

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**House Committee On Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/20/15**Action:** Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Bill Be Referred To Ways And Means.**Meeting Dates:** 03/16, 04/17, 04/20**Vote:**

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

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes Open Educational Resources Grant Program within Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Directs HECC to employ Open Educational Resource Specialist. Appropriates moneys to HECC to fund grant program and Specialist. Requires public universities and community colleges to designate in catalogs and on-line, those courses exclusively using no-cost or low-cost course materials. Requires resources created or revised with grant funds to be openly licensed. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Negative impact of spiraling textbook cost on affordability and completion
- Materials for some community college courses more expensive than tuition
- Students forced to select courses based on cost of materials
- Creative Commons goal of universal access to educational materials through open licensing
- Current program at Oregon State University, "Open Oregon State"
- Need to make open educational resources easy for faculty to adopt, adapt and repurpose

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

As reported by the Education Commission of the States, "According to the Government Accountability Office, textbook prices skyrocketed 82 percent between 2002-12, and the average student budget for books and supplies has grown to \$1,207 annually . . . The result is a dramatic shift toward Open Educational Resources (OER) . . . There is growing national and international interest in OER as a way to help financially distressed states reduce costs and save students millions of dollars. OERs are defined as teaching, learning and research resources that are open licensed – users can legally adapt and redistribute the contents because they reside in the public domain or have been released under an open intellectual property license."

House Bill 2871-A establishes the Open Educational Resources Grant Program within the HECC to encourage the identification, development and use of OER among Oregon's institutions of higher education. The measure also directs the HECC to identify OER ready for adoption as the primary instructional material for at least 30 transferable, high-enrollment courses by June 30, 2017 and provides funding for a statewide OER Specialist.