

HB 2213 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires community colleges and public universities to establish a textbook affordability plan. Establishes plan requirements. Requires at least one student to be included in plan development.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The costs of college textbooks can be a significant financial burden for students, especially for low-income and first-generation students. To lower textbook expenses, states, colleges, and universities are developing open educational resources (OERs), which are freely-available or low-cost teaching, learning, and research resources. In 2015, the Oregon legislature passed House Bill 2871 to improve the availability of OER textbooks and materials. The legislation required Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to establish an OER grant program to encourage the development of affordable textbooks and materials; to employ an OER Resource Specialist; to require all community colleges and public universities to prominently designate courses with low-cost or no-cost course textbooks and materials and to place the designation in course descriptions; and to identify OERs for 15 general education courses. It appropriated \$700,000 to implement the OER provisions. In 2017, the legislature passed House Bill 2729 that required HECC to coordinate statewide OER programs and to report on the programs during each legislative session held during an odd-numbered year. It appropriated \$1 million to carry-out the OER programs. House Bill 2213A requires each community college and public university to establish a textbook affordability plan.