

SB 54 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/13, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to evaluate universities with governing boards every two years and submit a report the legislature. Allows HECC to adopt necessary rules for administering the evaluations.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Purpose and scope of annual evaluations

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. Expands the scope of programs, duties or functions for which HECC can request appropriations. Modifies state law regarding the budget request process. Requires HECC to evaluate public universities every two years and submit a report the legislature. Allows HECC to adopt necessary rules for administering the evaluations. Requires university governing boards to meet at least four times each year. Makes technical changes. Requires public universities to establish a system of shared administrative services for the maintenance of federal tax benefits relating to state bonds and performance of administrative services relating to employee benefits. Allows public universities to opt out of the system of shared administrative services under certain circumstances.

Removes statutory distinctions between public universities with governing boards and public universities listed in ORS 352.002.

BACKGROUND:

Current law requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to evaluate all seven public universities annually. Senate Bill 54 will allow the commission to evaluate each school every two years.

Senate Bill 270 (2013) and Senate Bill 80 (2015) established independent governing boards for each of Oregon's public universities, created the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and abolished the Oregon University System.