

## **SB 233 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Education**

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**Prepared By:** Matt Perreault, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/1

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish by rule a common course numbering system for introductory and other lower division courses by July 1, 2024 . Requires each public university and community college to adopt common course numbering system and accept transfer of academic credit for courses taken at other public universities and community colleges by September 1, 2024. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to consult with administrators, faculty, and students of public universities and community colleges on development of common course numbering system and to submit annual report to Legislative Assembly. Sunsets on January 2, 2026.

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued*

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Replaces measure. Requires each public institution of higher education to adopt a common course numbering system for introductory and other lower division courses. Requires institutions to accept transfer of academic credit for each course in system. Establishes Transfer Council to serve as primary venue for developing common course numbering system and resolving issues related to transfer of academic credit. Specifies membership and responsibilities of Transfer Council. Establishes deadlines for Transfer Council to make recommendations to Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Establishes deadlines for Higher Education Coordinating Commission to implement common course numbering system by rule. Establishes deadlines for public institutions of higher education to be in compliance. Modifies requirements for unified statewide transfer agreements. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

Students who wish to transfer from one public college or university to another may be required to repeat certain courses, causing a buildup of excess academic credits, increasing student debt, and delaying graduation. In response, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 3521 (2011) which created the Transfer Student Bill of Rights and then House Bill 2525 (2015), which directed the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to convene a workgroup to study further policy options. In response to the HECC's findings and recommendations, House Bill 2998 (2017) required the public universities to meet regularly and work to standardize credit transfer requirements such as the foundational curricula (now called Core Transfer Maps) and unified statewide transfer agreements (now called Major Transfer Maps).

According to the HECC, 17 states currently require common course numbering among institutions of higher learning. This is intended to streamline the transfer of credits earned in lower-division, general education courses between institutions by minimizing or eliminating the need to repeat similar courses.

SB 233 requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish a common course numbering system in consultation with administrators, faculty and students, and mandates all public post-secondary educational institutions in Oregon to adopt it by September 1, 2024.