

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

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

---

<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Clem, Dallum, Greenlick, Komp, Krummel, Lim, Roblan, Buckley
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Whisnant
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Derrick Olsen, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/11

---

**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:**

- Diploma mills
- Regional accreditors
- Work of Oregon Student Assistance Commission's Office of Degree Authorization

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Eliminates a provision in statute that requires the Oregon Student Assistance Commission's Office of Degree Authorization (ODA) to adjudicate alleged violations of the standards of regional accreditors, such as the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities, by colleges/universities; and exempt schools accredited by regional accreditors, such as the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities, from ODA oversight.

**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 reportedly estimated at more than \$200 million a year nationwide. The Oregon Student Assistance Commission currently maintains a website listing of over 300 recently reported unaccredited degree suppliers.

The Senate Education and General Government Committee gave SB 198-A a Do Pass as Amended recommendation with a 4-0-1 vote, and it passed the Senate 22-7-1.