



House Bill 4019  
House Higher Education, Innovation and  
Workforce Development Committee  
February 1, 2016

Chair Read, Vice Chairs Whisnant and Gallegos, and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Dana Richardson, Deputy Director for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

Happy first day of Session. I am here today to describe the contents of House Bill 4019. This is a bill that Chair Read graciously agreed to allow the HECC to introduce to fix a couple of technical statutory issues.

First, ORS 348.511 refers to two Executive Directors – HECC’s Executive Director Ben Cannon and the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) Executive Director Bob Brew. The problem is that you can’t tell which one is being referred to when it comes to running OSAC. The bill before you clarifies that the OSAC Executive Director is the individual with that responsibility.

The second fix falls under the HECC’s Office of Degree Authorization section of statute. This section of statute was put in place in 2007 to regulate, or prevent, diploma mills operating in Oregon. They define the types of schools that might qualify as diploma mills and go on to exempt community colleges, public universities, and OHSU. However, these institutions aren’t exempt from State approval; they are not the schools that the diploma mill statutes are intended to include. By definition, they are not diploma mills and HB 4019 more accurately reflects that.

The distinction is important because community colleges, public universities, and OHSU can be required to demonstrate that they are authorized to operate in Oregon in order to receive some federal funds. HB 4019 clarifies that they are not exempt from State authority but that they are not included in the types of schools that may be diploma mills.

In short, this is a technical fix bill and I hope I have explained it to your satisfaction. Thank you for your attention and I would be happy to answer any questions.