

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Dembrow

Carrier – Senate: Sen. Hass

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Without recommendation as to Passage

Vote: 24 – 1 – 0

House

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

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

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

Nays: Girod

Exc:

Prepared By: John Terpening, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 17, 2011

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:

- Fiscal impact of the measure

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 contain 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; and 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.