

HB 3028 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure removes current fees for reviewing academic programs at private for-profit colleges from statute and instead permits the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to set fees in administrative rule.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued.

REVENUE: Revenue impact issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Circumstances in which fee adjustments might be necessary
- Legislative oversight process for fee adjustments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is charged with authorizing degrees offered by private institutions. ORS 348.594 to 348.615 and Oregon administrative rules [Chapter 583, Division 30](#) govern HECC's oversight of private, for-profit, non-accredited institutions, with some exceptions. HECC's [Office of Degree Authorization](#) administers this approval process and serves a consumer protection role for students.

Under [OAR 583-030-0020](#), specific degrees are authorized for two years, after which a school is required to submit an application to renew the degree program. Under current law, HECC is permitted to charge specified fees every two years for the review and oversight of an entire school, as well as for the periodic evaluation of an academic program.

If House Bill 3028 is enacted, any fee changes made in administrative rule would be reported to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and require both approval from DAS and adoption by the legislature to take effect ([ORS 291.055](#)).