

House Bill 2715

Sponsored by Representative EVANS (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Allows for all public higher learning schools to offer PhDs that are approved by the HECC. Limits certain public higher learning schools to five PhD programs until 2044. Blocks public money to be used for aid to students at certain higher learning schools. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.4).

Authorizes all public universities in Oregon to offer doctoral degrees, subject to approval by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Limits certain public universities to five doctoral programs until 2044.

Prohibits the commission or any other state agency from using public moneys to award scholarships, grants or other types of student financial aid to post-secondary institutions of education that offer coursework primarily online and have been found to have engaged in fraudulent or predatory practices against students or prospective students.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to higher education; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 352.011.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. Subject to approval by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission under**
5 **ORS 350.075 (3)(g) or 352.089 (2), each public university listed in ORS 352.002 may offer doc-**
6 **toral degrees.**

7 **SECTION 2. Notwithstanding section 1 of this 2025 Act, the Oregon Institute of Tech-**
8 **nology, Eastern Oregon University, Southern Oregon University and Western Oregon Uni-**
9 **versity may not offer more than five doctoral programs each.**

10 **SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 1, 2044.**

11 **SECTION 4. ORS 352.011 is amended to read:**

12 352.011. *[(1) As used in this section, "professional doctoral degree" means a first professional de-*
13 *gree, excluding a Doctor of Philosophy degree, that:]*

14 *[(a) Represents a category of qualifications in a professional subject area that requires students to*
15 *have previously completed specified undergraduate coursework or obtained previous undergraduate*
16 *degrees before enrolling in the professional doctoral degree granting program; and]*

17 *[(b) Is awarded upon completion of a program that provides the knowledge and skills for the re-*
18 *cognition, credential or license required for professional practice.]*

19 *[(2)] Western Oregon University, Southern Oregon University and Eastern Oregon University*
20 *are established as comprehensive universities that offer a full range of baccalaureate programs*
21 *and, **subject to section 1 of this 2025 Act,** graduate programs [through the master's degree and the*
22 *professional doctoral degree].*

23 **SECTION 5. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission or any other state**
24 **agency may not use public moneys to award a scholarship, grant or other type of student**
25 **financial aid to a post-secondary institution of education if the post-secondary institution of**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **education:**

2 (a) **Offers coursework primarily online; and**

3 (b) **Has been found to have engaged in fraudulent or predatory practices against a stu-**
4 **dent or prospective student, as determined by:**

5 (A) **The Higher Education Coordinating Commission;**

6 (B) **A court of this state; or**

7 (C) **A public body as defined by ORS 174.109.**

8 (2) **As used in this section, “offers coursework primarily online” and “fraudulent or**
9 **predatory practices” shall be defined by rule by the Higher Education Coordinating Com-**
10 **mission.**

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