

House Bill 3499

Sponsored by Representative CHAICHI

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Prohibits public universities from charging tuition or mandatory enrollment fees to resident undergraduate or graduate students.

Prohibits community colleges from charging tuition to students who are residents of community college district.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for purpose of eliminating tuition and mandatory enrollment fees.

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct study to determine best methods for eliminating governing board at each public university, eliminating bonding authorities of public universities and making commission responsible for direct oversight and management of each public university.

Declares legislative finding that it is not in public interest of state for public universities to have independent governing boards and declares study is first step towards making commission responsible for direct oversight and management of each public university no later than 2027-2028 academic year.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to higher education; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 352.102 or any other provision of law, a public uni-**
5 **versity listed in ORS 352.002 may not charge tuition or mandatory enrollment fees.**

6 **(2) This section applies to tuition and mandatory enrollment fees for:**

7 **(a) Resident undergraduate students who are earning their first undergraduate degree;**
8 **and**

9 **(b) Resident graduate students who are earning their first graduate degree.**

10 **SECTION 2. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 341.290 or any other provision of law, a community**
11 **college operated under ORS chapter 341 may not charge tuition.**

12 **(2) This section applies to tuition for students who are residents of the community col-**
13 **lege district in which the community college is located.**

14 **SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
15 **ated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1,**
16 **2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$___, to be allocated to public universities**
17 **listed in ORS 352.002 and community colleges operated under ORS chapter 341 for the pur-**
18 **pose of carrying out the provisions of sections 1 and 2 of this 2023 Act.**

19 **SECTION 4. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall conduct a study to**
20 **determine the best methods for:**

21 **(a) Eliminating the governing board at each public university listed in ORS 352.002;**

22 **(b) Eliminating the authorities of public universities with respect to state bonds that are**
23 **set forth in ORS 352.388 to 352.415; and**

24 **(c) Making the commission responsible for the direct oversight and management of each**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **public university listed in ORS 352.002.**

2 **(2) The commission shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and**
3 **must include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative**
4 **Assembly related to higher education no later than September 15, 2024.**

5 **(3) Each public university shall provide the commission with any assistance required by**
6 **the commission that the commission determines is necessary for the commission to com-**
7 **plete the study and report in the manner described in this section.**

8 **(4) As used in this section, “governing board” and “state bonds” have the meanings given**
9 **those terms in ORS 352.029.**

10 **SECTION 5. (1) The Legislative Assembly finds that having an independent governing**
11 **board for each public university listed in ORS 352.002 is not in the best interests of this state**
12 **and declares that section 4 of this 2023 Act is the first step towards making the Higher Ed-**
13 **ucation Coordinating Commission responsible for direct oversight and management of each**
14 **public university no later than by the 2027-2028 academic year.**

15 **(2) As used in this section, “governing board” has the meaning given that term in ORS**
16 **352.029.**

17 **SECTION 6. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
18 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect**
19 **July 1, 2023.**

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