

House Bill 3120 A

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.

House Bill 3120A: (1) re-charters 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) transfers existing authorities that the State Board of Education has for community colleges to the HECC; and (3) transfers policy authorities of the Oregon Student Access Commission to the HECC.

While HB 3120A 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).