

**HB 2407**

**Relating to Oregon Opportunity Grants**

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HB 2407 makes a number of changes to the Oregon Opportunity Grant including those relating to eligibility and the timing of the awarding of grants.

The bill requires that grants be awarded to the students with the highest need when there are not sufficient funds for all who apply. Grants are also to be guaranteed for a second year if the student is meeting academic standards set by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, or HECC; and the student is making progress toward completion of a degree or a certificate. The responsibilities of the Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion are also clarified in relation to award amounts and reporting information. The bill also encourages post-secondary institutions to make grant recipients aware of available academic guidance and counseling services.

It is anticipated that these changes to the Oregon Opportunity Grant will require up to \$250,000 in changes to the program's information management system. The funding required for these changes will be factored into the development of the budget for HECC.

The Education Subcommittee recommends HB 2407 be reported out do pass.