

HB 2862 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: 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$350,000 from General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission, to be allocated to Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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:

BACKGROUND:

The Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program was created in 2009 by the passage of Senate Bill 701. The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) testified that recruitment and retention of nurse faculty was a challenge due to the high cost of graduate nursing education and the low salaries of nurse educators when compared to nurses working in other settings. The legislative intent of Senate Bill 701 was to help address nursing faculty shortages by providing loan repayments to nurse educators with graduate degrees, incentivizing them to remain in their roles as educators. The program was funded through a one-time allocation of \$200,000, which provided moneys to offset school loans for seven nurse educators.

House Bill 2862 appropriates \$350,000 to provide loan repayment funding for an additional ten nurse educator faculty. Recent Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN) reports state that up to 50% of nurse educators are expected to retire by 2025 (OCN 2015), that 37% of qualified nursing program applicants are currently excluded from Oregon undergraduate programs due to an insufficient number of nurse faculty (OCN 2010), and that Oregon will experience a shortage of approximately 6,000 nurses in all settings by 2025 (OCN 2016).