

SB 3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 1/28, 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits a community college to offer an applied baccalaureate degree program upon approval from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Requires a community college to submit program information and documentation to HECC to qualify for approval. Establishes program criteria. Requires HECC to approve a proposed applied baccalaureate program if the community college submits all required information and documentation to HECC and meets statutory criteria for academic programs. Exempts applied baccalaureate programs from the statutory prohibition on community colleges offering four-year baccalaureate degree programs. Allows HECC to adopt rules.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) statutory authority to approve applied baccalaureate programs.
- Level of tuition for programs
- Community college funding formula
- Number of credits required for applied baccalaureate
- Types of applied baccalaureate degrees
- Acceptance of applied baccalaureate degrees for master's degree programs
- Local economic needs
- Accreditation issues
- Name and mission of community colleges
- Oregon's current community college and public university partnerships
- Number of states that currently offer applied baccalaureate degrees at community colleges

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon has 17 community colleges, serving 272,254 individual students in four program areas: lower-division collegiate, career and technical, developmental education, and adult continuing education. An applied baccalaureate degree is a bachelor's degree designed to incorporate applied associate courses and degrees with additional coursework emphasizing higher-order thinking skills and advanced technical knowledge and skills. Current law prohibits community colleges from offering four-year baccalaureate programs, including applied baccalaureate programs. Community colleges may enter into articulation agreements with public universities to offer applied baccalaureate programs. Under articulation agreements, the public university awards the baccalaureate degree.