

**Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session**  
**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**Senate Committee On Education**

**MEASURE: HB 2525 A**  
**CARRIER: Sen. Hass**

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 05/07/15

**Action:** Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

**Meeting Dates:** 04/30, 05/07

**Vote:**

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

**Prepared By:** Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

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**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:**

- Legislation updates “Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities”
- Need to align coursework and credits between community colleges and public universities to ensure student’s ability to transfer without repeating coursework
- Credits from community college may transfer to university, but not fulfill specific degree requirements
- Important for students to access information about transferability of credits prior to enrolling in courses
- Development of common course numbering, statewide web portals with information on transferability, and other tools may streamline the transfer process

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

ORS 341.430 requires HECC to develop standards for applying community college credits toward a baccalaureate degree and establishes the Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. However, while 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, many students have found that their credits do not fulfill their degree requirements and are consequently required to take similar classes once they arrive at a four-year university.

House Bill 2525-A updates the Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and requires HECC to develop standards that include processes to align requirements for community college courses and public university courses in order to ensure that the credits earned for similar courses are transferable between community colleges and public universities. Additionally, House Bill 2525-A requires HECC to convene a work group to assess information available to students regarding transferability and to determine the feasibility and cost of implementing a transfer credit evaluation system incorporating data from all community colleges and public universities in the state.