

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Education

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Gretchen Engbring, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 2/19, 3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires out-of-state schools obtain approval from Higher Education Coordinating Commission for educational credit or degree offered within Oregon unless party to interstate agreement. Authorizes Higher Education Coordinating Commission to charge \$7,000 biennial fee for review and oversight of out-of-state schools not party to interstate agreement and \$1,000 for each new program application. Authorizes Higher Education Coordinating Commission to charge out-of-state schools \$1,000 fee if offering practicums or internships in Oregon, unless program is part of online course. Allows Higher Education Coordinating Commission to waive fee for one-time placements or residents returning for practicums or internships. Authorizes Higher Education Coordinating Commission to charge fee up to \$1,000 for new program applications of career schools. Applies to applications, approval requests and fees imposed on or after September 1, 2015. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Review and authorization costs associated with the oversight of new program applications
- State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements
- Student and consumer protection issues
- Challenges of detecting non-accredited programs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

-1 amendments (proposed) define “practicum” to include internships and other placements. Exempts placements that are part of an online program offered by a school from \$1,000 state fee. Clarify instances under which commission may waive fee for practicums.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 242 (2011) established the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Within HECC, the Office of Degree Authorization (ODA) is required by statute “to provide for the protection of the citizens of Oregon and their postsecondary schools by ensuring the quality of higher education and preserving the integrity of an academic degree as a public credential.” Under this mission, HECC and the ODA review, oversee, and authorize postsecondary academic programs.

Senate Bill 218 proposes to revise the HECC’s current fee structure for the oversight of postsecondary institutions based outside of Oregon that are beginning operations or establishing new programs in the state. Senate Bill 218 also authorizes the imposition of fees for new program applications from existing career schools and for out-of-state institutions offering practicums or internships in Oregon.

Senate Bill 218 requires out of state schools to receive approval from HECC before offering any education credit or degree within Oregon, including through the internet, mail or telephone. However, the bill allows for exceptions for schools operating as part of interstate agreements, such as the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement, which includes Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota and Washington.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.