

A-Engrossed
House Bill 3521

Ordered by the House April 18
Including House Amendments dated April 18

Sponsored by Representatives DEMBROW, WHISNANT; Representatives BARKER, DOHERTY, GELSER, HUFFMAN, JENSON, JOHNSON, KOMP, READ, Senator MONROE

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

[Requires community college, when determining whether to award associate degree, to take into consideration credits earned by student at other institutions of higher education before and after student enrolled at community college. Prohibits community college from requiring student to apply for associate degree or to provide evidence of completion of certain credits.]

[Establishes requirements for state institutions of higher education to implement to improve ability of student to transfer from community college to institution.]

[Imposes reporting requirements related to transfer students.]

[Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2011.]

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 education.

Requires Joint Boards of Education to submit report on standards to interim legislative committees related to education no later than November 1, 2012.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to courses of study at community colleges; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **“Associate transfer degree” means an associate degree that is awarded by a commu-**
6 **nity college and that is intended to allow a student to apply the credits earned for the degree**
7 **towards a baccalaureate degree.**

8 (b) **“Community college” means a community college operated under ORS chapter 341.**

9 (c) **“State institution of higher education” means a state institution of higher education**
10 **listed in ORS 352.002.**

11 (d) **“Transfer program” means a one-year program that is designed to allow a student to**
12 **apply the credits earned through the program towards a baccalaureate degree.**

13 (2) **The Joint Boards of Education shall develop standards related to the ability of stu-**
14 **dents to apply credits earned through courses of study at community colleges to**
15 **baccalaureate degrees awarded by state institutions of higher education. The standards shall**
16 **be known as the “Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.”**

17 (3) **The standards developed under this section may include:**

18 (a) **Admission standards to state institutions of higher education for students who have**
19 **earned an associate transfer degree.**

20 (b) **The maximum number of credits that students who have earned an associate transfer**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 degree would need to complete prior to receiving various types of baccalaureate degrees at
2 state institutions of higher education.

3 (c) The maximum number of credits that students who have completed a transfer pro-
4 gram would need to complete prior to receiving various types of baccalaureate degrees at
5 state institutions of higher education.

6 (d) A process by which a community college would award an associate degree to a student
7 upon completion of necessary credits, regardless of whether the student applied to receive
8 the degree or whether the student earned the credits for the degree at a community college
9 or a state institution of higher education.

10 (e) Any other issues identified by the Joint Boards of Education that relate to courses
11 of study at community colleges and the ability of a student to transfer credits to a commu-
12 nity college or a state institution of higher education, to be admitted to a state institution
13 of higher education or to earn a degree at a community college or a state institution of
14 higher education.

15 (f) Requirements that students must meet in order to benefit from the standards de-
16 scribed in paragraphs (a) to (e) of this subsection.

17 (4) Each community college and state institution of higher education shall submit annual
18 reports to the Joint Boards of Education related to:

19 (a) The number of students who attend a community college and then a state institution
20 of higher education, or a state institution of higher education and then a community college.

21 (b) The number of students who attend one community college and then a different
22 community college.

23 (c) The number of students who transfer from a community college to a state institution
24 of higher education and who have an associate transfer degree or have completed a transfer
25 program.

26 (d) The average number of credits students have when they transfer from a community
27 college to a state institution of higher education.

28 (e) The average number of credits students have when they attend one community col-
29 lege and then a different community college.

30 (f) The average number of credits that a student earning an associate transfer degree
31 completed at a community college.

32 (g) The average number of credits students who have transferred from a community
33 college to a state institution of higher education must earn prior to receiving a baccalaureate
34 degree compared to the average number of credits students who did not transfer from a
35 community college must earn prior to receiving a baccalaureate degree.

36 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:**

37 (a) "Associate transfer degree" means an associate degree that is awarded by a commu-
38 nity college and that is intended to allow a student to apply the credits earned for the degree
39 towards a baccalaureate degree.

40 (b) "Community college" means a community college operated under ORS chapter 341.

41 (c) "State institution of higher education" means a state institution of higher education
42 listed in ORS 352.002.

43 (d) "Transfer program" means a one-year program that is designed to allow a student to
44 apply the credits earned through the program towards a baccalaureate degree.

45 (2) The Joint Boards of Education shall submit to the interim legislative committees re-

1 **lating to education a report no later than November 1, 2012. The report required by this**
2 **section shall include:**

3 **(a) Information related to the standards developed as provided by section 1 of this 2011**
4 **Act, including resources required to implement the standards by no later than the 2014-2015**
5 **academic year.**

6 **(b) A review of the requirements and standards of the associate transfer degree, and**
7 **whether those requirements and standards need to be modified as a result of the standards**
8 **developed as provided by section 1 of this 2011 Act.**

9 **(c) The feasibility of and legal issues related to the development of a common data sys-**
10 **tem that allows for the sharing of student information between community colleges and state**
11 **institutions of higher education.**

12 **(d) Any proposals for legislation that are needed to implement the standards described**
13 **in section 1 of this 2011 Act or that are in response to any of the findings made by the Joint**
14 **Boards of Education while preparing the report described in this subsection.**

15 **(3) In preparation for providing the report described in subsection (2) of this section, the**
16 **Joint Boards of Education shall provide reports to the interim legislative committees related**
17 **to education at intervals determined by the committees.**

18 **(4) The Oregon University System, the Department of Education and the Department of**
19 **Community Colleges and Workforce Development shall provide staff support to the Joint**
20 **Boards of Education for the purpose of preparing the reports required by this section.**

21 **SECTION 3. This 2011 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
22 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2011 Act takes effect**
23 **on its passage.**