

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Bonamici, Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Hass

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prohibits person who receives degree from diploma mill from using disclaimer to claim or represent that person possesses academic degree. Declares emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Definition of diploma mill
- Enforcement of prohibition on diploma mills

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Applies prohibition on claiming or representing possession of an academic degree to all persons whether or not the Oregon Student Assistance Commission has warned them to cease and desist from such claim or representation.

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.