

House Bill 3567

Sponsored by Representative GOMBERG (at the request of The Oregon Community College Association)

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 establish standards for partnerships entered into between public universities, community colleges and school districts for purpose of awarding college credits to high school students. Requires standards to first apply to 2016-2017 school year.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to college credit awarded to high school students; creating new provisions; amending ORS
3 351.735; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 351.735, as amended by section 2, chapter 83, Oregon Laws 2014, and sections
6 1 and 2, chapter 113, Oregon Laws 2014, is amended to read:

7 351.735. (1) As used in this section, "student access programs" means scholarship, loan, grant
8 and access programs described in ORS chapter 348.

9 (2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall be guided by the legislative findings
10 in ORS 341.009, 351.001 and 351.003 and the goals and mission of post-secondary education set forth
11 in ORS 351.006 and 351.009.

12 (3) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall:

13 (a) Develop state goals and associated achievement compacts for the state post-secondary edu-
14 cation system, including community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002, and for
15 student access programs.

16 (b) Determine strategic investments in the state's community colleges, public universities and
17 student access programs necessary to achieve state post-secondary education goals.

18 (c) Coordinate the post-secondary elements of data collection and structure, with the advice and
19 recommendation of the state's independent institutions, community colleges and public universities,
20 as appropriate, in order to construct a state longitudinal data system.

21 (d) Adopt a strategic plan for achieving state post-secondary education goals, taking into con-
22 sideration the contributions of this state's independent institutions, philanthropic organizations and
23 other organizations dedicated to helping Oregonians reach state goals. State post-secondary educa-
24 tion goals as described in this section should include, but need not be limited to:

25 (A) Increasing the educational attainment of the population;

26 (B) Increasing this state's global economic competitiveness and the quality of life of its resi-
27 dents;

28 (C) Ensuring affordable access for qualified Oregon students at each college or public university;

29 (D) Removing barriers to on-time completion; and

30 (E) Tracking progress toward meeting the state's post-secondary education goals established in

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 the strategic plan described in this paragraph.

2 (e)(A) Each biennium, after receiving funding requests from the state's community colleges and
 3 public universities as authorized by law, recommend to the Governor a consolidated higher educa-
 4 tion budget request aligned with the strategic plan described in *[subsection (3)(d) of this section]*
 5 **paragraph (d) of this subsection**, including appropriations for:

6 (i) Student access programs;

7 (ii) Public universities listed in ORS 352.002, including but not limited to education and general
 8 operations, statewide public services and state-funded debt service;

9 (iii) Community colleges, including but not limited to education and general operations and
 10 state-funded debt service;

11 (iv) New facilities or programs;

12 (v) Capital improvements and deferred maintenance; and

13 (vi) Special initiatives and investments.

14 (B) In the development of the consolidated higher education budget request:

15 (i) Determine the costs necessary to provide quality post-secondary education;

16 (ii) Solicit input from educators, education policy experts, appropriate legislative committees,
 17 students and other persons interested in the development of the funding model; and

18 (iii) Solicit public input regarding educational priorities.

19 (f) Adopt rules governing the distribution of appropriations from the Legislative Assembly to
 20 community colleges, public universities listed in ORS 352.002 and student access programs. These
 21 rules must be based on allocation formulas developed in consultation with the state's community
 22 colleges and public universities, as appropriate.

23 (g) Approve or disapprove any significant change to the academic program of a community col-
 24 lege or a public university listed in ORS 352.002. In reaching a decision under this paragraph, the
 25 commission shall consider the recommendation from the community college or public university
 26 seeking to make the change to an academic program that is issued pursuant to the obligation of the
 27 governing board of a community college or public university to review and approve academic pro-
 28 grams. The commission shall ensure that approved programs:

29 (A) Are consistent with the mission statement of the community college or public university;

30 (B) Do not unnecessarily duplicate academic programs offered by Oregon's other community
 31 colleges or public universities;

32 (C) Are not located in a geographic area that will cause undue hardship to Oregon's other
 33 community colleges or public universities; and

34 (D) Are allocated among Oregon's community colleges and public universities to maximize the
 35 achievement of statewide needs and requirements.

36 (h) For public universities listed in ORS 352.002:

37 (A) Approve the mission statement adopted by a governing board of a public university or by
 38 the State Board of Higher Education.

39 (B) Review and determine whether a proposed annual increase of resident undergraduate en-
 40 rollment fees, as described in ORS 351.063, of greater than five percent is appropriate.

41 (C) Advise the Governor and the Legislative Assembly on issues of university governance.

42 (D) Approve and authorize degrees.

