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# MEMORANDUM

Legislative Fiscal Office  
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**To:** *Education Subcommittee*

**From:** *Krista McDowell, Legislative Fiscal Office*  
*(503) 986-1838*

**Date:** June 22, 2015

**Subject:** *HB 3335*  
*Work Session Recommendations*

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HB 3335 - A relates to university degree programs. The bill directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to work with public universities to develop solutions for students who successfully complete two or more years of coursework and then leave the university without graduating and without any official recognition of the academic accomplishments.

The bill was previously heard by the House Committee on Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development as well as the Senate Committee on Education and has a 'do pass' recommendation from both committees.

The bill has an estimated fiscal impact of \$58,182 General Fund and one limited-duration position (0.25 FTE). No appropriations have been made for the bill. The HECC is directed to absorb the workload associated with this legislation using existing resources.

## **Measure**

The measure is recommended to be moved to the full Committee on Joint Ways and Means.

**Motion: Move HB 3335 to the full committee with a “do pass” recommendation, as amended.**

## **Assignment of Carriers**

Full: \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Chamber: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Chamber: \_\_\_\_\_

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**Measure: HB 3335 - A**

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official*

Prepared by: Krista McDowell  
Reviewed by: Doug Wilson  
Date: 4/1/2015

**Measure Description:**

Requires public universities to work with Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish General Education Credential for students who complete lower division graduation credits but do not complete course credits required for bachelor's degree.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

**Summary of Expenditure Impact:**

	2015-17 Biennium	2017-19 Biennium
General Fund	\$58,182	-
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$58,182</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Positions	1	
FTE	0.25	

**Local Government Mandate:**

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**Analysis:**

The bill directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to work with public universities to develop solutions for students who successfully complete two or more years of coursework and then leave the university without graduating and without any official recognition of the academic accomplishments.

To accomplish the direction provided in this bill the HECC plans to convene a workgroup, which would include representatives from universities, community colleges and other interested stakeholders. Staffing support for the workgroup is anticipated to require one limited- duration Operations and Policy Analyst 4 (0.25 FTE) at a cost of \$50,487 General Fund (GF) in the 2015-17 biennium. This fiscal assumes the workgroup would convene a total of 18 meetings and half would be held in Portland and half in Salem. Travel reimbursement, audio equipment rental, and conference room rental costs are estimated at a total of \$7,695 GF in the 2015-17 biennium.

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that the bill does not specifically require a report nor require implementation of any of the solutions developed by HECC and the workgroup.

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Joint Committee On Ways and Means**

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:**

**Action:**

**Meeting Dates:**

**Prepared By:** Krista McDowell, Fiscal Analyst

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to work with public universities to address problem of students who successfully complete two or more years of coursework and leave with no official recognition of academic accomplishments. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- The bill only applies to universities, not community colleges
- The HECC will determine certificate of completion or associate requirements
- HECC will work with universities and community colleges to determine who will issue the recognition called for by the bill
- How employers will view the certificate of recognition is not known

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

House Bill 3521 (2011) directed the Joint Boards of Education to develop standards for a process by which a community college would award an associate degree to a student upon completion of necessary credits, regardless of whether the student earned the credits for the degree at a community college or a state university. The HECC studied the issue and submitted a report to the Legislative Assembly in 2012 which included a section on Reverse Transfer Best Practices Identified in Oregon. Among these was "Consider performing degree audits and awarding associate's degrees at four-year institutions."