

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Education

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Gretchen Engbring, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 2/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to convene work group to determine if 40-40-20 mission would be enhanced by enabling universities to award associate degrees. Requires work group to develop process for universities to award associate degrees if it determines mission would be enhanced. Sunsets work group on date of convening of 2017 regular session of Legislative Assembly. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

BACKGROUND: ORS 351.009 declares that the mission of all education beyond high school in Oregon includes ensuring that at least 40 percent of adult Oregonians have earned a bachelor's degree or higher; that at least 40 percent of adult Oregonians have earned an associate's degree or post-secondary credential as their highest level of educational attainment; and that the remaining 20 percent or less of all adult Oregonians have earned a high school diploma, an extended or modified high school diploma, or the equivalent of a high school diploma. This is known as Oregon's "40-40-20" mission.

Senate Bill 518 requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to convene a work group consisting of representatives from public universities and community colleges in order to determine whether it would advance the 40-40-20 mission if universities could award associate degrees to students upon completion of necessary credits. If the group determines that this action would advance the mission, then this bill requires the work group to develop a process by which public universities could award associate degrees, and to make recommendations for a pilot program. Senate Bill 518 further requires that the work group submit a report on its findings by November 1, 2016.