

SB 203 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates: 4/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines service areas for Columbia Gorge Community College District and Southwestern Oregon Community College District. Defines these districts as the area served by the district prior to annexation of new territory, or the territory within a county annexed by the district.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

SENATE FLOOR VOTE: 30-0-0-0

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, community college districts reflect the boundaries of service for the area's community college. Many community college districts include multiple counties or parts of counties, particularly in rural areas of the state. Community college districts are governed by district boards and are financed by state support, tuition and property taxes from district residents.

The Southwestern Oregon Community College (SOCC) District has served Coos and western Douglas counties for most of its history. In 1995, Curry County joined the district following a successful annexation vote by its residents, which nearly doubled the area that the community college serves. SOCC currently operates two campuses, one in Coos Bay and one in Brookings. Similarly, the Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC) District originally served Wasco County residents. In 2001, Wasco and Hood River County voters approved the annexation of Hood River County to the college's service district. The district now operates two campuses, one in The Dalles and one in Hood River.

Current statutory language (ORS 341.601) defining the SOCC and CGCC district service areas is the result of the passage of House Bill 3116 in 2009. The legislative intent was to separate each district into one service area for the territory served by the district prior to annexation and one service area for the newly annexed territory so that ballot bond measures would apply to the relevant service area rather than to the entire district. The language in the 2009 legislation did not fully accomplish this objective, and House Bill 2697 makes the technical changes required to accomplish the 2009 intent.