

## **HB 2729 -1 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, 3/28

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#### **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: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Creates name for program. Specifies that the increased number of open educational resources be used in courses at public universities and community colleges, and be transferable between public universities and community colleges. Requires the HECC to convene faculty from public universities and community colleges and outside experts as needed, for purpose of enhancing use and effectiveness of open educational resources. Replaces one-time report requirement with required report during each regular session of the Legislative Assembly held during an odd-numbered year. Expands report requirements to include evaluation of existing barriers preventing approval of more open educational resources, description of student evaluations of program and evaluation of impact of collaboration with open educational resources programs operated in other states. Changes appropriation from \$700,000 to a blank appropriation for purposes of hiring open educational resource specialist and for carrying out Oregon's Open Educational Resources (OER) Program.

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

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

##### **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.