

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/30/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 06/29, 06/30

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Barnhart, Bentz, Davis, Johnson, Lininger, Smith Warner, Vega Pederson

Nays: 1 - Whitsett

Exc: 1 - Read

Prepared By: Mazen Malik, Senior Economist

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Abolishes Oregon University System, office of the Chancellor of the Oregon University System and State Board of Higher Education. States that all public universities have institutional governing boards. Abolishes Oregon University System Fund and subaccounts, Higher Education Donation Fund, Higher Education Academic Modernization Account and Oregon University System Capital Construction, Deferred Maintenance and Capital Repair Project Fund. Transfers moneys remaining in accounts or funds to Public University Fund. Limits use of transferred moneys to purposes listed in original funds or accounts. Adds the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to the list of entities authorized to take action with respect to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, and specifies that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission replaces the references to the State Board of Higher Education. Resolves conflicts.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The different references in current law to OUS and SBHE
- The requirements for the HECC and DAS to step in for the replacement in necessary roles
- What is needed to ensure proper connections with universities and their boards
- Closing of the Chancellor office on June 31, 2015
- Connection with HB 3199 and resolving conflicts with other bills passed this session.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

The amendment resolves conflicts with SB 215, SB 224, SB 342, SB 493, SB 777, HB 2408, HB 2411, HB 2412, HB 3069, HB 3303, and HB 3524.

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 the Oregon University System (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 included involved parties including 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 dissolved as a result of Senate Bill 270 .