

HB 2314 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to set minimum standards by rule for graduation from hair design, barbering, esthetics or nail technology schools. Specifies rulemaking must include minimum hourly and student proficiency-based training requirement standards. 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. 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. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of rulemaking process to proficiency-based, private career schools
- Proficiency-based schools' concerns regarding inclusion in agency communications, and clarity of training requirement expectations
- Distinction between proficiency-based and instructional hours-based schools, and the value of both types of private career schools
- Clarification that remaining bill sections reflect technical conformity to higher education governance restructure from previous sessions, and that duties and functions of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission are not affected by House Bill 2314-A

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

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 reports 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.