

HB 4125 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) director to study the impact of the creation of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and trends in Oregon public universities since 2011. It requires the LPRO director to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024. The measure takes effect on the 91st day after adjournment.

May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

Detailed Summary:

Directs the Legislative Policy and Research Director to study the impact of Senate Bill 242 (2011). Requires the study to identify trends in:

- tuition cost and student debt;
- enrollment and graduation, including cost barriers to attendance;
- courses taught and salaries earned by full-time and part-time faculty;
- institutional debt, bonds, and endowments; and
- perceptions of the public regarding public universities.

Requires the Legislative Policy and Research Director to submit a final report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024. Requires each public university to assist the vendor in completing the study. Takes effect on the 91st day after adjournment.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Ten year review of 2013 governance changes
- Criteria for assessing appropriate governance model
- Faculty, student relationships to university governing boards

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment replaces the measure. The amendment requires the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) director to contract with a vendor to study the Oregon system of higher education. The amendment requires the vendor to assess trends in Oregon public universities from 2013 to 2023, to assess the current governance model, and to consider alternative governance models. It requires the LPRO director to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by November 30, 2024. The measure takes effect on the 91st day after adjournment.

Detailed Summary:

Directs the Legislative Policy and Research Director to contract with a vendor to conduct a study of the impact of Senate Bill 242 (2011) and Senate Bill 270 (2013). Requires the vendor conducting the study to identify trends in:

- tuition cost and student debt;
- enrollment and graduation, including cost barriers to attendance;
- courses taught and salaries earned by full-time and part-time faculty;

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- institutional debt, bonds, and endowments; and
- perceptions of the public regarding public universities.

Requires the vendor to compare governance models with those of other states and consider specified alternatives to the current governance model. Requires the vendor to submit a draft report to the Legislative Policy and Research Director by November 15, 2024. Requires the director to submit a final report to the Legislative Assembly by November 30, 2024. Requires HECC and each public university to assist the vendor in completing the study and report. Takes effect on the 91st day after adjournment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2009, David Frohnmayr, president emeritus of the University of Oregon, released a [report](#) commissioned by the Oregon University System (OUS) Office of the Chancellor in which he proposed converting the state's three research universities into public corporations governed by local boards. At the time, [The Oregonian](#) reported that the Oregon State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) and the seven university presidents were considering policy options in response to this proposal. In the 2009-2010 legislative interim, Senator Mark Haas, chair of the Senate Education and General Governance Committee, formed a [Legislative Work Group on Higher Education](#) to address the issues raised in Frohnmayr's report. The workgroup's efforts led to the introduction of [Senate Bill 242 \(2011\)](#).

Senate Bill 242 (2011) created the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to coordinate higher education policies and goals with the OUS. Two years later, [Senate Bill 270 \(2013\)](#) created individual governing boards for the University of Oregon and Portland State University and offered the same option to the other five public universities (Oregon State University, Western Oregon, Eastern Oregon, Southern Oregon, and Oregon Institute of Technology). [Senate Bill 80 \(2015\)](#) fully abolished the OUS, the OUS chancellor's office, and the SBHE, transferring SBHE's remaining responsibilities to the HECC.