

HB 2871 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Renames Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) to the Oregon Youth Corps (OYC). Changes OYCC administration from Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Renames advisory committee to advisory board. Modifies eligibility for Oregon Community Stewardship Corps (OCSC) vouchers to permit recipients to complete any eligible program. Removes requirement to complete a 12-month program. Changes amount of voucher from \$1,500 to a maximum of \$1,500. Permits vouchers to be used to pay for tuition, books or other items or services that enhance and support education or employment. Removes requirement that vouchers be used at any career school or post-secondary education institution that is qualified to receive assistance through the Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion. Adds garden, greenhouse, and farming programs to statutory list of OYCC projects.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 1987, the legislature created OYCC as a work program for disadvantage and at-risk youth. The OYCC's purpose is to perform conservation work to protect, conserve, rehabilitate, and improve Oregon's natural, historical, and cultural resources and to increase educational, training and employment opportunities for disadvantaged and at-risk youth. The OYCC receives state funding through an excise tax on amusement devices. It serves approximately 750 youth per year in two main programs: the Oregon Community Stewardship Corps (OCSC) and the Summer Conservation Corps. The OCSC provides a voucher to participants who successfully complete an OCSC program.

House Bill 2871A changes the name of OYCC to the Oregon Youth Corps to reflect its expanded mission and activities, updates advisory body from a "committee" to a "board" to align with other HECC boards, modifies the structure of the OCSC voucher program, and adds new types of programs to list of OYCC projects.