



House Committee On Education
Chair Doherty and members of the committee

RE: HB 4137

WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE WORDING OF THIS BILL

The bill prohibits using public moneys for scholarships, grants or financial aid to post-secondary institutions that offer primarily online coursework and have been found to have engaged in fraudulent or predatory practices against students or prospective students.

A student cannot receive public money for financial aid or scholarship if the institute has been found to have engaged in fraudulent or predatory practices against a student or prospective student, as determined by rule by Higher Education Coordinating Commission; a court of this state; or a public body - "public body" means state government bodies, local government bodies and special government bodies. But, what does "predatory practices against...prospective students" mean? The bill leaves it to be defined by rule. This language leaves it open for the state to discriminate against students of religious institutions if the institution is found to require a statement of faith to attend. Any loophole is challenged by LGBTQ, which is currently happening at George Fox University.

Further, is "public moneys" state moneys or does it include federal moneys?

This bill leaves too many questions.

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FAST Legacy