

## HB 3499 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Higher Education

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**Prepared By:** Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/4

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

Prohibits public universities from charging tuition or enrollment fees to resident students earning their first undergraduate and first graduate degree. Prohibits community colleges from charging tuition for students who are residents of community college district. Appropriates unspecified amount General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for purposes of carrying out prohibition. Requires HECC to study methods for eliminating public university governing boards and making HECC responsible for direct oversight and management of public universities. Requires HECC to submit report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024. Declares legislative findings. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

*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:**

No amendment.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

According to the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)'s 2022 Oregon Higher Education Landscape Study, increases in tuition prices at Oregon colleges and universities since 2008 have outpaced price increases both nationally and regionally (pg. 71). At public four-year institutions, especially, average tuition and fees in Oregon are significantly higher than the national average (\$14,083 vs \$9,295), while educational appropriations per full-time Oregon student are significantly lower (\$6,327 vs \$8,859) (pg. 68).

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 (SBHE), transferring SBHE's remaining responsibilities to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), which was created in 2011 by Senate Bill 242.

House Bill 3499 prohibits public universities and community colleges from charging tuition to resident students, and requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to study and submit a report on eliminating public university governing boards by September 15, 2024.