Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Abolishes Oregon University System, office of Chancellor of the Oregon University System and State Board of Higher Education.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Office of the Governor

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The bill abolishes the office and related statutes of the Chancellor of Oregon University System (OUS) and the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE). Duties, functions, and powers of SBHE are transferred to public universities with governing boards.

Amendments to ORS 326.500 would shift the position of Council Director for the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Investment Council, which is part of the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) budget, from a joint position between the Department of Education and the State Board of Higher Education to the Department of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). However if SB 215 passes, which also amendments to ORS 326.500 and would abolish the OEIB and create a Chief Education Office, this position would remain in the Chief Education Office budget and would not be shifted to the HECC. Therefore, the HECC will have a fiscal impact associated with this legislation of roughly \$138,234 General Fund per biennium, unless SB 215 passes. Due to the unknown outcome of how ORS 326.500 will be amended the Legislative Fiscal Office will make any necessary adjustments to the HECC budget in end-of-session legislation when the outcome of the statue amendments is known.