

House Bill 2262

Ordered printed by the Speaker pursuant to House Rule 12.00A (5). Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski for Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development)

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**.

Modifies authority of Office of Degree Authorization to review of proposed publicly funded post-secondary degree programs and degree locations and resolution of disputes relating to degree programs and degree locations.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to higher education degrees; amending ORS 326.075, 348.603 and 351.203.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 348.603 is amended to read:

5 348.603. (1) The Oregon Student Assistance Commission, through the Office of Degree Authori-
6 zation, shall:

7 (a) Authorize approved schools to offer academic degree programs;

8 (b) Authorize approved degree-granting schools to offer nondegree programs leading to a certifi-
9 cate or diploma;

10 (c) Validate claims of degree possession;

11 (d) Terminate substandard or fraudulent degree activities; and

12 (e) Review proposed new publicly funded post-secondary **degree** programs and **degree** locations.

13 (2)(a) Following review of a proposed new publicly funded post-secondary **degree** program or
14 **degree** location, the commission shall recommend resolution to the appropriate governing boards
15 and mediate between the boards to seek a negotiated resolution if:

16 (A) There is a detrimental duplication of **degree** programs; or

17 (B) The **degree** program or **degree** location would have a significantly adverse impact on one
18 or more other segments of education.

19 (b) If the boards do not resolve the issue raised under paragraph (a) of this subsection within
20 90 days of the date when the issue was recommended to the boards for mediation, the commission
21 shall have final authority for approval or disapproval of the **degree** program or **degree** location. If
22 the boards do not resolve the issue, the commission shall approve or disapprove the **degree** program
23 or **degree** location within 180 days of the date when the review began.

24 (c) If the boards do not resolve the issue, the commission shall approve the **degree** program or
25 **degree** location if the commission finds that the program or location meets an unmet workforce need
26 in the state.

27 (d) The commission shall establish by rule a fair and neutral decision-making process in con-
28 sultation with representatives designated by the State Board of Education, the State Board of
29 Higher Education, associations representing Oregon independent colleges, associations representing
30 Oregon career colleges, and the governing boards of otherwise unrepresented post-secondary

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 schools.

2 (3) The commission, by rule, may impose a fee on any school or person requesting information
 3 from the commission. The amount of the fee shall be established to recover designated expenses in-
 4 curred by the commission in carrying out the administration of ORS 348.594 to 348.615. Any fees
 5 collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the Office of Degree Authorization Account
 6 established under ORS 348.601.

7 **SECTION 2.** ORS 326.075 is amended to read:

8 326.075. (1) The State Board of Education shall cooperate with the Education and Workforce
 9 Policy Advisor in the development of a state comprehensive education plan including elementary,
 10 secondary and community college education and in review of the board’s programs and budget. The
 11 board shall submit in timely fashion to the advisor such data as is appropriate in a form prescribed
 12 by the advisor.

13 (2) The board shall cooperate with the mediation process administered by the Oregon Student
 14 Assistance Commission pursuant to ORS 348.603 and, if a negotiated resolution cannot be reached
 15 by mediation, comply with the decisions of the commission regarding proposed new post-secondary
 16 **degree** programs and proposed new post-secondary **degree** locations.

17 **SECTION 3.** ORS 351.203 is amended to read:

18 351.203. (1) The State Board of Higher Education shall cooperate with the Education and
 19 Workforce Policy Advisor in the development of a state comprehensive education plan including
 20 post-secondary education and in review of the board’s programs and budget. The board shall submit
 21 in timely fashion to the advisor such data as is appropriate in a form prescribed by the advisor.

22 (2) The board shall cooperate with the mediation process administered by the Oregon Student
 23 Assistance Commission pursuant to ORS 348.603 and, if a negotiated resolution cannot be reached
 24 by mediation, comply with the decisions of the commission regarding proposed new post-secondary
 25 **degree** programs and proposed new post-secondary **degree** locations, including those proposed by
 26 Oregon Health and Science University in cooperation with the board under ORS 353.440.

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