

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2835 - A

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Requires each community college and public university to hire benefits navigator to assist students in determining eligibility and applying for federal, state and local benefits programs.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Public Universities, Community Colleges, Department of Human Services (DHS), Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2021-23 Biennium	2023-25 Biennium
General Fund	\$4,999,150	\$4,999,150
Total Funds	\$4,999,150	\$4,999,150

Analysis: The measure defines benefits navigator as person trained to assist students with applying for and receiving need-based financial benefits provided by federal, state and local programs and requires each public university and community college to train and employ benefits navigators. The measure also requires each public university and community college to participate in statewide consortium for benefits navigators to develop best practices and facilitate communication. The measure appropriates \$4,999,150 General Fund to HECC for the purposes of the bill.

Based on information submitted by the public universities and community colleges, the anticipated cost of the program is \$5.0 million per biennium and would require an additional 26 non-state positions to provide the benefits navigators on all 24 campuses (17 community colleges and 7 Universities). Community colleges anticipate \$85,000 per position, including benefits. Universities are anticipating they will need additional funds to cover higher salaries and services and supplies. It is not clear how many additional resources will be required for this. The above pricing also includes the costs of two positions for the consortium that is required in the bill. It is not clear what these two positions would do so further review by the Joint Committee on Ways and Means is required prior to final approval. HECC does not anticipate any additional costs associated with distributing the funds.

The Department of Human Services does not anticipate any additional costs associated with this measure.