

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/17/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 06/02, 06/08, 06/17

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Baertschiger Jr, Boquist, Edwards, Hass, Riley

Prepared By: Mazen Malik, Senior Economist

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Abolishes Oregon University System, office of the Chancellor of the Oregon University System and State Board of Higher Education. States that all public universities have institutional governing boards. Abolishes Oregon University System Fund and subaccounts, Higher Education Donation Fund, Higher Education Academic Modernization Account and Oregon University System Capital Construction, Deferred Maintenance and Capital Repair Project Fund. Transfers moneys remaining in accounts or funds to Public University Fund. Limits use of transferred moneys to purposes listed in original funds or accounts. Adds the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to the list of entities authorized to take action with respect to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, and specifies that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission replaces the references to the State Board of Higher Education.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The different references in current law to OUS
- The need to have an entity to play the role for some functions that OUS and OBHE used to do for universities
- The requirements for the HECC
- What is needed to ensure proper connections among the affected agencies.
- Closing of the Chancellor office on June-31-2015
- Connection with HB 3199

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

The amendment abolishes the Oregon University System and the State Board of Higher Education.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 270 (2013) established governing boards for the University of Oregon and Portland State University, while providing a process for other universities in the Oregon University System (OUS) to also establish independent institutional boards. This restructuring of university governance ultimately led to the dissolution of OUS and State Board of Higher Education (SBHE), but numerous references to OUS, SBHE, and the OUS Chancellor remain in statutes. At the request Interim Committee on Education and Workforce Development, an informal work group met three times to review all relevant statutes that reference OUS, SBHE, and/or OUS Chancellor. The work group included involved parties including representatives from the office of Legislative Counsel, Higher Education Coordinating Committee, and OUS. Senate Bill 80 addresses higher education

governance, and is intended as a vehicle to address references in current statute to entities that Senate Bill 270 dissolved.