

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

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

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference

**Vote:** 8 - 0 - 0

**Yeas:** Conger, Dembrow, Frederick, Huffman, Komp, Parrish, Gelser, Wingard

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Victoria Cox, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** Subcommittee: 3/22, 3/29 Full: 4/15

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs Office of Degree Authorization (ODA) to issue separate license to issue degrees to schools that meet exemption requirements.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Change in federal law requires colleges receiving Federal Title IV aid to be formally authorized by name
- Current ODA practice of licensing regionally accredited institutions by category
- Concerns with merger of ODA and Oregon Department of Education (ODE) in original bill
- Higher Education Coordinating Commission proposed in Senate Bill 242 (2011) precludes merger
- ODA administrator currently appointed by commissioners, not executive director

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Eliminates transfer of ODA from Oregon Student Assistance Commission to ODE. Restores school exemptions to reflect current statute. Eliminates list of regionally accredited schools exempt from degree authorization process and directs ODA to issue separate license to issue degrees to schools that meet exemption requirements.

**BACKGROUND:** Federal rules relating to student aid require states to authorize degree granting colleges and universities by name, not category. Oregon's ODA currently authorizes regionally accredited nonprofit colleges as a category, but does not name them. House Bill 2117-A amends current statute to comply with the new federal rule.