SB 730-4
(LC 3716)
3/20/19 (DRG/ps)

Requested by SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 730

On page 1 of the printed bill, line 2, after "350.395" insert "and 350.404".

Delete lines 5 through 28 and delete pages 2 and 3 and insert:

"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.**

"(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 in the manner set forth in ORS 350.404 (1)(c) and (d).**

"(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.

"<u>SECTION 2.</u> 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. ORS 350.404 is amended to read:

"350.404. (1) Community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall collaborate to develop a unified statewide transfer agreement, based on the foundational curricula established under ORS 350.400, for each major course of study. Each unified statewide transfer agreement developed under this section must:

"(a) Enable a student to transfer from a community college to a public university listed in ORS 352.002 without the loss of academic credit or the requirement to retake a course at a public university that the student has successfully completed at a community college, provided that the grade in each course that is transferred meets the degree requirements established by the unified statewide transfer agreement;

"(b) Contain provisions that identify the optimal number of academic credits, including credits in the major course of study, that the student should have when the student transfers from a community college to a public university listed in ORS 352.002 in order for the student to efficiently receive a bachelor's degree;

"(c) **Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this subsection, establish and** define [*the*] **one path of** classes and completion standards for the optimal number of academic credits identified in paragraph (b) of this subsection that may be taken at a community college;

"**(d) Permit an exception to the one path of classes identified under paragraph (c) of this subsection when:**

"(A) Multiple paths of classes create an identifiable benefit to stu-

dents; or

"(B) A variance has been approved under ORS 350.395 (3);

"[*(d)*] **(e)** Except as provided in paragraph [*(e)*] **(f)** of this subsection, ensure that if a student at a community college has completed 90 academic credits of coursework in conformity with the completion standards identified in paragraph (c) of this subsection and transfers to a public university listed in ORS 352.002, the student will:

"(A) Receive junior status in the major course of study at the public university; and

"(B) Be able to receive a bachelor's degree in the major course of study by completing the additional academic credits identified in the unified statewide transfer agreement after transferring, based on the total number of academic credits and standards approved by the accrediting body for the public university; and

"[*(e)*] **(f)** For unified statewide transfer agreements that in paragraph (b) of this subsection identify an optimal number of academic credits to transfer other than 90, ensure that if a student at a community college has completed the identified number of academic credits of coursework in conformity with the completion standards identified in paragraph (c) of this subsection and transfers to a public university listed in ORS 352.002, the student will:

"(A) Receive status at the public university, based on the number of academic credits referenced in the transfer agreement, that is comparable to the status of students with the same number of academic credits in the major course of study who began their post-secondary studies at the public university; and

"(B) Be able to receive a bachelor's degree in the major course of study by completing the additional academic credits identified in the unified statewide transfer agreement after transferring, based on the total number of academic credits and standards approved by the accrediting body for the public university.

"(2) In designing unified statewide transfer agreements under subsection (1) of this section, community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall:

"(a) Focus on ensuring that community college students who transfer to public universities to complete a bachelor's degree are able to obtain the bachelor's degree with a similar number of academic credits to those required for students who begin their post-secondary studies at a public university;

"(b) Seek to minimize student debt;

"(c) Seek to increase the rate at which community college students who transfer to public universities receive bachelor's degrees; and

"(d) Seek to maintain the standards of intellectual and academic rigor at community colleges and public universities.

"(3)(a) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall regularly convene and consult with community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 in order to determine the major courses of study for which a unified statewide transfer agreement will be established.

"(b) Determinations made under this subsection must identify a sufficient number of major courses of study to enable colleges and public universities to comply with subsection (4) of this section.

"(c) The commission shall publicly identify the criteria used to make determinations under this subsection, which must include, but need not be limited to, a consideration of:

"(A) The major courses of study with the most workforce demand; and

"(B) The most common major courses of study among students who transfer from a community college to a public university.

"(4) Community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall establish a unified statewide transfer agreement for three major courses of study per year.

"<u>SECTION 4.</u> This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate

1 **preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is**
2 **declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect on its passage.**".
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