

SB 54 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Johnson

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

Action Date: 05/16/17

Action: Do pass with amendments to resolve conflicts. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Bynum, Clem, Heard, Johnson, Reardon, Reschke, Sollman, Whisnant

Exc: 1 - Alonso Leon

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands scope of public university programs, duties or functions for which the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) can request appropriations in its agency request budget to the Governor. Removes deadline for public universities to submit biennial funding requests to HECC. Requires HECC to evaluate public universities every two years and submit report to legislature. Eliminates references to public universities without governing boards. Requires university governing boards to meet at least four times each year. Requires public universities to establish system of shared administrative services for maintenance of federal tax benefits relating to state bonds and administrative services relating to certain employee benefits. Allows public universities to opt out of shared administrative services system only if Oregon Department of Administrative Services adopts rules pertaining to federal tax benefit maintenance and public universities. Makes additional conforming changes. Allows HECC, provided House Bill 2314-A becomes law, to enter into contracts and agreements, including grant agreements, with public and private entities for higher education and workforce development activities.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for technical and conforming statutory changes
- Changing the HECC evaluation of public universities from one-year to two-year cycle is a more appropriate timeline for evaluating governing boards and more feasible given HECC staffing and resource constraints
- Governing boards would maintain authority to annually evaluate performance of institutional presidents

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Allows HECC, provided House Bill 2314-A becomes law, to enter into contracts and agreements, including grant agreements, with public and private entities for higher education and workforce development activities.

BACKGROUND:

Current law requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to evaluate all seven public universities annually. Senate Bill 54-B allows HECC 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 HECC and abolished the Oregon University System.