

SB 4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 1/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits a community college and a public university to merge into one institution of higher education if the institutions submit a joint merger proposal to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Establishes criteria for the proposal. Requires the proposal to include a payment plan for outstanding bonds. Requires mergers to be approved by HECC. Directs HECC to report to the legislature on approved mergers. Specifies contents of the report. Exempts community college and public university mergers from community college policies under ORS 341.009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon has 17 community colleges, governed by local community college districts and funded through local taxing authority, state revenue, tuition, and other funds. Oregon has seven public universities, governed by boards and funded through tuition, state revenue and other funds. Oregon public universities are not considered local, municipal, or state institutions for the purposes of Oregon law. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission coordinates policy related to community colleges and public universities at the state level. Under current law, Oregon community colleges and public universities do not have the authority to merge into one institution.