

HB 2998 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates: 2/28, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to conduct study and develop recommendations on best methods for creating common course numbers for Oregon transfer module courses, and ensuring transfer module courses are commonly accepted as general education requirements at public post-secondary institutions. Requires HECC to submit report detailing recommendations to interim legislative committees on higher education by October 1, 2018. Creates sunset on January 2, 2019.

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 Oregon Transfer Module (OTM) is a one-year curriculum for students who plan to transfer to a two-year or four-year post-secondary institution in Oregon. The module consists of one year of lower division general education coursework, and results in an OTM designation on a student transcript when requirements have been completed. Since public university transfer requirements vary, the OTM was designed to include all general education coursework that any public university may require, to ensure a smooth student transfer process.

In practice, public university general education requirements are not clearly aligned to the OTM. Course numbering and content are inconsistent between institutions. Thus, while the OTM will meet admission standards of receiving post-secondary schools, general education credit transfers are accepted on a course-by-course, institution-by-institution basis. Following a transfer, students may need to complete additional general education coursework to meet the receiving institution's requirements.