

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Dembrow  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Monroe

Revenue: Revenue statement issued

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

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Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and be Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 21 – 3 – 1

House

Yeas: Buckley, Cowan, Freeman, Garrard, Komp, Kotek, McLane, Nathanson, Richardson, G. Smith, Whisnant

Nays: Beyer, Thatcher

Exc: Nolan

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Thomsen, Whitsett, Winters

Nays: Verger

Exc:

Prepared By: Paul Siebert, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 8, 2011

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Redefines Oregon University System (OUS) as public university system with greater authority and independence to manage affairs, operations and obligations. Creates Higher Education Coordinating Commission (Commission). Authorizes Commission to coordinate higher education goals and policy with OUS. Places responsibility for liability, defense and indemnity on OUS and State Board of Higher Education. Creates process for State Board of Higher Education to enter into performance compact with state in conjunction with biennial funding request. Eliminates requirement to seek permission to exceed expenditure limitation to spend other available moneys, including enrollment fees collected. Exempts OUS from certain laws relating to state agencies. Preserves labor contracts, retirement, benefits and preferences. Authorizes board to purchase property and construct facilities without legislative approval. Maintains all interest earned in Oregon University System Fund to OUS. Transfers functions of the Office of Degree Authorization to Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Changes the name of the Oregon Student Assistance Commission to the Oregon Student Access Commission. Most OUS governance sections become operative January 1, 2012. Creation of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission operative July 1, 2012. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Fiscal impact of the bill
- Budget adjustments related to the fiscal impact of this bill will be implemented in the budget reconciliation bill at the end of session

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Changes the name of the Oregon Student Assistance Commission to the Oregon Student Access Commission. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission becomes operative July 1, 2012. Transfers functions of the Office of Degree Authorization to Higher Education Coordinating Commission on July 1, 2012. Makes OUS subject to DAS assessment charges until July 1, 2012. Makes OUS responsible for management, maintenance, and preservation of all real property utilized by OUS.

**BACKGROUND:** The Interim Legislative Higher Education Workgroup conducted numerous meeting with the State Board of Higher Education, OUS, university presidents, student and faculty groups, state and regional agencies, union and business organizations and consulted with national higher education specialists to evaluate impediments in the current system and to explore options on higher education reform. SB 242 is a product of that work.