43 (i) **Establish standards for partnerships entered into between public universities listed in**
 44 **ORS 352.002, community colleges and school districts, or any combination thereof, for the**
 45 **purpose of awarding college credits to high school students. The standards must:**

1 **(A) Provide for the transfer of college credits earned under the partnerships to all public**
 2 **universities and community colleges in this state;**

3 **(B) Provide guidance for financial agreements between public universities, community**
 4 **colleges and school districts to ensure equitable and consistent results;**

5 **(C) Provide guidelines for ensuring student success, including targeting high school stu-**
 6 **dents who are ready for post-secondary education; and**

7 **(D) Be consistent with requirements for regional accreditation for public universities and**
 8 **for community colleges.**

9 *[(i)]* **(j)** Authorize degrees to be offered by independent post-secondary institutions in this state
 10 under ORS 348.594 to 348.615.

11 *[(j)]* **(k)** Oversee the licensing of career schools under ORS 345.010 to 345.450.

12 *[(k)]* **(L)** Have the authority to enter into and administer interstate agreements regarding the
 13 provision of post-secondary distance education. The participation by an educational institution that
 14 is not based in this state in distance learning courses or programs that are part of an interstate
 15 agreement entered into and administered under this paragraph does not constitute operating in this
 16 state for purposes of ORS 348.594 to 348.615. The commission, by rule, may impose a fee on any
 17 educational institution that seeks to operate under or participate in such interstate agreements. The
 18 fee amount shall be established to recover designated expenses incurred by the commission in par-
 19 ticipating in such agreements.

20 (4) In addition to the duties described in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, the Higher Ed-
 21 ucation Coordinating Commission shall advise the Legislative Assembly, the Governor, community
 22 colleges, public universities and other state boards and commissions on policies in order to:

23 (a) Ensure or improve access to higher education by diverse and underserved populations.

24 (b) Encourage student success and completion initiatives.

25 (c) Improve the coordination of the provision of educational services, including:

26 (A) Transfers and coenrollment throughout the higher education system;

27 (B) Accelerated college credit programs for high school students;

28 (C) Applied baccalaureate and other transfer degrees;

29 (D) Programs and grants that span multiple institutions; and

30 (E) Reciprocity agreements with other states.

31 (d) In coordination with the State Board of Education, enhance the use and quality of dual
 32 credit, career and technical pathways and efforts to create a culture of college attendance in this
 33 state.

34 (e) In coordination with the State Workforce Investment Board, local workforce investment
 35 boards, the Oregon Health and Science University and independent institutions, ensure that the
 36 state's colleges and universities offer programs in high-demand occupations that meet Oregon's
 37 workforce needs.

38 (f) Improve economies of scale by encouraging and facilitating the use of the shared services
 39 among post-secondary institutions in this state.

40 (5) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission, in a manner consistent with ORS chapter
 41 183, may adopt administrative rules.

42 (6) With the exception of the rulemaking authority granted in subsection (5) of this section, the
 43 Higher Education Coordinating Commission may delegate any of its powers, duties or functions to
 44 a committee of the commission or to the executive director of the commission.

45 (7) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission may establish technical or advisory com-

1 mittees to assist the commission in exercising its powers, duties and functions.

2 (8) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission may exercise only powers, duties and func-
 3 tions expressly granted by the Legislative Assembly. Except as otherwise expressly provided by law,
 4 all other authorities reside at the institutional level with the respective boards of the post-secondary
 5 institutions.

6 **SECTION 2. (1) The amendments to ORS 351.735 by section 1 of this 2015 Act become**
 7 **operative on July 1, 2016.**

8 (2) The amendments to ORS 351.735 by section 1 of this 2015 Act apply to partnerships
 9 entered into between public universities listed in ORS 352.002, community colleges and school
 10 districts, or any combination thereof, for the purpose of awarding college credits to high
 11 school students during the 2016-2017 school year or any subsequent school year.

12 (3) On or after the effective date of this 2015 Act and before the operative date specified
 13 in subsection (1) of this section, a public university listed in ORS 352.002, a community col-
 14 lege or a school district may not create a new program, or expand an existing program, that
 15 awards college credits to high school students as dual credit or as credit for prior learning
 16 unless the new program or expanded program complies with the standards for the program
 17 in effect at the time of the creation or expansion.

18 (4) The Higher Education Coordination Commission, public universities listed in ORS
 19 352.002, community colleges and school districts may take any action before the operative
 20 date specified in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary to enable the public univer-
 21 sities and community colleges to award college credits to high school students during the
 22 2016-2017 school year under a partnership that complies with the standards established under
 23 ORS 351.735, as amended by section 1 of this 2015 Act.

24 (5) No later than March 1, 2016, the commission shall provide a report in the manner
 25 provided in ORS 192.245 to an appropriate legislative committee that summarizes efforts to
 26 establish standards as required under ORS 351.735, as amended by section 1 of this 2015 Act.

27 **SECTION 3. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
 28 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect**
 29 **on its passage.**

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