

HB 2312 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Updates terms and references associated with implementation of federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Changes name of State Workforce Investment Board to State Workforce Development Board. Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to perform functions previously performed by Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for statutory change in order to comply with federal law and program requirements
- Clarification that bill reflects semantical, not functional changes within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission
- Clarification that bill does not affect number of Higher Education Coordinating Commission employees

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

In July 2014, Congress re-authorized the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to align education and economic development and address previous limitations in several federally funded workforce programs, including job-training programs, career services and adult basic education.

Many Oregon statutes refer to the federal WIA and its provisions. The Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) reports that nomenclature and reference updates are needed to stay in compliance with program requirements and continue to qualify for full federal funding.

In 2016, HECC created the Office of Workforce Investments (OWI), which was designed to contribute oversight, resources and programming to the public workforce development system. Previously, some of those workforce functions were assigned to the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD). Bill language reassigning certain workforce functions to HECC are intended to reflect that organizational change.