

**HB 3120** builds on the work of SB 242 (2011) and the Special Committee on University Governance established by the passage of HB 4061 (2012). The bill is also consistent with recommendations adopted by the Oregon Education Investment Board in response to the requirement in SB 909 (2011) that the OEIB develop policies for streamlining and connecting the P-20 system. HB 3120A was crafted through a stakeholder process that included legislators, legislative staff, and representatives of the Oregon University System, the State Board of Higher Education, Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, Oregon Student Access Commission, Oregon Students Association, Oregon Community College Association, Associated Oregon Industries, Oregon Business Council, Oregon Community Foundation, AFT Oregon, Portland State University, Eastern Oregon University, and others.

HB 3120 consolidates policy making for post-secondary education by merging existing authorities of the State Board of Education for community colleges, the State Board of Higher Education for all seven universities, the Oregon Student Access Commission, and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. The bill does not create a Department of Post-Secondary Education. Rather, it leaves existing agencies (CCWD, OUS, OSAC) in place to support the HECC and its Executive Director.

**Effective July 1, 2014, HB 3120:**

- Re-charters the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) with new and enhanced responsibilities, authorities, and membership,
- Establishes the HECC as the single point of statewide authority for higher education in Oregon:
  - For degree authorization (SB 242, 2011)
  - For oversight of private career schools (SB 242, 2011)
  - For public universities, including state budget development, resource allocation, and program approval (SB 270, 2013)
  - For community colleges, by transferring authorities currently held by the State Board of Education
  - For student access and financial aid, by transferring authorities currently held by the Oregon Student Access Commission
- Streamlines the state board/commission system by merging higher education responsibilities from four boards to one, and
- Maintains CCWD and OSAC as distinct agencies, but reporting to the HECC Executive Director.

**Re-chartering the Higher Education Coordinating Commission:** The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) was established with the passage of SB 242 in 2011. HB 3120 permits the Governor to reappoint the HECC with new members upon passage, subject to Senate confirmation. Effective July 1, 2014, HB 3120 deletes the current statutory charge for the commission and replaces it with language directing the Commission to:

1. Advise the Oregon Education Investment Board on state goals, achievement compacts, investment strategies, and data collection,
2. Adopt a strategic plan for achieving state post-secondary education goals,
3. Recommend to the Governor and the Oregon Education Investment Board a consolidated higher education budget request aligned with the strategic plan they have adopted,
4. Distribute appropriations from the Legislative Assembly to community colleges, public universities, and student access programs,
5. Approve or disapprove any significant change to the academic program of a community college or a public university,
6. Adopt any changes to the university mission statements upon a recommendation from a public university's governing board, pursuant to any process required by the board to review and approve changes to the university's mission statement,
7. Review and determine whether a proposed annual increase of resident undergraduate enrollment fees, as described in ORS 351.063, of greater than five percent is appropriate,
8. Advise the Governor and the Legislative Assembly on issues of university governance,
9. Approve and authorize degrees,
10. Oversee the licensing of career schools under ORS 345.010 to 345.450, and

11. Advise the Legislative Assembly, the Governor, community colleges, public universities and other state boards and commissions on policies in order to:

- Improve access to higher education,
- Encourage student success,
- Improve the coordination of transfers and co-enrollment, accelerated college credit programs for high school students, applied baccalaureate and transfer degrees, programs and grants that span multiple institutions, and reciprocity agreements with other states,
- Enhance the use of dual credit, career and technical pathways,
- Coordinate with the State Workforce Investment Board, local workforce investment boards, the Oregon Health and Science University and independent institutions, to ensure that the state's colleges and universities offer programs in high-demand occupations that meet Oregon's workforce needs.
- Improve economies of scale by encouraging and facilitating the use of the shared services among post-secondary institutions in this state.

### **Establishing the HECC as the single point of statewide authority for higher education in Oregon:**

For degree authorization. SB 242 (2011) transferred authority for degree authorization from the Oregon Student Access Commission (OSAC) to the HECC, effective July 1, 2012. HB 3120 maintains the HECC's responsibility to oversee the Office of Degree Authorization.

For oversight of private career schools. SB 242 (2011) established that the state's regulatory powers relative to private career schools would transfer from the Oregon Department of Education to the HECC effective July 1, 2013. HB 3120 maintains that arrangement.

For public universities. SB 270 (2013) provides for the HECC to be the single state board responsible for budget development, resource allocation, program/mission approval, and other state functions relative to all seven public universities in Oregon.

For community colleges. Current law stipulates that the State Board of Education is responsible for coordinating the state's community colleges and should have general supervisory responsibilities for that system. Its authorities include allocating state funding to community colleges, approving program changes at community colleges, and overseeing the process to form or change the boundaries of community college service districts. HB 3120 transfers those responsibilities from the State Board of Education to the HECC.

For student access and financial aid. The Oregon Student Access Commission board has statutory authority to manage and disperse numerous student financial aid programs including ASPIRE and the Oregon Opportunity Grant. HB 3120 transfers these authorities from the board of the Oregon Student Access Commission to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Under HB 3120, the Oregon Student Access Commission board is abolished July 1, 2014, and its staff (renamed the Office of Student Access and Completion) report to the HECC.

**Streamlining the state board/commission system by merging higher education responsibilities from four boards to one:** As described above, the HECC would assume higher education responsibilities held today by the State Board of Education, State Board of Higher Education, the Oregon Student Access Commission, and the HECC. The State Board of Education remains, but is focused on K-12. Under SB 270, the State Board of Higher Education remains, but is transformed to be governing board for public universities that don't have their own institutional boards. Under HB 3120, the OSAC board would be abolished.

**Maintaining the existing agency structure including CCWD and OSAC:** HB 3120 did not create a new Department of Post-Secondary Education. Rather, the HECC's authorities would be executed through an Executive Director, a small HECC staff, and the staff at CCWD and OSAC, whose executive directors will report to the HECC Executive Director.