

SB 1521 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/06/20

Action: Do pass and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

Vote: 3-0-2-0

Yeas: 3 - Gelser, Hass, Wagner

Exc: 2 - Heard, Thomsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows the use of Oregon Opportunity Grant funds to pay for scholarships for children of public safety officers. Allows Oregon's regional universities to offer professional doctorate degrees. Adds foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements into the Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. Makes changes to the Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, as specified. Shifts reporting responsibilities from each public higher education institution to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and changes reporting requirements. Requires HECC to establish an advisory committee relating to the Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. Requires HECC to submit a report relating to an electronic system for disseminating information on foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements. Requires HECC to convene a group of stakeholders to assist with aligning credits earned through dual credit programs with requirements of foundational curricula. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Dual credit programs
- Foundational curricula
- Transfer agreements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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. Senate Bill 1521 adds foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements into the Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, shifts reporting responsibilities to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and requires HECC to establish an advisory committee.