

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways & Means
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Beyer, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan, Hass
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Richard Donovan, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Grants Higher Education Coordinating Commission authority to enter into and administer interstate agreements regarding provision of post-secondary distance education. Clarifies relationship between Higher Education Coordinating Commission and Oregon Education Investment Board. Revises composition of State Board of Higher Education. Prevents faculty and non-faculty staff members of university governing board from taking part in board discussions relating to collective bargaining. Clarifies legislative intent on how constitutional references to State Board of Higher Education are interpreted. Enables universities with independent governing boards to continue to participate in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) as they currently do by making those agencies for the purposes of PERS. Prohibits any faculty or non-faculty staff member of institutional governing board of a university from participating in collective bargaining discussions that affect faculty or non-faculty staff of that university. Establishes that notice must be given to Governor and State Board of Higher Education of intent to become a university with an independent governing board no later than June 1, 2014. Clarifies that independent governing boards of technical and regional universities shall take over administrative responsibilities for university on July 1, 2015. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Technical, non-controversial nature of measure provisions
- Desire of Committee to avoid any fiscal expenditure or impact
- Benefits of streamlined licensure processes for institutions and students under the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement
- Potential to increase access to accredited post-secondary instruction, in line with 40-40-20 goals
- Vast number of necessary technical changes in measure requested by the Office of Legislative Counsel
- Desire of Committee to continue work on regional educational services delivery, even though language relating to that topic ultimately not included in measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Enables universities with independent governing boards to continue to participate in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) as they currently do by making those agencies for the purposes of PERS. Prohibits any faculty or non-faculty staff member of institutional governing board of a university from participating in collective bargaining discussions that affect faculty or non-faculty staff of university. Establishes that notice must be given to Governor and State Board of Higher Education of intent to become a university with an independent governing board no later than June 1, 2014. Clarifies that independent governing boards of technical and regional universities shall take over administrative responsibilities for university on July 1, 2015. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 1525A, referred to as the “Omnibus” measure, contains a number of technical fixes relating to education. The Committee heard testimony on this measure, during Interim Legislative days, on both November 21, 2013, and January 16, 2014.

2/12/2014 9:27:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.