

HB 2312 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates: 2/7

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.

REVENUE: No Revenue Impact

FISCAL: No statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In July 2014, Congress reauthorized the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to reportedly better 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 Workforce Investment Act (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, the 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 the HECC are intended to reflect that organizational change.