

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Joint Committee On Ways and Means****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:****Action:****Meeting Dates:****Vote:****Prepared By:** Doug Wilson, Budget Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows Oregon Opportunity Grants to be awarded to highest need students when funds are insufficient to award all eligible students. Guarantees second year award to students who reapply and meet eligibility requirements including progress to degree/certification and maintain a certain grade point. Permits development of program to provide additional incentives for students completing 15 or more credits per term. Requires Office of Student Access and Completion to inform post-secondary institutions of qualified students attending institution for purpose of providing academic counseling and guidance. Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to report annually to Legislative Assembly regarding academic success and performance of qualified students. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for data on performance of students receiving grants including academic progress.
- Need to track on number of non-credit development classes used.
- Community Colleges' knowledge of students' plan when entering school.
- Cost of programming changes to the Financial Aid Management (FAM) system.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's need-based financial aid program, the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG), has not been reevaluated since the adoption of the state's 40-40-20 goals for higher education. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) convened a Financial Aid Work Group to study the OOG program and make recommendations focusing on improved student access and completion for students with the greatest need and progress toward 40-40-20. Currently, grants are awarded on a first-come first-served basis and the number of applicants greatly exceeds the available funds.

House Bill 2407 directs the HECC to implement programs to ensure that students with the greatest financial need are prioritized and that those receiving the OOG for one year also receive the grant a second year if they continue to meet qualifying criteria.