

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Education

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes Affordable Baccalaureate Degree Act. Directs public universities and community colleges to work toward providing four-year affordable, fixed-cost baccalaureate degrees. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to analyze available options for affordable degrees and report findings to 2016 Legislative Assembly. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: Several states are investigating the possibility of offering fixed-cost degree programs at their public universities in the belief that increasing attendance costs are keeping many potential students from considering college. House Bill 2973-A directs public universities, community colleges and HECC to investigate the possibility of creating such programs in Oregon.