

HB 2556 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Lieber

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 05/12/25
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 4-0-1-0
Yeas: 4 - Frederick, Robinson, Sollman, Weber
Exc: 1 - Gelser Blouin
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 4/28, 5/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure designates Portland State University as Oregon's urban research university.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of Portland State University
- Impact of university designation
- Extent of change in branding for university
- Precedent for more university designations
- Urban application and nature of research

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Originally founded in 1946 and located in downtown Portland, Portland State University (PSU), Oregon's third largest university, enrolled over 20,000 students in fall 2024. The [Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education system](#) identifies PSU as a doctoral university with high research activity. Carnegie Classifications attempt to build institutional profiles and to compare institutions based on factors such as research activity, enrollment of graduate and undergraduate students, and concentration of academic programs.

While not all Oregon universities have a designation in state law, [House Bill 2472 \(2021\)](#) designated the Oregon Institute of Technology as "Oregon's Polytechnic University" and [House Bill 4153 \(2018\)](#) designated Eastern Oregon University as "Oregon's Rural University."