

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Education

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Gretchen Engbring, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/30, 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to convene work group to assess information available to students related to credits required for baccalaureate degree. Requires HECC to determine feasibility and cost of implementing transfer credit valuation system for all public universities and community colleges in Oregon. Directs HECC to submit report to Legislative Assembly no later than July 1, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Legislation updates “Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities”
- Need to align coursework and credits between community colleges and public universities to ensure student’s ability to transfer without repeating coursework
- Credits from community college may transfer to university, but not to degree
- Important for students to access information about transferability of credits prior to enrolling in courses
- Developing common course numbering, statewide web portals with information on transferability, and other tools may streamline the transfer process

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: Currently, students who take coursework or earn an associate’s degree at a community college may apply to transfer credits for this coursework toward the requirements of a baccalaureate degree at a public university. However, there are no standards in place to ensure the universal and/or full transferability of coursework from community colleges to public universities. This leaves many students burdened with retaking similar classes once they arrive at a four-year university.

House Bill 2525-A requires HECC to convene a work group to study information currently available to students regarding transferability and to determine the feasibility of creating an on-line resource of transferability data for all public universities and community colleges in the state.