

SB 273 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct study on coordinating post-secondary education and submit a report to the Legislative Assembly.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Adds second nonvoting undergraduate student member to public university governing boards. Adds voting graduate student member to certain public university governing boards. Requires student, faculty, and nonfaculty staff members to be nominated through respective official governance structures. Requires Governor to provide advance notice to governance organizations if internally nominated candidate is not appointed. Requires public university governing boards to adopt policies to:

- Provide opportunity for live comments and for reports from official student, faculty, nonfaculty staff, and labor organizations at regularly scheduled meetings;
- Include faculty, nonfaculty staff, and student representatives in presidential search committees;
- Provide and publish e-mail addresses for board members;
- Create ongoing review processes that include participation of faculty, nonfaculty staff, and student representatives;
- Provide substantive responses to complaints and concerns raised in public comments;
- Memorialize process for appointing governing board members;
- Identify ideal characteristics for candidates to fill governing board vacancy with opportunity for input from university community; and
- Regularly conduct self-evaluations with opportunity for input from university community.

Requires public universities to submit annual report to Legislative Assembly detailing compliance, with input from official faculty, nonfaculty staff, and student governance organizations. Adds voting faculty and nonfaculty staff members to Oregon Health and Science University governing board. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Committee (HECC) to provide meeting opportunities for public university governing board members with other governing board members, HECC commissioners, and members of community college district boards of education. Requires HECC to provide opportunities for training in duties and fiduciary responsibilities of public university governing boards. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

BACKGROUND:

Prior to 2013, Oregon's seven public universities existed under the Oregon University System (OUS) and were overseen by a chancellor. In 2013, Senate Bill 270 began to dissolve the OUS by creating individual governing boards for the University of Oregon and Portland State University, and offered the same to the other five universities (Oregon State University, Western Oregon, Eastern Oregon, Southern Oregon, and Oregon Institute of Technology). In 2015, Senate Bill 80 fully dissolved the OUS and abolished the OUS chancellor's office and the State Board of Higher Education, transferring most of its responsibilities to the Higher Education Coordinating

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Commission (HECC), which was created in 2011 by Senate Bill 242.

ORS 352.076 requires all members of public university governing boards to be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and lays out the terms of office and membership requirements. Governing boards are required to meet at least four times per year. ORS 352.096 grants the governing board responsibility for appointing and employing the university president in consultation with the Governor.

Other powers and responsibilities of the governing board, including overseeing universities' ability to borrow money and enter contracts (ORS 352.087), authorizing the establishment of a police department (ORS 352.121), constructing and acquiring university buildings (ORS 352.157), adopting standards for access to personnel records (ORS 352.336), provide group insurance to university employees (ORS 352.237), and others, are enumerated in the public university governance statutes of ORS Chapter 352.

In 1995, the Legislative Assembly converted Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) from a public university to a public corporation and established a board of directors that is regulated separately from public university governing boards. Since then, the governance structure of OHSU has remained largely the same beyond changes to the number of board members, which increased from 7 to 10 in 2001 and decreased to 9 in 2015.

Senate Bill 273 requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to study methods for coordinating post-secondary education. The -1 amendment modifies provisions relating to governing board policies.