

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Beyer, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan, Hass

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to examine viability of program allowing students who graduated from high school in state to attend community college for specified period without paying tuition and fees. Directs commission to submit report to interim legislative committees on education no later than September 30, 2014. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Very large amount (more than \$1 trillion) of student debt nationally
- Guiding principles delivered by the Governor, including sustainability, equity and local flexibility
- HECC as appropriate venue for review of this concept
- Oregon system as national model for post-secondary education structure
- 40-40-20 “pipeline” model for instructional and financial system
- Lack of “middle 40” medium-skilled for employers to hire
- Disproportionate effect lack of post-secondary access has on African American and Latino youths
- High social and economic cost of unemployed youth

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Inserts language to include students “who completed grade 12 in compliance with the requirements of ORS 339.035” into the text of the measure.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 1524 A directs the Higher Education Coordinating Committee to study the “Oregon Promise” initiative, which would extend two years of free post-secondary community college education to graduates of an Oregon high school. The Committee heard testimony on this initiative during the 2013-14 interim committee hearings.