

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Gallegos, Gilliam, Gorsek, Greenlick, Huffman, Johnson, Smith Warner, Whisnant, Harker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Victoria Cox, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/17, 2/19, 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) 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. Specifies that HECC consider anticipated number of participants and annual cost, current capacity of community colleges, potential eligibility criteria and requirement for federal financial aid to be used first. Directs HECC to submit report to interim legislative committees on education no later than September 30, 2014. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Desire to improve performance in middle 40 of 40-40-20 education objectives
- Impact of student loan crisis on economy both locally and nationally
- History of similar program in California
- Other initiatives currently being studied by HECC

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Specifies that HECC consider anticipated number of participants and annual cost, current capacity of community colleges, potential eligibility criteria and requirement for federal financial aid to be used first.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 1524-B directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to study the “Oregon Promise” initiative, which would extend two years of free post-secondary community college education to graduates of Oregon high schools. This initiative will join several others to reduce college costs and improve access and completion rates currently under HECC review.