

House Bill 4125

Sponsored by Representatives CHAICHI, BOWMAN, Senator GORSEK; Representatives GAMBIA, HUDSON, LIVELY, NELSON, PHAM K, SOSA, Senator JAMA (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act tells LPRO to study the results of SB 242 (2011). (Flesch Readability Score: 60.7).

Directs the Legislative Policy and Research Director to conduct a study on the impact of Senate Bill 242 (2011) on higher education in this state. Specifies the data to be identified in the study and requires the director to analyze specified potential alternative governing models for public universities in this state.

Authorizes the director to enter into contracts with public or private entities for purposes of the study. Requires the director to report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2025.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to a study on governing structures of public universities; and prescribing an effective date.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, "governing board" has the meaning given that**
5 **term in ORS 352.029.**

6 **(2) The Legislative Policy and Research Director shall conduct a study to determine the**
7 **impact of the implementation of chapter 637, Oregon Laws 2011 (Enrolled Senate Bill 242),**
8 **on higher education in this state. The study must:**

9 **(a) Include a comparative analysis between the stated goals of the bill and actual out-**
10 **comes realized since the bill was enacted; and**

11 **(b) Identify any trends since the enactment of the bill under independent governing**
12 **boards, including the following:**

13 **(A) Trends in tuition costs and student debt, as adjusted for inflation, for each academic**
14 **year from 2011 to 2023, including:**

15 **(i) Undergraduate tuition;**

16 **(ii) Graduate tuition;**

17 **(iii) Online tuition;**

18 **(iv) Certificate program tuition; and**

19 **(v) Resident and nonresident tuition rates;**

20 **(B) Trends in enrollment and graduation for each academic year from 2011 to 2023, in-**
21 **cluding:**

22 **(i) Types of degrees awarded;**

23 **(ii) Programs offered or eliminated;**

24 **(iii) Graduation attained by individuals who are Black, Indigenous or other people of**
25 **color; and**

26 **(iv) Cost barriers to higher education, including:**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

- 1 **(I) On-campus housing;**
- 2 **(II) Off-campus housing;**
- 3 **(III) On-campus food programs;**
- 4 **(IV) Cost-of-living and rent burden statistics for those regions surrounding each campus;**
- 5 **and**
- 6 **(V) Other necessary living expenses;**
- 7 **(C) Trends in the workforce at public universities in this state, including:**
 - 8 **(i) Percentage of undergraduate, graduate, online and certificate program classes taught**
 - 9 **by full-time tenured faculty for each quarter of each year from 2011 to 2023;**
 - 10 **(ii) Percentage of undergraduate, graduate, online and certificate program classes taught**
 - 11 **by adjunct part-time non-tenure-track faculty for each quarter of each year from 2011 to**
 - 12 **2023;**
 - 13 **(iii) Percentage of undergraduate, graduate, online and certificate program classes taught**
 - 14 **by full-time non-tenure-track instructional faculty for each quarter of each year from 2011**
 - 15 **to 2023;**
 - 16 **(iv) Percentage increase, if any, in unclassified administrative costs, salaries and em-**
 - 17 **ployment numbers in each year from 2011 to 2023;**
 - 18 **(v) Year-by-year actual numbers of employed part-time adjunct faculty, full-time non-**
 - 19 **tenure-track faculty, full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty, undergraduate employees,**
 - 20 **graduate employees and classified staff; and**
 - 21 **(vi) Average take-home salary, as adjusted for inflation, for each group of employees**
 - 22 **identified in sub-subparagraph (iv) of this subparagraph;**
- 23 **(D) Trends in institutional finance, including:**
 - 24 **(i) Institutional debt, bonds, endowments and overall financial health of each public uni-**
 - 25 **versity in this state; and**
 - 26 **(ii) Trends in state funding to each public university in this state, including state funding**
 - 27 **as a percentage of total operating costs, as adjusted for inflation; and**
- 28 **(E) Perceptions of students, faculty and community members in light of any events re-**
- 29 **garding public universities in this state.**
- 30 **(3) The director shall include in the study conducted under subsection (2) of this section**
- 31 **a consideration of governance models for public universities in this state in light of the data**
- 32 **identified under subsection (2) of this section, and in consideration of governance models**
- 33 **used in other states, examine the potential positive and negative impacts of the following:**
 - 34 **(a) No change to the current governance model for public universities in this state;**
 - 35 **(b) Abolishing independent governing boards and returning to oversight of public univer-**
 - 36 **sities by a state board of higher education;**
 - 37 **(c) A hybrid model of governance for public universities retaining aspects of the current**
 - 38 **governance model and including oversight by a centralized state agency with limitations on**
 - 39 **the authority of governing boards;**
 - 40 **(d) A governance model of public universities that consolidates governing boards among**
 - 41 **public universities or creates a consortium of governing boards; and**
 - 42 **(e) Providing for elections of members of governing boards.**
- 43 **(4) The director may enter into a contract or a partnership with any public or private**
- 44 **entity for the purposes of this section.**
- 45 **(5) The director shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 to the in-**

1 **terim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to higher education no later than**
2 **September 15, 2024.**

3 **(6) Each public university shall provide the director with any assistance required by the**
4 **director that the director determines is necessary to complete the study and report in the**
5 **manner described in this section.**

6 **SECTION 2. This 2024 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2024**
7 **regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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