

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Bonamici, Kruse, Morse, Hass
Nays: 0
Exc.: Metsger
Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires State Board of Higher Education to direct each state institution of higher education to waive tuition for any course audited by Oregon resident 65 years of age or older under certain circumstances. Requires community college district board of education to direct community college to waive tuition for any course audited by Oregon resident 65 years of age or older under certain circumstances. Permits such students to be charged fees associated with audited courses. Permits institutions and community college district board of education to develop implementation rules. Applies to courses offered in 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefit of providing opportunity to audit courses to those under 65 years of age
- Ability of those over 65 years of age to pay for courses
- Overall cost of providing this benefit
- Types of courses covered

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon University System currently has a policy on senior citizen tuition that authorizes attendance in courses on a space-available basis at no charge. The policy specifies that senior citizens are those that are age 65 or older. Under the policy, senior citizens are responsible for incidental fees. The program is designed for persons who are neither seeking credit nor working toward a degree; no record is maintained for the courses taken. If credit is sought, fees are assessed under applicable tuition schedules and records are maintained. House Bill 2011A puts this policy into statute.