

HB 2701 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Roblan

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 06/01/17

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Gelser, Hass, Kruse, Linthicum, Roblan

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Eliminates probationary status designation for licensed private career schools and agents. Changes terminology in statute from 'place a licensee on probation' to 'issue a notice for corrective action.' Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to notify career schools that are subjects of investigations and engage with them and affected students during investigations. Prevents suspension or revocation of license until after a hearing officer determines that there is proper cause. Takes effect July 1, 2018.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Different processes for private career schools and degree-granting institutions
- Definition of 'corrective action'
- Amendments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires HECC to notify career schools that are subjects of investigations and engage with them and affected students during the investigation. Prevents suspension or revocation of license until after a hearing officer determines that there is proper cause. Takes effect July 1, 2018.

BACKGROUND:

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is responsible for licensing private career schools and agents in Oregon. Under ORS 345.120, the HECC is required to investigate the actions of a career school or agent upon receiving any written complaints. Following an investigation, the HECC may place a licensee on probation, suspend or revoke a license. A licensee placed on probation must be formally notified by the HECC of deficiencies that must be corrected within a specified time. A licensee whose license is suspended must be formally notified by the HECC and, upon request by the licensee, must be granted a contested case hearing. A licensee whose license is suspended is prohibited from advertising, recruiting or enrolling students, but may remain in operation to complete training of students enrolled on the effective date of the suspension. A licensee whose license is revoked must be formally notified by the HECC and, upon request by the licensee, must be granted a contested case hearing, but is not authorized to continue operation on and after the effective date of the revocation.

To date one private career school has been placed on probation by the HECC and no schools have had their licenses suspended or revoked.