

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 4 - 0 - 1

**Yeas:** Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Walker

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** Westlund

**Prepared By:** Dana Richardson, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 2/20, 3/13, 3/15

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Defines diploma mill. Excludes from definition schools that offer degrees in only theology or religious occupations and schools making reasonable progress toward accreditation. Authorizes Oregon Student Assistance Commission to terminate activities of diploma mills and unrecognized post-secondary accrediting bodies. Adjusts for inflation the schedule of application fees for conferring degrees. Adds fee for partial degree programs. Authorizes commission to assess costs for use of experts to evaluate programs. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2007.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Raising fees based on Consumer Price Index
- Titles for partial degree programs

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Changes definition of diploma mill. Excludes from definition schools that offer degrees in only theology or religious occupations and schools making reasonable progress toward accreditation.

**BACKGROUND:** A diploma mill is an institution of higher education that operates without supervision of a state or professional agency and grants diplomas that are either fraudulent or, because of the lack of proper regulations, are worthless. The diploma mill industry is estimated at more than \$200 million a year nationwide. The commission currently maintains a website listing of 331 recently reported unaccredited degree suppliers.