

HB 5025 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Doug Wilson, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/19, 6/6, 6/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

HB 5025 is a fee ratification bill for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and authorizes changes to fees that were administratively adopted or adjusted by rule during the interim and must be ratified by the Legislature. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission or HECC raised fees for the Private Career Schools (PCS) program in 2017 and 2019. Without this approval, these PCS fees would need to return to the levels prior to the 2017 increase. Fees were increased by 30% in 2017 and by another 30% in 2019. The fee increases are expected to raise \$117,703 annually in 2019-21. The Advisory Committee for the program which includes school representatives recommended these fee increases. Fees are based on the amount of tuition income the schools annually collect.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Consequences of not increasing the fees
- Staffing of the program
- Size of fee increase

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Private Career Schools (PCSs) provide specialized training and certificates for students across a broad spectrum of professions. As of the end of 2018, there were 182 licensed private career schools of which 34 were cosmetology schools with the remaining 148 schools representing several vocations including those related to tax, tattoos, insurance, truck driving, health care and real estate. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission's (HECC) Private Career Schools program licenses these schools as well as responds to complaints and provides assistance to students of schools that have terminated their operations. The Private Career School Advisory Committee, whose membership includes representatives of the schools, provides advice to HECC with respect to quality and character of these schools.