

HB 3280 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/29, 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies membership of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) by redesignating the five current nonvoting positions into voting positions and by adding one position for a graduate student attending a public university. Redesignates as voting positions: undergraduate student at an Oregon public university, faculty member at an Oregon public university, a student from a community college, a faculty member at a community college, a nonfaculty staff member from either a community college or public university. Applies to appointments made on or after effective date.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- HECC membership
- History of 2011 and 2013 legislation on higher education governance
- Student, faculty, and staff voice
- Equity lens
- Importance of campus-based perspectives
- Appropriate size for commission
- Current student, faculty, and staff representation on universities' governing boards
- Subject of votes on commission
- Role of HECC in setting tuition and fee amounts
- Types of governance models

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 242 (2011) created the Higher Education Coordinating Commission as a 15 member body, appointed by the Governor. It required HECC membership to include one member from each of the five congressional districts in Oregon, one public university student, one community college student, at least four employer representatives, and at least one school board member. The legislation also modified the State Board of Higher Education, increasing the membership from 12 to 15 members. In 2013, the legislature passed House Bill 3120, which re-chartered HECC and changed the membership from 15 voting members to 14 members, with nine voting and five non-voting positions. It established the nine voting positions as the five members representing congressional districts and four general public positions, and the five non-voting positions as one student from a public university, one student from a community college, one faculty member from a public university, one faculty member from a community college, and one nonfaculty staff member from either a public university or community college. It eliminated the requirement for employer and school district positions. In the same year, the legislature passed Senate Bill 270 (2013) which established the requirements for the public universities' governing boards. Under this legislation, public university boards must include one student as a voting member, one faculty member, and one nonfaculty staff member. The Governor may appoint the faculty and nonfaculty staff position as either a voting or nonvoting member. In 2015, the legislature abolished the State Board of Higher Education (Senate Bill 80).

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House Bill 3280 changes the five non-voting student, faculty, and nonfaculty positions to voting positions and adds a voting position for a graduate student attending a public university. These changes apply to appointments made on or after the effective date.