FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2012 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Directs Joint Boards of Education and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to prepare report on strategies for reducing higher education textbook costs.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Office of the Governor, Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, Department of Education, Oregon University System

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The measure directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to convene a workgroup to examine and recommend adoption of strategies for reducing higher education textbook costs. The workgroup must hold at least three public meetings during the process. The HECC is to forward the workgroup recommendations to the Legislative Assembly by November 1, 2012. The recommendations must identify strategies that require rule adoption by the State Board of Higher Education and the State Board of Education and require additional legislation. The measure is effective July 2, 2012 and is repealed at the convening of the 2013 Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that for previous legislation directing the Joint Boards of Education to do a similar study on textbook costs, costs estimates submitted by OUS and CCWD were anticipated to be around \$150,000 to hire a consultant to conduct the study and research higher education textbook cost reduction strategies.

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), delineated in SB 242 (2011), comes into existence July 1, 2012, and is made a part of the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) through SB 909 (2011). While there is no specific funding for HECC operations in the 2011-2013 Legislatively Adopted Budget, HB 5508 (2011) did provide the OEIB with \$3 million and 2.5 FTE.

There is no fiscal impact to the Oregon University System, Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, or Department of Education.