

HB 3564 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/21, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies membership of Higher Education Coordinating Commission by adding one member from Oregon's sixth congressional district and removing one member of general public. Applies to appointments of members made on or after effective date. Transfers responsibility from Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development to Higher Education Coordinating Commission to receive written notice of plant closing or mass layoff and to notify employers of assistance available to workers and communities under Section 3 of Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act. Adds federally recognized tribes to list of entities eligible to receive grants under Oregon Conservation Corps Program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of amendment
- Technical fixes to statutory language
- Program adjustments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Adds career pathways to goals of Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone (ASPIRE) within Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Requires ASPIRE programs providing financial aid instruction to middle school, high school, and college students to work directly with community-based organizations and other entities serving historically underserved communities and permits ASPIRE programs to provide grants and other support to these organizations. Expands definition of diploma mill and authorizes Higher Education Coordinating Commission to terminate enrollment of Oregon students in diploma mills operating in or from Oregon. Modifies language related to intuitional accreditation by post-secondary accrediting agencies and exemptions for religious or theological degree programs. Requires only students who are eligible to file Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to complete and submit application in order to be eligible for certain aid programs for students who are current or former foster child or homeless youth.

BACKGROUND:

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission, established in 2011 by Senate Bill 242, consists of 15 Governor-appointed members. The number of members was reduced to 9 in 2013 by House Bill 3120, and increased again to 15 with the passage of [Senate Bill 712 \(2021\)](#), which also added student, faculty, and nonfaculty staff members to the commission.

According to the [U.S. Department of Labor](#), the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act (P.L. 100-379) was enacted by Congress in 1988 and became effective on February 4, 1989. Under the act, employers are required to provide appropriate notice when ordering a plant closing or mass layoff. Notice must be given to employees as well as the state dislocated worker unit and the chief elected official of the local government where the employment site is located. In Oregon, the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development was formerly the designated body that received notice under WARN. Under House Bill 3120 (2013), HECC became responsible for coordinating the activities of the department under House Bill 3120 (2013), and the department was transferred to the current Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) within HECC under House Bill 4018 (2014).

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The Oregon Conservation Corps (OCC) Program was established by SB 762 (2021), an omnibus bill related to wildfire protection and mitigation. OCC provides grant funding in accordance with [OAR 715-101](#) to aid in reducing wildfire risk and to provide workforce training. The Legislative Assembly appropriated a maximum of \$1 million to match private donations to the program.

House Bill 3564 modifies membership of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to account for the addition of a sixth congressional district in Oregon; designates HECC as the agency responsible under federal law for receiving notice of plant closing and mass layoffs and for notifying employers of assistance available to communities and workers; and makes federally recognized tribes eligible to receive grants under Oregon Conservation Corps Program.