

## HB 2649 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/6

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows Oregon's technical and regional universities to raise tuition and certain fees for undergraduate students by more than five percent annually without seeking approval from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) or the Legislative Assembly.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

##### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

##### BACKGROUND:

Of the seven public universities in the state of Oregon, four - Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT), Southern Oregon University (SOU), Eastern Oregon University (EOU), and Western Oregon University (WOU) are colloquially referred to as the state's technical and regional universities (TRUs). In 1997, SOU, EOU, and WOU were collectively converted from state colleges to 'comprehensive' universities offering baccalaureate degrees through master's degrees ([House Bill 2364 \(1997\)](#)). Today, they remain distinct from Portland State University, the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and the Oregon Institute of Technology in that they are limited to offering baccalaureate through professional doctoral degrees, but not Doctor of Philosophy degrees (PhDs) under ORS 352.011.

As part of the creation of independent governing boards for public universities in 2013, the Legislative Assembly required Oregon public universities to seek approval from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) before approving tuition and fee increases by more than five percent ([Senate Bill 270, 2013](#)). In 2018, the Legislative Assembly passed [House Bill 4141 \(2018\)](#), further requiring each of the seven public universities to have an advisory body to consider certain data and advise the university president on their recommended increases to resident tuition and fees.