

HB 4153 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates: 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates Eastern Oregon University as Oregon’s Rural University.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Among Oregon's seven public universities, only Oregon State University (OSU) and the University of Oregon (UO) have state- or federally-recognized designations. OSU is known as a land-, sea-, space-, and sun-grant university. One of three institutions in the United States to obtain all four designations, OSU is a recipient of federal funds to integrate grant missions into the university's teaching, research, and extension work. The UO is known as the state's flagship institution, which reflects its status as a state leader in postsecondary education and research. Neither institution's designation is incorporated into state law. Informally, Oregon's other public universities are known for their development of certain academic curricula or enrollment of certain student populations, such as Portland State University's focus on serving urban populations.

Eastern Oregon University reports that a statutory designation as a rural-serving institution will assist the university in accessing certain federal grants.