

HB 2871 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/6, 5/20

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 OYCC advisory committee to OYC 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 "up to" \$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. Permits OYCC program to include garden, greenhouse, and farming projects.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon Youth Conservation Corps
- Job skills and at-risk students
- OYCC funding sources
- OYCC's capacity to meet current demand for services
- Need for technical fixes to OYCC statutes
- Challenges with limiting usage of OCSC vouchers to college coursework
- Additional ways to increase OYCC revenue
- Fiscal impact of the bill
- -A2 amendment to allow Western Oregon University (WOU), Southern Oregon University (SOU), and Eastern Oregon University (EOU) to offer doctoral programs
- Higher education governance
- Why current law only authorizes WOU, SOU, and EOU to offer programs through the master's degree level
- HECC's role in approving programs
- WOU's proposal for a doctoral program in physical therapy (DPT)
- Need for more DPT programs in Oregon
- Shortage of physical therapists in Oregon

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. Current law requires the voucher be used for college coursework. Currently, only 11 percent of recipients use their vouchers. 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

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boards, expands the permitted usages for OCSC vouchers, and adds new types of programs to list of OYCC projects.

PRELIMINARY