

## HB 2729 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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**Action Date:** 03/28/17

**Action:** Do pass with amendments  
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 8-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 8 - Alonso Leon, Bynum, Clem, Johnson, Reardon, Reschke, Sollman, Whisnant

**Exc:** 1 - Heard

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to collaborate with public universities and community colleges to increase number of open educational resources (OERs - freely accessible teaching, learning and research resources such as textbooks, videos and images) used in post-secondary courses. Specifies that new OERs be used in courses at public universities and community colleges, and be transferable between institutions. Directs HECC to analyze and evaluate effectiveness of OERs that have been adopted in Oregon. Requires HECC to convene faculty from public universities and community colleges and outside experts as needed, for purpose of enhancing use and effectiveness of OERs. Requires HECC to report on effectiveness of OER program, including evaluation of monetary savings to students, anticipated monetary savings to future students, existing barriers preventing approval of more OERs, description of student program evaluations and evaluation of impact of collaboration with OER programs operated in other states. Requires HECC to submit report to Oregon Legislative Assembly higher education committees during each regular session held during an odd-numbered year. Appropriates an undetermined amount of money from the General Fund to HECC for purposes of hiring OER specialist and carrying out Oregon's OER program. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of continuing OER program that was established in 2015
- Update on the ten grant awardees and fifteen courses selected for OER development
- Effectiveness of OERs in increasing college affordability by bringing down textbook costs for students
- Demonstrated substantial student savings of \$2.66 million per school year

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Specifies that an increased number of OERs be used in courses at public universities and community colleges, and be transferable between institutions. Requires HECC to convene faculty from public universities and community colleges and outside experts as needed, for purpose of enhancing use and effectiveness of OERs. 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 OERs, description of student program evaluations and evaluation of impact of collaboration with OER programs operated in other states. Changes appropriation from \$700,000 to a blank appropriation for purposes of hiring OER specialist and for carrying out Oregon's OER program.

#### BACKGROUND:

Open educational resources (OERs) are freely accessible teaching, learning and research resources such as textbooks, videos and images, that can be legally adapted and redistributed for students' use at low or no cost.

## **HB 2729 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

In 2015, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed HB 2871, which provided a \$700,000 appropriation to hire an OER specialist and establish a one-time grant program within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). The law directed 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.