

HB 2729 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to work regularly with public universities and community colleges to analyze and evaluate effectiveness of adopted open educational resources (OERs), and increase number of OERs used in post-secondary courses. Requires HECC to report on effectiveness of OER program, including evaluation of monetary savings to students and anticipated monetary savings to future students resulting from program, to Oregon Legislative Assembly higher education committees by February 15, 2019. Appropriates \$700,000 from the General Fund for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: Fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

Open educational resources (OERs) are freely accessible teaching, learning and research resources (e.g. textbooks, videos and images) that can be legally adapted and redistributed for students' use at low or no cost.

In 2015, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed HB 2871, which provided a \$700,000 appropriation to hire an OER Resource Specialist and establish a one-time grant program within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). The law directed the HECC to collaborate with public post-secondary institutions to identify OERs for 15 courses that were high enrollment, general education disciplines and that were capable of being transferred among public post-secondary institutions.