

Legislative leaders and the Governor have proposed 2013 legislation that (a) allows for local governing boards at large public universities and (b) streamlines state-level policymaking and oversight of post-secondary education (SB 270 & HB 3120). The proposed amendments to HB 3120 were developed through a stakeholder process that included legislators and representatives of the Oregon University System, the State Board of Higher Education, Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, Oregon Student Access Commission, Oregon Students Association, Oregon Community College Association, Associated Oregon Industries, Oregon Community Foundation, AFT Oregon, Portland State University, Eastern Oregon University, and others.

These amendments: (1) recharter the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) with new and enhanced responsibilities to ensure greater P-20 connection and consolidate policy coordination of student aid, community colleges and universities; (2) transfer existing authorities that the State Board of Education has for community colleges to the HECC; and (3) transfer policy authorities of the Oregon Student Access Commission to the HECC.

While the current amendment to HB 3120 does not establish an Office of Post-Secondary Education and Workforce Development, the bill clarifies state-level responsibility for post-secondary outcomes, improves coordination between Oregon's post-secondary institutions, and enhances the ability of Oregon's public universities and community colleges to adapt to the changing landscape of higher education.

1. HECC General Authorities.

- a. Rewrite ORS 351.735 to reflect updated general authorities for the HECC.
- b. Ensure that specific, preexisting statutory references to the HECC are consistent with the rewritten general authorities in ORS 351.735.

2. Transfers of Specific Board/Commission Authorities.

- a. Transfer authorities from the OSAC (commission) and SBE (for community colleges) to HECC, effective 7/1/2014.
- b. Establish a financial aid advisory group.

3. HECC Membership.

- a. Establish the composition of the new HECC (ORS 351.715).
- b. Effective July 1, 2013, permit the Governor to appoint the new HECC, subject to Senate confirmation.

4. HECC Staff.

- a. Allow ORS 351.725 and 351.738 to suffice for HECC's staffing authorities: an Executive Director with the authority to hire additional staff.
- b. Before July 1, 2014, the Governor may appoint the HECC Executive Director. After July 1, 2014, the HECC Executive Director will serve at the pleasure of the HECC.

- c. Effective July 1, 2014, the Community College Commissioner and OSAC Executive Director are appointed by the HECC Executive Director.

5. Timelines.

- a. Governor appoints new HECC summer, 2013 (Senate confirmation September, 2013)
- b. Governor appoints HECC executive director, who supports the commission in preparing for the transition.
- c. New HECC authorities become effective 7/1/14 (consistent with SB 270).

351.735.

(1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall be guided by the legislative findings in 351.001 and 351.003 and the post-secondary goals in 351.006 and 351.009.

(2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall:

(a) Advise the Oregon Education Investment Board on:

(A) State goals and associated achievement compacts for the state post-secondary education system, including community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002, and for scholarship, loan, and grant programs described in ORS Chapter 348;

(B) Strategic investments in the state's community colleges, public universities, and financial aid necessary to achieve the state's goals for post-secondary education; and

(C) Coordination of the post-secondary elements of data collection and structure, with the advice and recommendation of the state's community colleges and public universities, as appropriate, in order to assist the Oregon Education Investment Board in the construction of a state longitudinal data system as authorized by law.

(b) Adopt a strategic plan for achieving the state's post-secondary education goals, taking into consideration the contributions of this state's independent institutions, philanthropic organizations, and other organizations dedicated to helping Oregonians reach state goals. State post-secondary education goals as described in this section should include, but need not be limited to:

(A) Increasing the educational attainment of the population;

(B) Increasing this state's global economic competitiveness and the quality of life of its citizens;

(C) Ensuring affordable access for qualified Oregon students at each college or public university; and

(D) Removes barriers to on-time completion.

(c) Track progress toward meeting the state's post-secondary education goals established in the strategic plan described in (2)(a).

(d) Recommend to the Governor and the Oregon Education Investment Board, each biennium, after receiving funding requests from the state's community colleges and public universities as authorized by law, a consolidated higher education budget request aligned with the strategic plan, including appropriations for:

(A) scholarship, loan, and grant programs described in ORS Chapter 348;

- (B) public universities, including but not limited to education and general operations, statewide public services, and state-funded debt service
 - (C) community colleges;
 - (D) new facilities or programs;
 - (E) Capital improvements and deferred maintenance; and
 - (F) Special initiatives and investments.
- (e) Distribute legislatively-appropriated state resources to community colleges, public universities, and scholarship, loan, and grant programs described in ORS Chapter 348 based on allocation formulas developed with the recommendation of the state's community colleges and public universities, as appropriate.
- (f) Approve or disapprove any significant change in a community college or university's academic program, advised by the recommendation from the community college or public university pursuant to its governing board's process to review and approve academic programs. The Commission shall ensure that programs:
- (A) Are consistent with the mission statement of the public community college or university;
 - (B) Do not unnecessarily duplicate academic programs offered by Oregon's other public community colleges or universities;
 - (C) Are not located in a geographic area that will cause undue hardship to Oregon's other public community colleges or universities; and
 - (D) Are allocated among Oregon's public colleges and universities to maximize the achievement of statewide needs and requirements.
- (g) For public universities listed in ORS 352.002:
- (A) Adopt any changes to the mission statements upon the recommendation from the public university's governing board pursuant to any process required to review and approve changes to mission statements.
 - (B) Approve annual increase to resident undergraduate enrollment fees as defined in ORS 351.063 greater than five percent.
 - (C) Advise the Governor and Legislative Assembly on issues of university governance.
 - (D) Approve and authorize degrees.
- (h) Authorize degrees to be offered by independent post-secondary institutions in this state under ORS 348.594 to 348.615.
- (i) Oversee the licensing of career schools under ORS 345.010 to 345.450.

- (3) In addition to the duties described in subsection (1) of this section, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall advise the Legislature, the Governor, public universities, community colleges, and other state boards and commissions on policies to:
 - (a) Ensure or improve access to higher education by diverse and underserved populations.
 - (b) Encourage student success and completion initiatives.
 - (c) Improve the coordination of the provision of educational services, including:
 - (A) Transfers and co-enrollment throughout the higher education system;
 - (B) Accelerated college credit programs for high school students;
 - (C) Applied baccalaureate and other transfer degrees;
 - (D) Programs and grants that span multiple institutions; and
 - (E) Reciprocity agreements with other states.
 - (d) In coordination with the State Board of Education, enhance the use and quality of dual credit, career/technical pathways, and efforts to create a college-going culture.
 - (e) In coordination with the State Workforce Investment Board, local workforce investment boards, the Oregon Health and Science University, and independent institutions, ensure that the state's colleges and universities offer programs in high-demand occupations that meet Oregon's workforce needs.
 - (f) Improve economies of scale among the post-secondary institutions through the sharing of administrative services.
- (4) The Commission, in a manner consistent with Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 183, may promulgate administrative rules.
- (5) With this exception of rulemaking, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission may delegate any of its powers, duties, or functions to a committee of the Commission or its executive director.
- (6) The Commission may establish technical or advisory committees to assist it in exercising its powers, duties, and functions.
- (7) The Commission may only exercise powers, duties, and functions expressly granted by the Oregon Legislative Assembly.

