

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Bonamici, George, Morse, Shields, Hass

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Linda Lindholm, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/1, 2/3

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:

- Codification of state’s mission and numerical goals for raising the education levels of its adults
- Affordable, accessible and available quality education
- Educational advancement direct relationship to income, employment and citizenship
- Benefits to Oregon’s economy and opportunities in the global economy

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Inserts the word “adult” before Oregonians to clarify that children are not subject to the 40-40-20 goal.

BACKGROUND: Currently, ORS 351 declares that the mission of all 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. Education enterprise missions are meant to ensure that Oregonians possess the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in learning, working and citizenship to create prosperity and opportunity for Oregon in the global economy.

SB 253 A replaces 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