

HB 4018

Relating to higher education

HB 4018 allows the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) and to impose a fee on educational institutions in the Oregon that elect to join SARA through the HECC. In addition, the bill transfers the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) to the HECC, establishes a task force to develop recommendations for integrating CCWD into HECC, and changes the schedule by which Eastern Oregon University, Southern Oregon University, Western Oregon University and the Oregon Institute of Technology may convert to local governing boards.

Transferring CCWD to HECC will require a substantial increase in HECC's budget. CCWD's budget in 2013-15 is \$494.4 million General Fund, \$748.0 million in total funds and 59 positions (58.70 FTE). The transfer will be accomplished during the 2015-17 budget process.

The bill also allows universities with governing boards to act as a central bank as OUS currently does. This will allow the State Board of Higher Education and universities with governing boards to co-mingle their funds in the Treasury and allows for borrowing and lending among these funds.

The Capital Construction Subcommittee recommends House Bill 4018 be amended and reported out do pass, as amended.