

SB 443 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires that rules adopted by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution of the Oregon Opportunity Grant moneys are awarded to students who commit to major in science, technology, engineering or mathematics fields, and that the rules prioritize current and former foster children as well as individuals demonstrating financial need.

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:

Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) is Oregon's largest state-funded, need-based grant program for college students. Nearly 40,000 students receive Opportunity Grants each year. The Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) within HECC awards Oregon Opportunity Grants according to a formula that includes the following:

- Average cost of attendance at an Oregon community college or Oregon public university;
- Student share (currently, \$6,000 at a community college; \$9,000 at a public or private nonprofit 4-year institution);
- Family share (Expected Family Contribution, or EFC); and
- Federal share (Federal Pell Grants and/or assumed higher education tax credits).

According to the 2014-15 annual report for the OOG, that school year 36,675 students received grants totaling \$57,305,305.00