Senate Bill 4

Sponsored by Senator COURTNEY (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced.**

Permits merger of community college and public university. Directs community college and public university to submit proposal for merger to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for approval. If commission approves merger, directs commission to submit report on merger to Legislative Assembly.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to higher education.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) A community college and a public university listed in ORS 352.002 may merge under the provisions of this section.

(2) A community college and public university may jointly submit a proposal to merge to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. The proposal shall include:

(a) The timeline for the merger;

(b) A plan for the merger of administrative, legal, academic and financial processes and procedures;

(c) A plan for the transfer of employees, liabilities, duties, obligations, records and property;

(d) A plan to address the financial impact of the merger on the community college district and public university and the financial impact of the merger on other community college districts and public universities;

(e) A description of the combined budget of the merged community college and public university;

(f) A plan to address the effects of the merger on students;

(g) A description of the academic programs to be offered at each campus by the merged community college and public university;

(h) A discussion of the benefits of the merger;

(i) A list of any state statutes or agency rules that must be modified prior to the merger; and

(j) Any other information required by the commission.

(3) In addition to the requirements of subsection (2) of this section, the proposal must include a plan for payment by the merged community college and public university of any bonds that were issued by the community college district on behalf of the community college or by the public university.

(4) A merger of a community college and public university must be approved by the commission. If the commission approves the merger proposal, the commission shall submit

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

a report to the Legislative Assembly at least 90 days prior to the effective date of the merger. The report shall include the proposal for the merger and any recommendations for statutory changes and budget changes that are necessary because of the merger.

(5) ORS 341.009 does not apply to a community college and a public university that have merged under the provisions of this section.