

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5420 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE STATE.

Vote Date: 3/17/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/5/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for HB-5420 is to implement a study concerning postsecondary education. If this study is conducted, according to the proponents of this bill, trends may be found that can positively impact higher education and employment advancement.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

None Expressed.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Office of Higher Education, Commissioner, Timothy Larson: Commissioner Larson expresses his opposition to the bill as currently written. He maintains that the Office of Higher Education (OHE) does not have the necessary resources to establish a study and comprehensive report as dictated in the bill. With short staff, OHE cannot accommodate such a task by January 1, 2027.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Tom Atwood

Date: 3/25/2026