

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 04/03/15

**Action:** Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

**Meeting Dates:** 03/09, 04/03

**Vote:**

Yeas: 9 - Gallegos, Hayden, Johnson, McKeown, Nearman, Read, Reardon, Whisnant, Williamson

**Prepared By:** Victoria Cox, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs public universities to work toward providing four-year affordable, fixed-cost baccalaureate degrees and community colleges to assist them. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to analyze available options for affordable degrees and report findings to 2016 Legislative Assembly. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Previous legislation relating to fixed-cost degrees
- Likelihood of increased enrollment if students and their families know the full cost of attendance up front
- Fixed-cost degree options in other states
- Requirement that fixed-cost degree meet the same educational and accreditation standards as other baccalaureate degrees offered by the granting institution

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

Several states are investigating the possibility of offering fixed-cost degree programs at their public universities in the belief that increasing attendance costs are keeping many potential students from considering college. House Bill 2973-A directs public universities, community colleges and the HECC to investigate the possibility of creating such programs in Oregon.