HB 2472 -1   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By:	Matt Perreault, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	4/26, 5/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates Oregon Institute of Technology as Oregon's Polytechnic University.

House Vote: Passed. Ayes, 55; Excused, 3--Evans, Leif, Rayfield; Excused for Business of the House, 1--Speaker Kotek.

FISCAL: *No fiscal impact*

REVENUE: *No revenue impact*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- Circumstances of faculty strike
- University partnerships with industry
- Significance of "polytechnic" designation
- Experiences of students and faculty
- Examples of career-oriented academic programs

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Adds language to preamble that further recognizes faculty of Oregon Institute of Technology.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Institute of Technology (Oregon Tech) was founded in in Klamath Falls in 1947 as a vocational rehabilitation school for World War II veterans. Since that time, Oregon Tech's academic offerings have expanded to encompass a variety of technological and professional programs aimed at enhancing the state's workforce. As a polytechnic university, Oregon Tech offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate degree programs in engineering, health, business, computer science, and applied arts and sciences. Students at Oregon Tech focus on project-based learning, and pursue careers in technological industries.

Oregon Tech recently worked with its stakeholders and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to refine its mission. The mission reaffirms the university's focus on professional degree programs and applied research linked with Oregon industry. According to Oregon Tech, the designation as Oregon's Polytechnic University may increase awareness of the unique role that polytechnic universities serve for the state, industry, and its students, and may offer access to additional federal funds for technical education programs.

House Bill 2472 designates Oregon Institute of Technology as Oregon's Polytechnic University.