

Testimony to the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education - 5/8/2013

Senate Bill 102

- Fee assessment that is fair and balanced
- Fees aligned with resource requirements
- Fees that support “on-demand” services

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SB 102: EXISTING CHALLENGES

- **Fee structure doesn't match revenue with resource allocation.**
- **Proposed 2013-2015 budgets indicate fee revenues fully funding ODA operations and staffing. Current fees don't provide for sufficient staffing to meet legislative performance goals (KPMs) due to rising number of low fee reviews in recent years.**
- **Unfunded ODA functions have been de-prioritized (i.e. response to reports of diploma mill activity and fraudulent degree use).**
- **Rigid nature of statutory fee structure prevents necessary adaptation of ODA processes and practices to meet emerging workforce needs and impedes ODA responsiveness to new challenges precipitated by rapid change in higher education.**

SB 102: CHANGING WORKLOAD

- Growth in workload has outpaced ODA's staffing and fee revenues
- Current fees do not reflect changes in scope and complexity of work

Programs under ODA oversight	2010		2013	
	Number of schools	Number of programs	Number of schools	Number of programs
Oregon-based Schools with Campus and/or Online Degree and Certificate Programs	36	167	30	355
Out-of-State Schools with Online Degree and Certificate Programs with/without Supervised Clinical Placements in Oregon	60	76*	147**	1649
Religious exempt programs	5	8	7	32
TOTALS:	98	251	184	2036

**In 2010, most out-of-state applications requested approval for an individual student placement.*

***Since 2011, ODA has received 552 new applications from out-of-state institutions and other providers for approval to offer online degree programs to Oregonians and 147 are now approved.*

SB 102: PROPOSED CHANGES

- Current fee structure is based solely on program level. Proposed fee structure includes fees for other types of review and for ongoing oversight and support.

Type of Review	Current Fee	New Fee
Evaluation of degree program: Doctorate	\$5635	
Evaluation of degree program: Master's	\$4250	\$4000
Evaluation of degree program: Bachelor's	\$4250	
Evaluation of degree program: Associate's	\$2815	\$3000
Evaluation of Certificate/Diploma program	\$1025	\$2000
Evaluation of application for religious exemption	up to \$2125	\$1000
Evaluation of Oregon campus operations & student services plus ongoing oversight & on-demand technical assistance	None	\$1000/\$2000
Evaluation of request for approval of program change	None	up to \$500
Evaluation of new faculty/executive staff qualifications	None	\$50/\$100
Evaluation of out-of-state school: online w/o placement	\$250/school	\$1000/school
Evaluation of out-of-state school: online with placement	\$500/program	\$1000/school

SB 102: EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Restructures ODA fees – Increases/reduces various fees - Adds fees for specific “on-demand” ODA reviews - *and supports:*

- **More staffing flexibility to ensure sustainability of effort and support staff to meet the full range of ODA responsibilities.**
- **Fewer redundant reviews and increased automation of ODA processes to shorten review/response time and increase public access to useful information on educational options.**
- **Ongoing school oversight and on-demand technical assistance to improve programs, enhance support for student success.**
- **Fair fee assessment for ODA services to schools to stabilize ODA funding and improve biennial budget planning to provide necessary staff training and better program support.**