

Requested by SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
SENATE BILL 233**

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, line 2, after “credit” insert “; creating new
2 provisions; amending ORS 350.404 and 350.412; and declaring an
3 emergency”.

4 Delete lines 4 through 27.

5 Delete page 2 and insert:

6 **“SECTION 1. Notwithstanding ORS 352.087 (1)(q) or any other pro-
7 vision of law, each public post-secondary institution of education in
8 this state shall:**

9 **“(1) Adopt a common course numbering system, established by the
10 Higher Education Coordinating Commission by rule, for introductory
11 and other lower division courses with similar learning outcomes that
12 are taught at dual enrollment education programs in school districts,
13 public post-secondary institutions of education and participating non-
14 public post-secondary institutions of education in this state.**

15 **“(2) Accept a transfer of academic credit for each course that is
16 subject to the system described in subsection (1) of this section as if
17 the academic credit was earned at the institution that is accepting the
18 transfer of academic credit with respect to:**

19 **“(a) The total amount of academic credit awarded;**

20 **“(b) Satisfying any core academic requirements required for grad-
21 uation; and**

1 “(c) Satisfying any requirements for a major in a baccalaureate or
2 associate degree program.

3 “SECTION 2. (1) The Transfer Council established in section 4 of
4 this 2021 Act shall make its final recommendations on the establish-
5 ment of the common course numbering system described in section 1
6 of this 2021 Act no later than July 1, 2024.

7 “(2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall by rule
8 establish the common course numbering system described in section
9 1 of this 2021 Act no later than September 1, 2024.

10 “(3) Each public post-secondary institution of education in this
11 state shall be in compliance with section 1 of this 2021 Act no later
12 than September 1, 2025.

13 “SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2021 Act is repealed on January 2,
14 2027.

15 “SECTION 4. (1) The Transfer Council is established and shall con-
16 sist of 15 voting members, appointed as follows:

17 “(a) Public universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall jointly appoint
18 six members. The public universities shall elicit recommendations for
19 appointments made under this paragraph from official student, faculty
20 and administrator organizations at public universities. The six mem-
21 bers shall consist of:

22 “(A) Two academic officers, each of whom is currently employed
23 at a public university;

24 “(B) Two faculty members, each of whom is currently employed at
25 a public university;

26 “(C) One individual who both specializes in assisting students who
27 transfer between institutions and is currently employed at a public
28 university; and

29 “(D) One student currently enrolled at a public university.

30 “(b) Community colleges operated under ORS chapter 341 shall

1 jointly appoint six members. The community colleges shall elicit rec-
2 ommendations for appointments made under this paragraph from of-
3 ficial student, faculty and administrator organizations at community
4 colleges. The six members shall consist of:

5 “(A) Two academic officers, each of whom is currently employed
6 at a community college;

7 “(B) Two faculty members, each of whom is currently employed at
8 a community college;

9 “(C) One individual who both specializes in assisting students who
10 transfer between institutions and is currently employed at a commu-
11 nity college; and

12 “(D) One student currently enrolled at a community college.

13 “(c) Education service districts as defined in ORS 334.003 shall
14 jointly appoint three members. The education service districts shall
15 elicit recommendations for appointments made under this paragraph
16 from official student, faculty and administrator organizations at high
17 schools in this state. The three members shall consist of:

18 “(A) One administrator currently employed at a public high school
19 in this state;

20 “(B) One teacher who both teaches accelerated college credit pro-
21 grams as defined in ORS 340.315 and is currently employed at a public
22 high school in this state; and

23 “(C) A student currently enrolled at a high school in this state.

24 “(2) In addition to the voting members listed in subsection (1) of
25 this section, the Transfer Council shall have two nonvoting members,
26 appointed as follows:

27 “(a) The chairperson of the Higher Education Coordinating Com-
28 mission shall appoint a member who represents independent not-for-
29 profit institutions of higher education in this state; and

30 “(b) The chairperson of the Higher Education Coordinating Com-

1 mission shall serve as a nonvoting, ex officio member.

2 “(3)(a) The term of office of each member of the Transfer Council
3 is two years. Before the expiration of the term of a member, the ap-
4 pointing authority shall appoint a successor. A member is eligible for
5 reappointment.

6 “(b) In order to serve as a member of the Transfer Council, an in-
7 dividual must at all times meet the qualifications for their appoint-
8 ment. If at any time a member fails to meet the qualifications for the
9 member’s appointment, the position is vacant.

10 “(c) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority
11 shall make an appointment to become immediately effective for the
12 unexpired term.

13 “(4) The Transfer Council shall select one or more of its members
14 as chairperson or as co-chairpersons.

15 “(5) A majority of the voting members of the Transfer Council
16 constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

17 “(6) Official action by the Transfer Council requires the approval
18 of a majority of the voting members of the council.

19 “(7)(a) The Transfer Council shall meet at least every three months
20 at a place, day and hour determined by the chairperson or co-
21 chairpersons.

22 “(b) In addition to the meetings required under paragraph (a) of
23 this subsection, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission may
24 call a meeting if the commission finds a meeting to be necessary and
25 a meeting is not called by the chairperson or co-chairpersons.

