

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
Vote:	7 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Greenlick, Hunt, Lindsay, Sheehan, Sprenger, Dembrow, Johnson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Harker
Prepared By:	Victoria Cox, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to implement strategies to increase awarding of credit for prior learning for Oregon students. Directs HECC to appoint an advisory committee to assist, and to report progress annually to the Legislative Assembly. Grants authority for institutional governing boards to adopt policies and practices in awarding credit for prior learning. Directs HECC to report no later than November 1, 2012 on proposed partnership with Western Governors University.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Needs of nontraditional students
- Capacity necessary to reach 40-40-20 educational goals
- Available options for prior learning assessments
- History and programs of Western Governors University

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Empowers the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to work directly with community college districts. Grants authority for institutional governing boards to adopt policies and practices in awarding credit for prior learning.

BACKGROUND: The granting of credit for prior learning is widely recognized as an effective tool to increase completion of college degrees and certificates. House Bill 4059-A directs HECC to implement policies and practices to increase credit for prior learning while establishing guidelines to ensure that credit is granted only for high quality course-level competencies. The measure requires annual reports to the Legislative Assembly on progress made toward increasing the number and type of academic credits accepted for prior learning.

Western Governors University (WGU) was founded by the Governors of 19 states to expand access to higher education through online, competency-based degree programs, and currently serves over 30,000 students in 50 states. House Bill 4059-A directs the HECC to investigate and report on the feasibility of an Oregon partnership with WGU that would allow for financial aid, data sharing and outreach to students who have completed some post-secondary coursework but have not obtained a degree.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.