

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/21/15

Action: Without Recommendation As To Passage And Be Referred To Finance And Revenue.

Meeting Dates: 04/17, 04/21

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Gelser, Hass, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies university governing boards are included in list of entities that must continue to provide and improve upon course articulation and student transfer framework for Oregon's post-secondary students.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for technical fixes to university governance legislation revised by SB 270 (2013) which resulted in dissolution of Oregon University System (OUS), the Chancellor, and State Board of Higher Education (SBHE)
- Anticipated amendments to Senate Bill 80 that remove or re-delegate rights, roles, and responsibilities, as necessitated by past legislative changes to university governance
- Impact of complex bonding issues on amendment process

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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 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 consisted of committee staff, as well as 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.