

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Education

MEASURE: SB 219
CARRIER: Sen. Roblan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/19/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 02/19

Senate

Yeas: 5 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Roblan, Knopp, Kruse

Exc: 2 - Gelser, Hass

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Legislative Assembly appropriations for public universities or Oregon Health and Science University to Higher Education Coordinating Commission rather than Department of Administrative Services. Requires majority approval of commission members for official commission action. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current process for appropriating and allocating funds to public universities and Oregon Health and Science University
- Higher Education Coordinating Commission authority over funds
- Oregon Health and Science University support for measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 242 (2011) established the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and tasked it with developing a model for higher education finance that includes recommended appropriations to institutions, and recommending to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly a consolidated higher education budget request. However, appropriations for the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) are currently made to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), as established in ORS 353.140 prior to the formation of the HECC.

Senate Bill 219 amends ORS 353.140 to direct appropriations for OHSU to the HECC, rather than to DAS. Although the measure changes the flow of funds, it does not change the amount of money that is appropriated to OHSU.

In addition to changing the agency that receives the appropriations for OHSU, Senate Bill 219 mandates that any official action by the commission requires the approval of a majority of the commission's members. Currently, the HECC may take action if a majority of a quorum of commission members is present.