

HB 2649 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates: 3/6, 4/3, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows Oregon's technical and regional universities to raise tuition and certain fees for undergraduate students by more than five percent annually without seeking approval from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) or the Legislative Assembly.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Intent of language in the measure
- Provisions of amendment
- Proposed program for international partnerships
- Focus on partnerships in East Asia
- Intention to establish one program for all four universities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment replaces the measure. It permits the governing boards of technical and regional universities to develop programs for cooperation with countries located in East Asia and to charge qualifying students from those countries a tuition rate that is equivalent to average resident tuition. It permits the boards to charge service fees to students in the program. The amendment declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

-2 The amendment replaces the measure with language that is substantially similar to the -1 amendment. It requires qualifying students to pay a tuition rate equivalent to the average of resident tuition at regional and technical universities, instead of the average of resident tuition at all public universities.

BACKGROUND:

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).

As part of the creation of independent governing boards for public universities in 2013, the Legislative Assembly required Oregon public universities to seek approval from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) before approving tuition and fee increases by more than five percent ([Senate Bill 270, 2013](#)). In 2018, the Legislative Assembly passed [House Bill 4141 \(2018\)](#), further requiring each of the seven public universities to have an advisory body to consider certain data and advise the university president on their recommended increases to resident tuition and fees.