

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 254 - A**Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session
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Date: 2/16/2011**Measure Description:**

Directs Department of Education to administer grant program to provide grants related to accelerated college credit programs and examinations for college credit.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, School Districts, Oregon University System, Community Colleges and Workforce Development

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

Agency – Fund Type	2011-13 Biennium	2013-15 Biennium
Department of Education -- General Funds	\$250,000	\$0
Department of Education -- Other Funds	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 Department of Education to administer a grant program to provide grants related to accelerated college credit programs. The grants may be awarded to provide education or training to teachers who provide instruction in accelerated college credit programs or to assist students for non-examination expenses related to accelerated college credit programs and for providing classroom supplies for accelerated college credit programs. The amount of the grant may not exceed one-third of the total cost of education or training. The Department may accept contributions from the federal government or other public or private sources and enter into agreements with school districts, community college districts and state institutions of higher education related to funding. The measure establishes the Accelerated College Credit Account separate and distinct from the General Fund for the administration of the grant program and moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to the Department. The measure appropriates \$250,000 of General Fund to the Accelerated College Credit Account. The measure is effective July 1, 2011.

The \$250,000 of General Fund appropriated to the Accelerated College Credit Account will be distributed by the Department as Other Funds for grants stipulated by the measure. The Department of Education plans to allocate the anticipated workload to eight existing positions totaling 0.76 FTE for the administration of the program and the processing of the annual reports. The Department's estimate of \$147,294 required for staff time and associated services and supplies is disproportionate to the amount of grant funds available.

The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that the demand and the distribution method of individual grants to be awarded are indeterminate and that excessive demand or the method of distribution may require additional staff to administer the program. Additionally, the measure does not specify if the intent of the \$250,000 General Fund appropriation is one-time or on-going, and does not specify the source of additional grant funds if the initial appropriation is expended. Depending on the cumulative workload

requirements added this session or possible budget reductions, the legislature may need to review staffing requirements in the future should this legislation pass.

The measure directs the Joint Boards of Education to develop statewide standards for dual credit programs to be implemented by public high schools, community colleges, and state institutions of higher education within the Oregon University System (OUS) beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. Additionally the measure directs the institutions that provide a dual credit program are directed to report annually to the Joint Boards of Education on the academic performance of students in the program beginning in the 2013-2014 school year.

The Joint Boards of Education currently oversee statewide dual credit implementation and recently approved statewide standards for dual credit program requirements in 2010. The Joint Boards currently have a Dual Credit sub-committee that meet several times a year. Dual credit data is currently collected and reported from the Community College Uniform Reporting System (OCCURS), the Expanded Options Program reporting process within the Department of Education, and data is available on the Department's website. The affected agencies assume that these recently approved statewide standards will meet the requirements of the measure and that there is a minimal fiscal impact for implementation of these standards. The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that there may be a fiscal impact to OUS, community colleges, and school districts if additional statewide standards not already approved by the Joint Boards of Education are developed to meet the requirements of the measure.

The measure directs each school district to provide an accelerated college credit program related to English, mathematics and science, and online access to the program to students in grades 9 through 12. The Oregon Association of School Business Officials reports that school districts assume the impact to implement these requirements and to provide the annual reports is minimal and that a majority of school districts currently operate programs that meet the requirements of the measure. This stipulation of the measure becomes operative July 1, 2014 effective for the 2014-2015 school year.