



Testimony on HB 3564A
 Senate Committee on Education
 May 2, 2023

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Committee. My name is Kyle Thomas and I am the Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 3564A.

Once a biennium, HECC introduces a bill to make minor and technical modifications to statutes pertaining to higher education and workforce issues. These changes have no fiscal impact, and no or highly limited substantive impact. Primarily, this bill makes small changes to codify current practices, update terminology, or makes technical language changes that don't merit standalone legislation. The following table summarizes the changes included in the bill, and the -A3 amendment:

Section	Starting Page	Description of Change
1	1	Updates the membership of the appointed Higher Education Coordinating Commission to account for the addition of the 6 th congressional district by creating a dedicated slot for a 6 th CD representative and reducing the number of at-large Commission slots by one.
2	2	Clarifies that the alteration to the membership of the Commission applies when one of the at-large positions comes up for reappointment, and that the change does not require the removal of a current Commissioner.
3	2	Replaces a reference to The Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development with a reference to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, as CCWD is not a standalone state office.
4	2	Replaces a reference to The Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development with a reference to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, as CCWD is not a standalone state office.
5	2	Allows tribal governments to apply for grants offered by the Oregon Conservation Corps.
6	3	Adds language to the statute governing the ASPIRE program, a high school-based mentorship program, to highlight the role career pathways may play in training and education after high school. Adds additional language making community-based organizations eligible to receive support from the program for their mentorship efforts.
7	4	Aligns the state definitions of 'diploma mill' and 'post-secondary accrediting agency' with the federal definitions of these terms. Replaces references to 'regional' accreditation with 'institutional' accreditation, aligning with new federal accreditation categories.
8	5	Aligns the state definitions of 'diploma mill' and 'post-secondary accrediting agency' with the federal definitions of these terms.



		Replaces references to 'regional' accreditation with 'institutional' accreditation, aligning with new federal accreditation categories.
9	5	Replaces references to 'regional' accreditation with 'institutional' accreditation, aligning with new federal accreditation categories.
10	5	Removes the full name of the Commission on second reference.
		Aligns the state definitions of 'diploma mill' and 'post-secondary accrediting agency' with the federal definitions of these terms.
		Replaces references to 'regional' accreditation with 'institutional' accreditation, aligning with new federal accreditation categories.
11	6	Aligns the state definitions of 'diploma mill' and 'post-secondary accrediting agency' with the federal definitions of these terms.
		Replaces references to 'regional' accreditation with 'institutional' accreditation, aligning with new federal accreditation categories.
12	7	Aligns the state definitions of 'diploma mill' and 'post-secondary accrediting agency' with the federal definitions of these terms.
		Replaces references to 'regional' accreditation with 'institutional' accreditation, aligning with new federal accreditation categories.
13	8	Replaces language regarding degree titles with language regarding degrees leading to certain occupations, when considering religious exemptions.
14	9	Replaces language regarding degree titles with language regarding degrees leading to certain occupations, when considering religious exemptions.
15	10	Ensures students that file the Oregon financial aid application can receive foster student tuition waivers.
-A3 AMENDMENT		
16	1	Restores inadvertently lapsed HECC authority to resolve student complaints. This is, in part, an issue of regulatory compliance for private degree granting schools eligible for federal financial aid.
17	8	Restores lapsed authority back to the date of the original sunset.
18	8	Emergency clause, added to ensure that student complaints being investigated today are properly before the Commission.

Thank you for your time today.