

Senate Bill 768

Sponsored by Senator OLSEN

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**.

Requires public universities to offer at least one bachelor's degree in fields of science, technology, engineering or mathematics at cost of \$15,000 or less.

Establishes degree requirements.

Requires public universities to first offer low-cost degree programs for 2020-2021 academic year or earlier.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to degree programs at public universities; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) Each public university listed in ORS 352.002 shall offer at least one low-cost bachelor's degree in the fields of science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

(2) To qualify as a low-cost bachelor's degree under this section, each degree must:

(a) Be offered at the lowest cost possible, not to exceed \$15,000. The \$15,000 limit must include four years' cost of:

(A) Tuition;

(B) All required student fees; and

(C) All books and other course materials required to complete the degree program.

(b) Meet the same educational and accreditation standards as other bachelor's degrees offered by the university and be capable of being approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission under ORS 351.047.

(3) A low-cost bachelor's degree program offered under this section may utilize courses offered through the Internet, other Internet-based technology or educational methods such as massive open online courses.

SECTION 2. The low-cost bachelor's degree programs described in section 1 of this 2015 Act shall be first offered by public universities listed in ORS 352.002 at or before the start of the 2020-2021 academic year.

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

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.