

# House Bill 4059

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Higher Education)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

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.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to higher education; and prescribing an effective date.

2 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

3 **SECTION 1. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall work with the**  
4 **State Board of Higher Education, the State Board of Education and independent for-profit**  
5 **and not-for-profit institutions of higher education to carry out the following goals:**

6 (a) **Increase the number of students who receive academic credit for prior learning and**  
7 **the number of students who receive academic credit for prior learning that counts toward**  
8 **their major or toward earning their degree, certificate or credential, while ensuring that**  
9 **credit is awarded only for high quality course-level competencies;**

10 (b) **Increase the number and type of academic credits accepted for prior learning in in-**  
11 **stitutions of higher education, while ensuring that credit is awarded only for high quality**  
12 **course-level competencies;**

13 (c) **Develop transparent policies and practices in awarding academic credit for prior**  
14 **learning;**

15 (d) **Improve prior learning assessment practices across all institutions of higher educa-**  
16 **tion;**

17 (e) **Create tools to develop faculty and staff knowledge and expertise in awarding aca-**  
18 **ademic credit for prior learning and to share exemplary policies and practices among insti-**  
19 **tutions of higher education;**

20 (f) **Develop articulation agreements when patterns of academic credit for prior learning**  
21 **are identified for particular programs and pathways; and**

22 (g) **Develop outcome measures to track progress on the goals outlined in this section.**

23 (2) **The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall appoint an advisory committee**  
24 **to coordinate implementation of the goals in subsection (1) of this section. The committee**  
25 **shall include:**

26 (a) **A member recommended for appointment by the State Board of Higher Education**  
27

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 representing public universities in this state.

2 (b) A member recommended for appointment by the State Board of Education repre-  
3 senting community colleges in this state.

4 (c) A member representing independent not-for-profit institutions of higher education  
5 located in this state.

6 (d) A member representing for-profit institutions of higher education offering degree  
7 programs to students in this state.

8 (e) A member representing the business community.

9 (f) A member representing the labor community.

10 (g) A member who is a student at a two-year or four-year institution of higher education  
11 located in this state.

12 (h) Other members appointed by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission based  
13 upon a demonstrated interest in and knowledge of prior learning programs.

14 (3) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall submit an annual report to the  
15 Legislative Assembly no later than December 31 of each calendar year, in the manner pre-  
16 scribed by ORS 192.245, reporting on progress toward meeting the goals set forth in sub-  
17 section (1) of this section.

18 (4) For the purposes of this section, "prior learning" means the knowledge and skills  
19 gained through work and life experience, through military training and experience and  
20 through formal and informal education and training from institutions of higher education in  
21 the United States and in other nations.

22 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall prepare a report  
23 for the Legislative Assembly that proposes a partnership with Western Governors Univer-  
24 sity, a nonprofit, online, competency-based university created through a collaboration of  
25 governors of the western states, to provide:

26 (a) Enhanced access for residents of this state to online, competency-based higher edu-  
27 cation degree programs offered by Western Governors University;

28 (b) Coordination between this state and Western Governors University in terms of fi-  
29 nancial aid eligibility, data sharing and outreach efforts to adults who have completed some  
30 college coursework, but have not attained a degree; and

31 (c) Specific new programs or modifications to existing programs to provide for financial  
32 aid to Oregon residents enrolling at Western Governors University.

33 (2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall submit the report, with recom-  
34 mendations for necessary legislation, to the Legislative Assembly in the manner provided by  
35 ORS 192.245 no later than November 1, 2012.

36 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this 2012 Act is repealed on the date of the convening of the 2013  
37 regular session of the Legislative Assembly as specified in ORS 171.010.

38 **SECTION 4.** This 2012 Act takes effect on July 1, 2012.  
39