

Docket Item:

May 2018 Legislative Update

Summary:

In the 2018 legislative session, the Legislative Assembly passed budget bill SB 5702, and adopted a 'budget note' concerning university capital project requests. Budget notes are inclusions in budget reports issued by the legislative fiscal office that express the intent of the Legislature or suggest action on the part of an agency.

The budget note states that the Commission shall:

...report to the Emergency Board in May 2018 on the statewide criteria developed to evaluate and prioritize Public University capital requests that are proposed in the agency's request budget. The criteria and evaluation process should provide, at a minimum, comparative information across projects, objective analysis of each request, and prioritization of deferred maintenance activities.

On April 23, Executive Director Ben Cannon issued a letter to Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker Tina Kotek, responding to the direction in the budget note and offering an appearance by HECC staff before relevant committees during the May Legislative Days period. At the time of writing, it is unknown if or to which committees HECC staff may present.

The attached letter details HECC's role in the capital request process, describes the criteria for prioritizing capital recommendations, discusses deferred maintenance, emphasizes the need for a long-term, strategic approach, and makes a case for state investment in university capital needs.

In addition to the submission of this letter, staff met with Speaker Kotek to discuss the process HECC uses to prioritize projects and the need for strategic, statewide approaches to capital investments.

Docket Material:

Letter to President Courtney and Speaker Kotek on HECC's adopted FY 2019-2021 capital request ranking process for universities.

Staff Recommendation:

This is an informational item and no action is required.