thomsen, Verger, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: John Terpening, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: February 24, 2012

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to carry out goals relating to awarding academic credit for prior learning by students. Directs commission to appoint work group to assist in meeting goals. Requires commission to submit annual report to Legislative Assembly on progress toward meeting goals. Directs commission to report to Legislative Assembly on proposed partnership with Western Governors University to provide online higher education degree programs and financial aid for Oregon students enrolled in university. Takes effect July 1, 2012.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact of the measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The granting of credit for prior learning is widely recognized as an effective tool to increase completion of college degrees and certificates. House Bill 4059-A directs HECC to implement policies and practices to increase credit for prior learning while establishing guidelines to ensure that credit is granted only for high quality course-level competencies. The measure requires annual reports to the Legislative Assembly on progress made toward increasing the number and type of academic credits accepted for prior learning.

Western Governors University (WGU) was founded by the Governors of 19 states to expand access to higher education through online, competency-based degree programs, and currently serves over 30,000 students in 50 states. House Bill 4059-A directs the HECC to investigate and report on the feasibility of an Oregon partnership with WGU that would allow for financial aid, data sharing and outreach to students who have completed some post-secondary coursework but have not obtained a degree.