

HB 3427 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/28, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires public university seeking to change affiliation with athletic association, conference, or organization with authority over intercollegiate sports to make recommendation for change in affiliation to appropriate legislative committees. Prohibits change in affiliation with athletic association, conference, or organization to take place without approval by Legislative Assembly. Permits Legislative Assembly to adopt, amend, or reject proposed change.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- State role in higher education athletics
- Forum for public input

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The University of Oregon (UO) and Oregon State University (OSU) are currently members of the PAC-12, a collegiate athletic conference consisting of 12 universities and participating in 24 sports at the NCAA Division I. The University of Southern California (USC) and the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) announced plans in 2022 to leave the PAC-12 and join the Big 10 by fall of 2024. In the wake of this announcement and in the midst of ongoing media rights negotiations within the PAC-12, media outlets have speculated about whether UO will remain in the PAC-12 or join another conference.

House Bill 3427 prohibits public universities from changing their affiliation with an athletic association, conference, or organization without approval from the Legislative Assembly, and permits the Legislative Assembly to adopt, amend, or reject proposed changes in affiliation.