
MEMORANDUM

Legislative Fiscal Office
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To: Members of the Education Subcommittee

From: Doug Wilson, Legislative Fiscal Office
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Date: June 25, 2015

Subject: SB 418 Work Session Recommendations

Background Information

SB 418-A in its current version appropriates funding in the Accelerated College Credit Account established in the bill. The bill also requires each high school to offer all 9th to 12th graders an accelerated college credit program. The bill also allocates the funds in the Account to districts and post-secondary institutions based in part on the number of college credits earned by students.

The A-24 amendment replaces the bill and establishes two work groups:

- The first work group would identify methods for improving the success rates and educational outcomes for students who receive state administered waivers from tuition from a community colleges. The group is also instructed to emphasize support services that prepare high school students who prepare for the community college classes. A report to the Legislature on the findings is due no later than February 1, 2016.
- The second group, made up of HECC, OEIB and the Department of Education, is charged with recommending ways encourage students to become ready for college, take courses for college credit and make the transition from high school to post-secondary education. The group should also take into account (1) how high schools and post-secondary institutions share costs in this area, (2) potential funding preferences, (3) increasing the access to counselors to support participation, (4) other factors. A report is required by February 1, 2016 to the Legislature summarizing these recommendations.

The bill also establishes a special purpose appropriation to the Emergency Board of \$6,865,921 General Fund for implementing the recommendations of the workgroups. To HECC, a \$134,079 General Fund is made for their costs for staffing the two workgroups.

Recommended Changes to the Bill:

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends the –A24 amendment to the bill.

Sen./Rep. _____ moves the –A24 amendment to SB 418.

SB 418 Final Subcommittee Action:

Final Motion:

Sen./Rep. _____ moves SB 418 to the full committee as amended with a “do pass” recommendation.

Carriers:

Full: _____

Senate: _____

House: _____

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/21/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments And Requesting Referral To Ways And Means.
(Printed A-Engrossed.)**Meeting Dates:** 04/09, 04/21**Vote:**

Yeas: 7 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Gelser, Hass, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires each school district provide accelerated college credit program at each high school in school district. Specifies what accelerated college credit programs must and may include. Allows college credit to be transferable under specified conditions. Allows exclusively online courses if specified supports are provided. Allows school district or high school to pursue agreement with public university or community college anywhere in Oregon if unable to reach agreement with closest public university or community college that serves high school within 60 days of beginning negotiations. Specifies permissible charges to student participating in accelerated college credit program. Requires school district providing accelerated college credit program collaborate with post-secondary institution of education to ensure courses meet standards for transferable credits, and that students receive specified support. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) provide statewide standards for accelerated college credit programs that do not have nationally-established standards or state-established accelerated credit standards. Requires high school teachers of accelerated college credit courses be approved by post-secondary institution of education based on specified standards or by process established by HECC. Requires specified reporting requirements. Requires Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) identify model programs and best practices to encourage students to participate in accelerated college credit programs and enroll in postsecondary education. Requires Department of Education (ODE) administer grant program to support accelerated college credit programs. Appropriates unspecified amount to ODE for grant program. Establishes Supplemental Accelerated College Credit Account and Accelerated College Account in State Treasury. Specifies system for monetary distributions for accelerated college credit programs. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Proposed amendments replace SB 418 as introduced with amended language of Senate Bill 84 (2015)
- Issues raised during hearings on Senate Bill 84, as expressed in the bullets below
- Findings of the Accelerated Learning Committee
- Student transition from secondary to post-secondary education
- Importance of ensuring academic rigor in accelerated college credit programs so as to avoid setting students up for failure in higher education
- Necessary levels of oversight and safeguards to ensure academic rigor and student success
- Unintended negative consequences of legislation for existing accelerated college credit programs that have already proved successful
- Online supplements to courses versus exclusively online courses

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 254 (2011) created an oversight system and grant program administered by ODE to support accelerated college credit programs, including dual credit, two-plus-two, advanced placement, and International Baccalaureate programs. Senate Bill 222 (2013) established the Accelerated Learning Committee to explore programs like those above and examine methods to further encourage and enable students to obtain college credits while still in high school. The committee released a report on their findings in 2014. Recommendations from the committee included additional funding and legislation to provide access at every Oregon high school to at least three college credit courses at no cost to students and their families.

Senate Bill 418-A requires each school district provide an accelerated college credit program at each high school within the district and details what these programs must and may include. The bill further instructs HECC, OEIB, and ODE to support the programs by providing standards, identifying model programs and best practices, and administering a grant program to support accelerated college programs respectively.