

SB 3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/6, 5/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits a community college to offer an applied baccalaureate degree program upon approval from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Requires a community college to submit program information and documentation to HECC to qualify for approval. Establishes program criteria. Requires HECC to approve a proposed applied baccalaureate program if the community college submits all required information and documentation to HECC and meets statutory criteria for academic programs. Exempts applied baccalaureate programs from the statutory prohibition on community colleges offering four-year baccalaureate degree programs. Allows HECC to adopt rules to implement the provisions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Maintaining integrity of four-year degree with new model
- Accreditation requirements for two-year and four-year post-secondary institutions
- Tuition charged at post-secondary institutions
- Value of higher education degree
- Career Technical Education programs in higher education
- Other states offering baccalaureate degree programs
- Rule-making provided by Higher Education Coordinating Commission
- Definition of unmet need in communities
- Partnerships between industry and community college program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon has 17 community colleges serving 272,254 individual students in four program areas: lower-division collegiate, career and technical, developmental education, and adult continuing education. An applied baccalaureate degree is a bachelor's degree designed to incorporate applied associate courses and degrees with additional coursework emphasizing higher-order thinking skills and advanced technical knowledge and skills. Twenty-four other states allow community colleges to award bachelor's degrees. Oregon law prohibits community colleges from offering four-year baccalaureate programs, including applied baccalaureate programs.