A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 730

Ordered by the Senate April 8
Including Senate Amendments dated April 8

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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.

Integrates foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements into Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to develop standards for minimizing complexity of unified statewide transfer agreements and to develop processes for resolving requests for variances to unified statewide transfer agreements or disputes over what courses are included in unified statewide transfer agreements. Requires commission to annually report to committees of Legislative Assembly on number, nature and determinations reached regarding requests for variances to unified statewide transfer agreements or disputes over courses to be included in unified statewide transfer agreements.

Requires [*Higher Education Coordinating*] commission to establish advisory committee to advise commission staff on designing standards to implement Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and developing electronic system for disseminating information regarding foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to transfer of academic credits; creating new provisions; amending ORS 350.395; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 350.395 is amended to read:

350.395. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Associate transfer degree" means an associate degree that is awarded by a community college and that is intended to allow a student to apply the credits earned for the degree toward a baccalaureate degree.

(b) "Community college" means a community college operated under ORS chapter 341.

(c) "Foundational curriculum" means a curriculum established under ORS 350.400.

[*(c)*] **(d)** "Public university" means a public university listed in ORS 352.002.

[*(d)*] **(e)** "Transfer program" means a one-year program that is designed to allow a student to apply the credits earned through the program toward a baccalaureate degree.

(f) "Unified statewide transfer agreement" means an agreement established under ORS 350.404.

(2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall develop standards related to the ability of students to apply credits earned through courses of study at community colleges to baccalaureate degrees awarded by public universities. The standards shall be known as the "Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities." **In developing these standards, commission staff shall consult with the advisory committee established in section 2 of this 2019 Act.**

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.

(3) The standards developed under this section must include:

(a) Admission standards to public universities for students who have earned an associate transfer degree **or who have attained the optimal number of academic credits identified in a unified statewide transfer agreement**.

(b) Processes to align requirements for community college courses and public university courses to ensure that credits earned for completion of sufficiently similar courses are fully transferable between all community colleges and public universities.

(c) Processes to minimize the number of credits that students who have **either** earned an associate transfer degree **or who have completed all coursework in a transfer program, foundational curriculum or unified statewide transfer agreement** would need to complete prior to receiving various types of baccalaureate degrees at public universities[*, including identifying majors in baccalaureate degree programs that require more than two years to complete after a student has earned an associate transfer degree*].

[*(d) Processes to minimize the number of credits that students who have completed a transfer program would need to complete prior to receiving various types of baccalaureate degrees at public universities.*]

(d) Methods for minimizing the complexity of unified statewide transfer agreements.

(e) Processes requiring:

(A) The chief academic officer of a community college or public university requesting a variance to an established unified statewide transfer agreement to, at the request of the advisory committee established in section 2 of this 2019 Act, provide information to the committee on the pedagogical requirements supporting the position of the community college or public university; and

(B) The chief academic officers of community colleges or public universities who disagree over the inclusion or exclusion of courses in a unified statewide transfer agreement to, at the request of the advisory committee established in section 2 of this 2019 Act, provide information to the committee on the pedagogical requirements supporting the positions of the community colleges or public universities.

[*(e)*] **(f)** Processes by which a community college would award an associate degree to a student upon completion of necessary credits, regardless of whether the student applied to receive the degree or whether the student earned the credits for the degree at a community college or a public university.

[*(f)*] **(g)** Processes to evaluate and make recommendations for the development of associate transfer degrees **or unified statewide transfer agreements** in specific areas of study[*, including engineering*].

[*(g)*] **(h)** Any other issues identified by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission that relate to courses of study at community colleges and the ability of a student to transfer credits to a community college or a public university, to be admitted to a public university or to earn a degree at a community college or a public university.

[*(h)*] **(i)** Requirements that students must meet in order to benefit from the standards described in paragraphs (a) to [*(g)*] **(h)** of this subsection.

(4) [*Each community college and public university shall submit annual reports to*] The Higher Education Coordinating Commission [*related to*] **shall annually submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 to the appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly setting forth**:

(a) The number of students who attend a community college and then a public university[*, or a public university and then a community college*].

(b) The number of students who attend one community college and then a different community college.

(c) The number of students who transfer from a community college to a public university and who have an associate transfer degree or have completed a transfer program.

(d) The average number of credits students have when they transfer from a community college to a public university **and the average number of credits accepted by the public university**.

(e) The average number of credits students have when they attend one community college and then a different community college.

(f) The average number of credits that a student earning an associate transfer degree completed at a community college.

(g) The average number of credits students who have transferred from a community college to a public university must earn prior to receiving a baccalaureate degree compared to the average number of credits students who did not transfer from a community college must earn prior to receiving a baccalaureate degree.

(h)(A) The number and nature of the requests submitted under subsection (3)(e) of this section to the advisory committee established in section 2 of this 2019 Act; and

(B) The determination reached by the committee for each request described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.

SECTION 2. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall establish an advisory committee consisting of faculty, staff and administration representatives from community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002, and any other parties the commission deems necessary. The advisory committee shall provide advice and recommendations to commission staff on:

(1) Designing standards to effectively implement ORS 350.395; and

(2) Developing an electronic system for the dissemination of information regarding foundational curricula established under ORS 350.400 and unified statewide transfer agreements established under ORS 350.404.

SECTION 3. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect on its passage.