

SB 1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows community colleges and public universities to merge. Specifies requirements for proposal of merger to be submitted to Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Requires merger to be approved by commission and that report be submitted to Legislative Assembly upon approval. Exempts statutory requirements for community colleges from community colleges and public universities that have merged.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon currently has seven public universities and 17 community colleges. Each institution has an independent financial and governance structure and is overseen by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

Mergers of higher education institutions have become increasingly common in other states. In 2011, Georgia began a decade-long process of consolidating its state colleges and universities. Pennsylvania, Vermont, Delaware and Minnesota are in the process of implementing mergers as well.

Senate Bill 1 allows for a merger between a community college and a university, and outlines a process for the merger to be approved.