

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development

Fiscal: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

Revenue: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates: 02/01

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies duties of Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion. Excludes Oregon community colleges, public universities and Oregon Health and Science University from definition of “school” in degree authorization provisions, rather than exempt institutions from these provisions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Proposed -2 amendments double from five to ten the number of years a school must have deferred degrees in Oregon in order qualify for exemption from ORS 348.594 to 348.615. Clarify that schools granted religious exemptions submit annual statement to Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Establish effective date.

Proposed - 3 amendments allow individual development account savers to utilize 529 college savings plans.

Proposed - 4 amendments add dependents of residents who left state within previous five years for military or other service to those eligible to receive in state tuition under ORS 350.290.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 3120 (2013) expanded the membership and authority of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), abolished the Oregon Student Access Commission and replaced it with the Office of Student Access and Completion under the HECC. Additionally, the measure empowered the HECC to authorize degrees offered by independent post-secondary institutions operating in Oregon.

House Bill 4019 establishes the duties of the Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion, many of which were originally assigned to the Executive Director of the HECC. Additionally, the measure changes the definition of “school” in degree authorization provisions to exclude public universities and community colleges, as opposed to exempting them from these provisions.