# SB 497 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

## Senate Committee On Education

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| **Action Date:** | 04/03/19 |
| **Action:** | Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.) |
| **Vote:** | 3-1-1-0 |
| **Yeas:** | 3 - Gelser, Hass, Wagner |
| **Nays:** | 1 - Thomsen |
| **Exc:** | 1 - Heard |
| **Fiscal:** | Fiscal impact issued |
| **Revenue:** | No revenue impact |
| **Prepared By:** | Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst |
| **Meeting Dates:** | 2/13, 4/3 |

### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Reduces the minimum grade-point average (GPA) required for an Oregon Promise grant from a 2.5 to a 2.0 cumulative GPA. First applies to applications for Oregon Promise program grants for the 2020-2021 academic year.

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Extension of eligibility
- Impact on current recipients
- Cost of attending college
- Number of hours that college students work
- History of Oregon Promise program
- First-generation college students
- Federal Pell Grants
- Wrap-around services
- Implementation dates

### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

First applies to students applying for an Oregon Promise program grant for the 2020-2021 academic year. Removes provisions that permit recipients to enroll for less than half-time if they work more than 30 hours a week.

### BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the legislature created the Oregon Promise program to provide state grants to cover the cost of community college tuition. To qualify, Oregon students must be recent Oregon high school or GED graduates, earn a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5, and enroll at an Oregon community college within 6 months of graduation. To maintain eligibility, students must remain continuously enrolled for at least six credits each term, complete a first-year college experience requirement, and make satisfactory academic progress. In 2016-2017, Oregon had 35,380 high school graduates. Among these graduates, 45 percent applied for the Oregon Promise grant, 31 percent completed the application and met requirements, and 16 percent accepted the award. Senate Bill 497 A lowers the minimum, cumulative GPA required to participate in the Oregon Promise program from a 2.5 to a 2.0.