

House Committee On Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/06/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/13, 04/06

Vote:

Yeas: 9 - Gallegos, Hayden, Johnson, McKeown, Nearman, Read, Reardon, Whisnant, Williamson

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Committee Administrator

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:

- Lack of alignment between community college courses and university graduation requirements
- Additional time required to complete baccalaureate degree for students transferring from community college
- Cost and increased indebtedness for transfer students taking more time to graduate
- Need for more easily accessible data on baccalaureate degree requirements and transferability

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

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 the 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.