

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** Has minimal revenue impact

**Action Date:** 02/10/16

**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Meeting Dates:** 02/01, 02/08, 02/10

**Vote:**

Yeas: 9 - Gallegos, Hayden, Hoyle, Johnson, McKeown, Nearman, Read, Reardon, Whisnant

**Prepared By:** Victoria Cox, Committee Administrator

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**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:**

- Organizational structure of Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), including Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC)
- Duties of directors of HECC and OSAC
- Functions of Office of Degree Authorization
- Need for schools seeking religious exemption to submit statements to HECC rather than OSAC
- Technical fix for individual development account rollovers to 529 college savings plan accounts
- Desire to add dependents to military and other service personnel eligible to pay in-state tuition despite having been absent from Oregon due to service relocation

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

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.

**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 (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.