HB 2314 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates: 2/7, 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to set minimum standards for graduation from hair design, barbering, esthetics or nail technology schools by rule. Requires HECC to approve, rather than review, public university mission statements. Requires HECC, rather than the State Board of Education, to approve apprenticeship training credit, and adopt policies, standards and programs in cooperation with the State Apprenticeship and Training Council. Expands Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone (ASPIRE) financial aid and post-secondary options instruction to middle school and college students. Authorizes HECC to enter into contracts and agreements with public and private entities for certain higher education and workforce development activities. Directs HECC to transfer interest-earning moneys that provide financial aid to barbering, hairdressing, manicure and esthetics students from Oregon Student Assistance Fund to Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) for investment. Requires HECC to enter into an agreement with OCF for transfer and investment practices. Updates statutory references to General Educational Development (GED) test. Clarifies GED test is one option of approved high school equivalency test, but not the only option. Replaces Executive Director title with Director for HECC Office of Student Access and Completion.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Specifies rulemaking must include minimum hourly and student proficiency-based training requirement standards. Deletes sections 11 through 13, which require transfer of interest-earning financial aid moneys to Oregon Community Foundation. Declares emergency, effective on passage

BACKGROUND:

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) was created in 2011 by Senate Bill 242, and given much of its current authority in 2013 by House Bill 3120 and Senate Bill 270. As a newly created agency, the HECC has found that its governing statutes still need refinement. This bill addresses eight minor statutory issues.

The proposed amendment clarifies bill intent by requiring the HECC to detail both hourly training standards and proficiency-based standards. Proficiency-based schools report that the creation of clear proficiency-based standards, and equating proficiencies to instructional hours, helps to further legitimize their schools. The amendment removes sections 11 through 13, which require transfer of interest-earning financial aid money to the Oregon Community Foundation. The amendment also seeks to add an emergency clause, to reportedly allow the HECC to write rules for minimum standards for graduation from cosmetology schools (Section 1) immediately following the governor's signature. Currently, these standards are written in statute, and the bill as written would not permit rulemaking until the bill goes into effect January 1, 2018.