

A-Engrossed
House Bill 3212

Ordered by the House April 11
Including House Amendments dated April 11

Sponsored by Representative MARSH, Senator GOLDEN, Representatives WALLAN, RESCHKE; Representative WILSON

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

[Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct study to determine whether additional legislation is necessary to enhance process of transferring academic credits between community colleges and public universities.]

[Requires commission to report findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to higher education on or before September 15, 2020.]

[Sunsets January 2, 2021.]

[Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.]

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to provide pilot program grant to consortium to assist public post-secondary institutions of education in Klamath County, Jackson County and Josephine County. Requires grant moneys to be used to provide funding for navigators, explore feasibility of shared recruitment and admission into programs at consortium institutions and develop benchmarks and metrics to measure success of collaborative consortium approach.

Requires commission to provide report detailing results of pilot program grant to Legislative Assembly by March 1, 2021.

Sunsets January 2, 2022.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to higher education; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas median household income in Klamath County, Jackson County and Josephine County
4 sits well below the statewide median household income; and

5 Whereas residents of Klamath County, Jackson County and Josephine County achieve post-
6 secondary success at rates significantly lower than the state average; and

7 Whereas youth ages 16 to 24 in Klamath County, Jackson County and Josephine County are
8 disconnected from both school and work at notably higher levels than the state average; and

9 Whereas Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Community College, Southern Oregon Uni-
10 versity and Rogue Community College have committed to working together in the Southern Oregon
11 Higher Education Consortium to leverage their individual strengths to improve the educational at-
12 tainment in the underserved populations of southern Oregon; and

13 Whereas the Southern Oregon Higher Education Consortium has already begun to identify and
14 resolve systemic barriers that prevent students from accessing the programs and services of the four
15 member institutions; now, therefore,

16 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

17 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

18 **(a) "Consortium" means the association between Oregon Institute of Technology,**
19 **Klamath Community College, Southern Oregon University and Rogue Community College.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (b) "Navigator" means an individual who works with students and administrative leader-
2 ship at each of the consortium institutions to:

3 (A) Identify and remove systemic barriers that prevent students from transferring be-
4 tween consortium institutions; and

5 (B) Assist students transferring between consortium institutions.

6 (2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall provide a pilot program grant
7 to the consortium to assist the public post-secondary institutions of education in Klamath
8 County, Jackson County and Josephine County with expanding the effectiveness and scope
9 of the consortium.

10 (3) Funding provided by the commission under subsection (2) of this section shall be used
11 to:

12 (a) Provide funding for navigators.

13 (b) Explore the feasibility of shared recruitment and admission into programs at con-
14 sortium institutions.

15 (c) Develop benchmarks and metrics to measure the success of a collaborative Consor-
16 tium approach for public post-secondary education in Klamath County, Jackson County and
17 Josephine County, including:

18 (A) The percentage of rural, first generation, low income, veteran and underserved racial
19 and ethnic populations that are served;

20 (B) Term-to-term graduation rates for students enrolled at consortium institutions; and

21 (C) The rate at which students enrolled at consortium institutions participate in high
22 technology or other next-generation apprenticeships.

23 (4) No later than February 1, 2021, the consortium shall present to the commission
24 findings on:

25 (a) Progress made by the consortium under the benchmarks and metrics developed under
26 subsection (3)(c) of this section; and

27 (b) Any identified opportunities for and barriers to using a collaborative consortium ap-
28 proach for public post-secondary education.

29 (5) The commission shall provide a report detailing the findings presented to the com-
30 mission under subsection (4) of this section to the committees of the Legislative Assembly
31 related to higher education, in the manner provided under ORS 192.245, on or before March
32 1, 2021.

33 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2019 Act is repealed on January 2, 2022.

34 **SECTION 3.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
35 ated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1,
36 2019, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$500,000, for the purpose of carrying out the
37 provisions of section 1 of this 2019 Act.

38 **SECTION 4.** This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
39 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect
40 on its passage.