

## **HB 4137 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Education**

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**Prepared By:** Alethia Miller, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/10, 2/12

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Authorizes all public universities in Oregon to offer doctoral degrees subject to the approval of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Limits Oregon Institute of Technology, Eastern Oregon University, Southern Oregon University and Western Oregon University to five doctoral programs until 2039. Prohibits the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) or any other state agency from using public moneys to award scholarships, grants or other types of student 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 as determined by the HECC, court of this state, or public body. Allows HECC to define “offer coursework primarily online” and “fraudulent or predatory practice.”

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Accreditation process and state authorization
- Institutions qualifying for state aid
- Universities with doctoral degrees in Oregon
- Clarification for scholarship allocation
- Interest in clarifying fraudulent process in amendment

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) recommends instate degree programs for approval and authorizes out-of-state online degree programs through the Office of Academic Policy and Authorization.

House Bill 4137 would authorize public universities in Oregon to offer doctoral degrees subject to the approval of HECC. It also prohibits public moneys to be given to post-secondary institutions found to be engaged in fraudulent or predatory practices against students that offer primarily online coursework.