

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates:

Prepared By: Krista McDowell, Fiscal Analyst

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
- 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. 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.”