



House Bill 2525A
Senate Education Committee
April 30, 2015

Chair Roblan, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Dana Richardson, Deputy Director for Legislative and Policy Affairs at the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC).

Since its inception, the HECC has been engaged with improving the transferability of credits within higher education in Oregon. In 2011, the Legislature adopted the “Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities” and we are pleased to be here today with Rep. Witt and other partners to support House Bill 2525A that updates the Transfer Student Bill of Rights. Since the Bill of Rights was first adopted, we have seen the number of different courses of study and majors expand, making timely and accurate information on transfer and articulation more important than ever.

A work group was convened in the House that included the bill sponsor as well as representatives from Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD), the Oregon Community Colleges Association (OCCA), the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB), the Oregon Students Association (OSA), the public universities, and the HECC. There are three things that we hope to accomplish by enacting HB 2525A.

First, we want to build on existing efforts to develop standards to transfer credits among community colleges and universities. You will see in Sec. 1(3) that we are proposing to expand the Transfer Student Bill of Rights by aligning requirements for similar courses and identifying majors that will take more than two years to complete following transfer.

Second, we need to assess the resources that are currently available to students as they navigate the system. Within the last several years, a transfer credit evaluation system was being built but unfortunately the funding was not available to see it through to completion. HB 2525A will direct the HECC to convene students and representatives from community colleges and universities to determine what information is available now and what it would take to implement a transfer credit evaluation system.

Third, HB 2525A directs the HECC to develop and initiate a research plan to analyze when and why credits are lost. Gathering this information will allow a plan to be developed that is based on more than anecdotal information.

Thank you for your attention and I would be happy to answer any questions.