



Date February 6, 2015
To House Higher Education, Innovation and Workforce Development Committee
From Ben Cannon, HECC Executive Director
Subject House Bill 2408

Good morning, Chair Read, Vice-Chairs Gallegos and Whisnant, and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Ben Cannon, Executive Director for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC).

As you are aware, postsecondary education has undergone and is still undergoing pretty dramatic reorganization. A big piece of that is combining the HECC with Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD). The Legislature passed a bill in 2014, HB 4018, that directed the HECC and CCWD to operationalize integrating the two agencies. While the bill before you accomplishes this, this process has been even more instructive toward learning about each other and how we will work together. Due to this work, the HECC is considering principles that will govern how we work with community colleges and, while this may seem like a technical bill, there is much that underlies how we will together in the future.

In short, this bill is designed to clearly delineate the functions within both agencies, and was achieved through a strong collaborative process.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information; I'm happy to answer any questions.