SB 730 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/13, 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Incorporates foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements into credit transfer standards required under the Transfer Students Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. Defines foundational curricula. Requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to submit an annual report on transfer students to the legislature. Removes requirement that community colleges and public universities submit individual reports. Requires the report to include the average number of credits accepted by the public university. Directs HECC to establish an advisory committee to provide recommendations to HECC staff on implementing the Student Transfer Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, including developing electronic system to share information on transfer pathways. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Oregon transfer issues
- Major transfer maps, including new biology transfer map
- Costs of credit loss
- Faculty autonomy
- Interaction of statewide solution and local initiatives
- Usage of transfer maps

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4 Directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to adopt standards that include methods to simplify the transfer of credits between community colleges and public universities. Methods must be in the manner of establishing and defining one path of classes and completion standards to allow transfer students to efficiently receive a bachelor's degree. Permits exception if multiple paths benefit students or variance is approved under the Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities standards. Directs HECC to adopt standards that require the chief academic officier of a community college or public university requesting a variance to a unified statewide transfer agreement to provide information on the pedagogical need for the variance, if requested by the HECC advisory committee. Requires chief academic officers of community colleges and public universities who disagree over which courses to include in a unified statewide transfer agreement to provide information to support their position to the advisory committee, if requested. Requires HECC to annually report to the legislature the number and nature of variance requests and the results of the requests.

BACKGROUND:

Ensuring the efficient transfer of community college credits to public universities is a long-standing issue in Oregon's higher education system. The legislature acted to increase the transferability of community college credits to public universities in 1987, 2005, 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017. In response to legislative action and other factors, Oregon's higher education system has developed common course initiatives, statewide transfer degrees, Oregon Transfer Module (OTM), core transfer maps, and major transfer maps. At present, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) reports that transfer students complete 11 more credits on average

PRELIMINARY

than non-transfer students to earn a bachelor's degree, 211 credits compared to 200 credits. In addition, transfer students are less likely to graduate than non-transfer students, and those that do graduate take longer to earn their degrees, adding to college costs and delaying the opportunity for higher wages in their chosen professions. Senate Bill 730 establishes an advisory committee that includes faculty, staff, and administrators from community colleges and public universities to provide recommendations to HECC staff on how to effectively implement the Student Transfer Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, including establishing an electronic system for sharing information about the foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements.

PRELIMINARY