HB 2389 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates:	3/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure prohibits Oregon public universities from increasing their enrollment by more than five percent each academic year. It requires the universities to refer any applications in excess of the enrollment cap to the nearest community college and to the state's technical and regional universities. Provisions in the measure first apply to the 2027-28 academic year.

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to data published by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission in November 2024, total enrollment at public universities rose 1.7 percent across institutions at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. The number of admitted undergraduates statewide was 1.5 percent higher and the number of admitted graduate students was 1.8 percent higher than the previous academic year. For individual institutions, enrollment increased at four universities and decreased at three universities.

Of the seven public universities in the state of Oregon, four - Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT), Southern Oregon University (SOU), Eastern Oregon University (EOU), and Western Oregon University (WOU) are colloquially referred to as the state's technical and regional universities (TRUs). In 1997, SOU, EOU, and WOU were collectively converted from state colleges to 'comprehensive' universities offering baccalaureate degrees through master's degrees (House Bill 2364 (1997)). Today, they remain distinct from Portland State University, University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and the Oregon Institute of Technology in that they are limited to offering baccalaureate through professional doctorate degrees, but not Doctor of Philosophy degrees (PhDs) under ORS 352.011.