

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates:

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies duties of Executive Director of 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. Doubles, from five to ten, number of years school must have conferred degrees in Oregon in order to qualify for exemption from ORS 348.594 to 348.615. Clarifies that schools granted religious exemptions submit annual statements to Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Establishes effective date. Eliminates requirement that individual development account savers utilize two separate 529 college savings plan accounts. Adds dependents of residents who left state within previous five years for military or other service to those eligible to pay resident tuition under ORS 350.290.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

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

House Bill 4019-A 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. Additionally, the measure: requires schools seeking religious exemptions to submit statements annually to the HECC rather than OSAC; allows for the rollover of individual development accounts to one, rather than two, 529 college savings plan accounts; and, adds the dependents of military and other service personnel to those eligible to pay resident tuition despite having been absent from the state due to service relocation.