

SB 730 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/01/19

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Gelser, Hass, Heard, Wagner

Nays: 1 - Thomsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/13, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to establish an advisory committee for Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. Establishes requirements for advisory committee. Directs HECC to adopt standards that include admission standards for students completing a unified statewide transfer agreement and to minimize complexity of unified statewide transfer agreements. Requires chief academic officers to provide information on variance requests, as specified. Requires HECC to annually report to the legislature, as specified. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

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

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

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, the Oregon Transfer Module, core transfer maps, and major transfer maps. At present, HECC reports that transfer students complete 11 more credits on average than non-transfer students to earn a bachelor's degree (211 credits vs. 200 credits). In addition, transfer students are less likely to graduate than non-transfer students, and those who 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 A establishes an advisory committee of higher-education representatives to provide recommendations to HECC staff on how to effectively implement the Student Transfer Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, which includes developing standards and establishing an electronic system for sharing information. The bill also requires HECC to adopt standards to simplify transfer agreements and to require colleges and universities to provide information on their requests for variances to the unified statewide transfer paths.

