

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 4 - 0

Yeas: Gallegos, Gorsek, Greenlick, Harker, Dembrow

Nays: Gilliam, Huffman, Johnson, Whisnant

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/25, 4/15, 4/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Exempts public universities and community colleges from requirement to enter into agreement with for-profit institutions of higher education before implementing potentially duplicative new post-secondary programs. Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to study methods to avoid duplication of facilities and report findings to Seventy-eighth legislative Assembly by January 31, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Chilling effect of current law on new program development by public institutions of higher education
- Duplication of programs by private institutions not covered by current law
- Resulting higher cost to students
- Specific impact on development of healthcare workforce
- Potential expansion of career pathways exemption process

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission study methods to avoid duplication of facilities and report findings to Seventy-eights legislative Assembly by January 31, 2015.

BACKGROUND: Current statutes require community colleges seeking to establish new programs, that are also offered by for-profit career colleges, to give notice of intent and provide the career college an opportunity to demonstrate potential adverse impact of the new program. House Bill 3341-A adds public universities to the statute and specifies the process for giving notice of proposed programs, offering an opportunity for career colleges to object, and for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to mediate resolution, if necessary. This process is currently spelled out in statute for “career pathways certificate of completion programs” defined in ORS 348.611.

Additionally, House Bill 3341-A directs HECC to study methods to avoid duplication of facilities and to leverage public and private education facilities and faculty resources in the post-secondary education system, including community colleges and public universities, for the purposes of expanding student opportunities and lowering taxpayer and student costs.