

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/20/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Bill Be Referred To Ways
And Means.

Meeting Dates: 03/16, 04/20

Vote:

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

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) with authority to enter into contract with independent, exempt, nonprofit institutions of higher education to review and act on complaints and to adopt rules governing complaint process. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Recent changes to regulations relative to federal financial aid
- Possible impact on eligibility of independent colleges to receive financial aid
- HECC authorization to manage complaint process necessary to ensure continued eligibility

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 351.735 provides the HECC with authority over student access programs including scholarship, loan and grant programs. House Bill 2870-A amends the statute to include authority to enter into contracts with independent, nonprofit post-secondary institutions to review and act on complaints filed against the institution and adopt rules governing the resolution of complaints. This change is necessary to ensure compliance with federal regulations.