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Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

**Public Hearing on House Bill 2187  
Relating to regulation of career schools  
House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee  
February 11, 2013**

Chair Dembrow, members of the committee, I am Matthew Barber, a Compliance Specialist with, and lead worker of, the Private Career Schools Licensing Unit at the Oregon Department of Education. With me today is Cindy Hunt, the Department's Government and Legal Affairs Manager. We are here today to testify in support of HB 2187, which would allow the Department to transfer authority to regulate a career school to another state agency.

**Background**

HB 2187 would allow state agencies that adopt standards and criteria for the career schools that train in their areas to assume regulatory oversight and responsibility for those schools. To date, only the Oregon State Board of Nursing has adopted rules and taken action to regulate career schools, and only those that are in nursing homes offering Certified Nursing Assistant level 1 or 2 or Certified Medication Assistant programs.

**Legislation**

HB 2187 amends ORS 345.015 to clarify that the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction can grant an exemption from the licensure requirement after making a determination that a school is adequately regulated by other means.

It also creates a new statute within ORS chapter 345 that would allow the Department to transfer authority to regulate a career school to another state agency upon a determination by the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction that the other state agency is both willing and able to regulate the school in a manner that guarantees that the school will satisfy the standards of ORS 345.325.

A career school that receives an exemption under HB 2187 must still be licensed by the Department until all of its students who enrolled while the school was overseen by the Department have completed their programs and all of the school's programs are approved by the other state agency. Students enrolled in a school overseen by another state agency are still eligible for moneys from the Tuition Protection Fund.

If the exemption is revoked, or the school transfers back to the Department, HB 2187 establishes a process for returning oversight to the Department.