

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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

Revenue: Revenue statement issued

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the B-Engrossed Measure with Amendments to Resolve Conflicts and be Printed C-Engrossed

Vote: 22 – 2 – 1

House

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

Nays: Beyer, Thatcher

Exc:

Senate

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

Nays:

Exc: Nelson

Prepared By: Paul Siebert, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 24, 2011

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: Resolves conflicts.

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.