

House Bill 2525

Sponsored by Representative WITT; Representatives EVANS, SMITH WARNER (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to develop standards related to transferability of credits and acceptance of test scores for community colleges and public universities.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to college credit; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 341.430.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 341.430 is amended to read:

5 341.430. (1) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Associate transfer degree" means an associate degree that is awarded by a community
7 college and that is intended to allow a student to apply the credits earned for the degree toward a
8 baccalaureate degree.

9 (b) "Community college" means a community college operated under ORS chapter 341.

10 (c) "Public university" means a public university listed in ORS 352.002.

11 (d) "Transfer program" means a one-year program that is designed to allow a student to apply
12 the credits earned through the program toward a baccalaureate degree.

13 (2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall develop standards related to the ability
14 of students to apply credits earned through courses of study at community colleges to baccalaureate
15 degrees awarded by public universities. The standards shall be known as the "Transfer Student Bill
16 of Rights and Responsibilities."

17 (3) The standards developed under this section must include:

18 (a) Admission standards to public universities for students who have earned an associate trans-
19 fer degree.

20 **(b) Processes to align requirements for community college courses and public university**
21 **courses to ensure that credits earned for completion of sufficiently similar courses are fully**
22 **transferable between all community colleges and public universities.**

23 **(c) Processes for every community college and public university to accept the same**
24 **standards on a nationally developed test or a test developed by a community college or public**
25 **university as an indication of a student's coursework competency.**

26 *[(b)]* **(d)** Processes to minimize the number of credits that students who have earned an associate
27 transfer degree would need to complete prior to receiving various types of baccalaureate degrees
28 at public universities.

29 *[(c)]* **(e)** Processes to minimize the number of credits that students who have completed a
30 transfer program would need to complete prior to receiving various types of baccalaureate degrees
31 at public universities.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 [(d)] (f) Processes by which a community college would award an associate degree to a student
2 upon completion of necessary credits, regardless of whether the student applied to receive the de-
3 gree or whether the student earned the credits for the degree at a community college or a public
4 university.

5 [(e)] (g) Processes to evaluate and make recommendations for the development of associate
6 transfer degrees in specific areas of study, including engineering.

7 [(f)] (h) Any other issues identified by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission that re-
8 late to courses of study at community colleges and the ability of a student to transfer credits to a
9 community college or a public university, to be admitted to a public university or to earn a degree
10 at a community college or a public university.

11 [(g)] (i) Requirements that students must meet in order to benefit from the standards described
12 in paragraphs (a) to [(f)] (h) of this subsection.

13 (4) Each community college and public university shall submit annual reports to the Higher
14 Education Coordinating Commission related to:

15 (a) The number of students who attend a community college and then a public university, or a
16 public university and then a community college.

17 (b) The number of students who attend one community college and then a different community
18 college.

19 (c) The number of students who transfer from a community college to a public university and
20 who have an associate transfer degree or have completed a transfer program.

21 (d) The average number of credits students have when they transfer from a community college
22 to a public university.

23 (e) The average number of credits students have when they attend one community college and
24 then a different community college.

25 (f) The average number of credits that a student earning an associate transfer degree completed
26 at a community college.

27 (g) The average number of credits students who have transferred from a community college to
28 a public university must earn prior to receiving a baccalaureate degree compared to the average
29 number of credits students who did not transfer from a community college must earn prior to re-
30 ceiving a baccalaureate degree.

31 **SECTION 2. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall adopt the standards**
32 **specified in ORS 341.430 (3)(b) and (c) for implementation during the 2016-2017 academic year.**
33
