

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bonamici, George, Morse, Shields, Hass
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Linda Lindholm, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Joint Boards of Education to develop standards by which students may apply credits earned at community college toward baccalaureate degrees awarded by state institutions of higher learning. Requires Joint Boards of Education to submit report of standards to interim legislative committees related to education no later than November 1, 2012. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Transfer and articulation process
- Credit transfer uniformity, efficiency and savings
- Standards and course equivalents reviews
- Joint Boards of Education framework and data for reporting
- Levels of support from Oregon University System, students and community colleges

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Practices in statewide articulation and transfer systems between community colleges and other higher education institutions are inconsistent and data collection and sharing between institutions is lacking. Due to the changing nature of Oregon's student population, the swirling nature of course-taking as students move between institutions, episodic attendance patterns, and the substantial increase in the number of returning older and low-income students, attention to the policies and practices around transfer and articulation is required.

Currently, the educational path to a baccalaureate degree has inconsistencies and inequities in transitioning from community colleges to four-year institutions. Transfer students may have difficulty accessing a particular institution, lose credits, must obtain additional credits or repeat courses. Given the substantial reliance on community colleges, effective transfer pathways are necessary in higher education systems and to student success.

House Bill 3521-A directs the Joint Boards of Education to develop a Transfer Bill of Rights and Responsibilities to articulate uniform protocols for transferring credits between the Oregon institutions of higher education. In addition to specifying how credits earned at community colleges will transfer to universities, the measure allows community colleges to confer associate degrees by accepting credits students have earned at universities.

The measure requires the Joint Boards of Education to submit a report to the interim legislative education committees no later than November 1, 2012, which includes information about the standards developed, resources required to implement the standards, a review of the associate degree transfer, and the feasibility of development of a common data system for sharing student information between community colleges and institutions of higher learning.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.