

HB 2910 A -A9 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Tim Walker, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows person who completes highest level of education, such as grade 12 or the General Education Development (GED) certificate, while confined in a correctional facility as a youth or youth offender serving a sentence, to no longer be required to complete highest level of education within six months of enrolling in qualifying Oregon Promise courses. Allows youth or youth offender in correctional facility to enroll in courses up to six months after release from correctional facility. Allows Higher Education Coordinating Commission to create rules to prescribe eligibility requirement waivers described above. Defines correctional facility as youth correction facility, detention facility, Department of Corrections institutions, local correctional facility, or state hospital for youth offenders. Applies to Oregon Promise Grant applications beginning January 1, 2020.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Education of students at MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility
- Amendment to ensure application process is streamlined by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission
- Mechanism to control cost of Oregon Promise Program and expected Family Contribution cap
- Potential barrier to requiring all students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A9 Appropriates \$200,000 General Fund for the purpose of providing grants under the Oregon Promise program to persons who become eligible to participate in the program under the amendments to ORS 341.522. In addition, the amendment applies to persons who complete their highest level of education on or after January 1, 2020.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Promise is administered by the Office of Student Access and Completion under the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. It is a state grant that covers the cost of tuition at Oregon community colleges for recent high school graduates or General Education Development (GED) graduates. Grants became available to Oregon students in the 2016 academic year. In order to enroll in the Oregon Promise program, students apply for the Oregon Promise program within six months of completing their high school diploma, or completing the GED. This includes students in a correctional facility who may be continuing to serve time, or may be released with less than six months to transition into the community college program.

House Bill 2910 A allows students who have been detained in a correctional facility to no longer be required to apply for the Oregon Promise program within six months of completing their education. Students who have been detained are given six months after the date of release to apply for the program.