

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Without Recommendation as to Passage and Be Referred to the Committee on Rules
Vote:	6 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Dembrow, Frederick, Huffman, Komp, Gelser, Wingard
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Conger, Parrish
Prepared By:	Victoria Cox, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/16, 6/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Revises mission of higher education to meet numerical goals for adult Oregonians. Repeals existing legislative intent and declaration of public purpose for higher education.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Higher education work group process
- Updating statutory language to reflect aspirational goals
- Student retention and transition from community colleges to universities
- Regional disparities

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: ORS 351 declares that the mission of higher education in Oregon is to enable students to extend prior educational experiences in order to reach their full potential as participating and contributing citizens. The statutes have no set numerical educational goals for what should be accomplished; no established measures of accountability to determine whether educational goals are being attained; and no delegation to institutions to determine how educational goals are to be achieved.

Senate Bill 253-A replaces the current mission and purpose of higher education with statutory language that includes achievement of the following numerical goals by 2025:

- At least 40 percent of adult Oregonians earn a bachelor's degree or higher
- At least 40 percent of adult Oregonians earn an associate's degree or post-secondary credential
- The remaining 20 percent or less of adult Oregonians earn a high school diploma, extended or modified diploma or equivalent as their highest level of educational attainment