

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Frederick
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Girod

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and as Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 25 – 0 – 1

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Frederick, Freeman, Hanna, Huffman, Jensen, Komp, Nathanson, Read, Richardson, Smith, Tomei, Williamson

Nays:

Exc: McLane

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Doug Wilson, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 25, 2013

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to conduct a study on freezing tuition increases for incoming undergraduate students at public universities and report findings to interim legislative committees during the 2014 Legislative Session. Directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to consider proposing a “Pay Forward, Pay Back” pilot program to replace current system of tuition and fees required to attend institutions of higher education and establish program criteria. If it is determined that the state should consider a pilot project the concept needs to be presented to the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly for approval. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for finding assistance to pay for post-secondary education
- General questions on how the Pay Forward Pay Back proposal would work

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: The amendment places responsibility for the Pay-Forward , Pay Back study with HECC and not with a number of education related agencies; and directs the HECC to consider the creation of a proposed pilot program and determine if it has the merit to be presented to the 2015 Legislature. Also changed by the amendment was the due date for the study on tuition freeze – from September 2013 to the 2014 Legislative Session.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 3472-A directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to conduct a study on whether public universities can successfully implement a tuition freeze that will guarantee incoming students the same tuition rate for four years. The study must include an analysis of Western Oregon University’s “Western Tuition Promise” and the “Finish in Four” program proposed in Florida as well as ways to mitigate the financial strain on universities.

“Pay Forward, Pay Back” refers to a system of financing post-secondary education whereby, in lieu of paying tuition or fees, students sign a binding contract to pay the State of Oregon or the institution a certain percentage of annual adjusted gross income for a specified number of years following graduation.