

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/01/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/16, 04/01

Vote:

Yeas: 8 - Gallegos, Hayden, Johnson, McKeown, Read, Reardon, Whisnant, Williamson

Nays: 1 - Nearman

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Committee Administrator

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:

- Problem of students who drop out of universities without a degree, but with student debt
- Reverse transfer process which allows community colleges to grant associate's degrees to former students who transferred to universities, but did not graduate from them
- Need for recognizable credential to indicate the completion of lower division college credits

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

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."

House Bill 3335-A requires the HECC to work with Oregon's public universities to develop effective solutions to address the problem of students who enrolled and successfully completed two or more years of coursework, but dropped out before graduating.