26 **“SECTION 5. (1) The Transfer Council established under section 4**
27 **of this 2021 Act shall:**

28 “(a) Advise the Higher Education Coordinating Commission on the
29 development, coordination and maintenance of the common course
30 numbering system described in section 1 of this 2021 Act;

1 **“(b) Serve as the primary venue for community colleges and public**
2 **universities to collaborate to develop foundational curricula under**
3 **ORS 350.400 and unified statewide transfer agreements under ORS**
4 **350.404;**

5 **“(c) Develop best practices in order to improve program planning,**
6 **increase communication among all participants and facilitate student**
7 **acceleration and the transfer of students and academic credits between**
8 **public school districts, public post-secondary institutions of education**
9 **and participating nonpublic post-secondary institutions of education;**
10 **and**

11 **“(d) Make recommendations to the Higher Education Coordinating**
12 **Commission on the adoption of administrative rules necessary to:**

13 **“(A) Establish and maintain the common course numbering system**
14 **described in section 1 of this 2021 Act;**

15 **“(B) Establish an auditing process to determine how well public**
16 **post-secondary institutions of education are complying with the com-**
17 **mon course numbering system;**

18 **“(C) Establish a process that enables a student to appeal a decision**
19 **by a public post-secondary institution of education to refuse the**
20 **transfer of academic credit; and**

21 **“(D) Ensure the cooperation and successful implementation of the**
22 **common course numbering system by all public post-secondary insti-**
23 **tutions of education.**

24 **“(2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall:**

25 **“(a) Use the work and recommendations of the Transfer Council to**
26 **adopt administrative rules on matters described in subsection (1)(d)**
27 **of this section;**

28 **“(b) Provide staff support for the Transfer Council;**

29 **“(c) Provide logistical support for the Transfer Council; and**

30 **“(d) Host an Internet website for the Transfer Council.**

1 **“(3)(a) No later than September 1 of each year, the Transfer Council**
2 **shall report to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission on the**
3 **progress the council is making towards establishing and maintaining**
4 **the common course numbering system described in section 1 of this**
5 **2021 Act and on any other work regarding the transfer of academic**
6 **credit that the council is focusing on.**

7 **“(b) No later than September 15 of each year, Higher Education**
8 **Coordinating Commission shall report to the committees of the Leg-**
9 **islative Assembly responsible for higher education on the progress the**
10 **Transfer Council is making towards establishing and maintaining the**
11 **common course numbering system described in section 1 of this 2021**
12 **Act and on any other work regarding the transfer of academic credit**
13 **that the council is focusing on.**

14 **“(4) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission may adopt**
15 **rules necessary to effectively implement this section.**

16 **“SECTION 6. Notwithstanding section 5 (3) of this 2021 Act:**

17 **“(1) The Transfer Council established in section 4 of this 2021 Act**
18 **shall file its first report with the Higher Education Coordinating**
19 **Commission by December 31, 2021.**

20 **“(2) The report described in subsection (1) of this section shall:**

21 **“(a) Describe any work groups the Transfer Council intends to use**
22 **to develop the common course number system described in section 1**
23 **of this 2021 Act;**

24 **“(b) List the courses or subject areas the Transfer Council has**
25 **identified as likely to be included when the common course numbering**
26 **system first applies to public post-secondary institutions of education**
27 **on the date set forth in section 2 (3) of this 2021 Act; and**

28 **“(c) List the courses or subject areas the Transfer Council antic-**
29 **ipates adding to the common course numbering system at a later time.**

30 **“(3) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall file its**

1 **first report to the Legislative Assembly no later than January 15, 2022.**
2 **The report shall inform the Legislative Assembly of the activities of**
3 **the Transfer Council described in subsection (2) of this section and**
4 **may include recommendations for additional legislation the commis-**
5 **sion determines would assist in the development of the common course**
6 **numbering system described in section 1 of this 2021 Act.**

7 **“SECTION 7. Section 6 of this 2021 Act is repealed on January 2,**
8 **2023.**

9 **“SECTION 8. ORS 350.404 is amended to read:**

10 “350.404. (1) Community colleges and public universities listed in ORS
11 352.002 shall collaborate **through the Transfer Council established in**
12 **section 4 of this 2021 Act** to develop a unified statewide transfer agreement,
13 based on the foundational curricula established under ORS 350.400, for each
14 major course of study. Each unified statewide transfer agreement developed
15 under this section must:

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

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

27 “(c) Define the classes and completion standards for the optimal number
28 of academic credits identified in paragraph (b) of this subsection that may
29 be taken at a community college;

30 “(d) Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this subsection, ensure that

1 if a student at a community college has completed 90 academic credits of
2 coursework in conformity with the completion standards identified in para-
3 graph (c) of this subsection and transfers to a public university listed in ORS
4 352.002, the student will:

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

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

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

18 “(A) Receive status at the public university, based on the number of ac-
19 ademic credits referenced in the transfer agreement, that is comparable to
20 the status of students with the same number of academic credits in the major
21 course of study who began their post-secondary studies at the public uni-
22 versity; and

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

28 “(2) In designing unified statewide transfer agreements under subsection
29 (1) of this section, community colleges and public universities listed in ORS
30 352.002 shall:

1 “(a) Focus on ensuring that community college students who transfer to
2 public universities to complete a bachelor’s degree are able to obtain the
3 bachelor’s degree with a similar number of academic credits to those re-
4 quired for students who begin their post-secondary studies at a public uni-
5 versity;

6 “(b) Seek to minimize student debt;

7 “(c) Seek to increase the rate at which community college students who
8 transfer to public universities receive bachelor’s degrees; and

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

11 “(3)(a) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall **use the**
12 **Transfer Council to** regularly [*convene and*] consult with community col-
13 leges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 in order to determine the
14 major courses of study for which a unified statewide transfer agreement will
15 be established.

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

19 “(c) The commission shall publicly identify the criteria used to make de-
20 terminations under this subsection, which must include, but need not be
21 limited to, a consideration of:

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

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

25 “(4) Community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002
26 shall establish a unified statewide transfer agreement for [*three*] **one** major
27 [*courses*] **course** of study per year.

28 “**SECTION 9.** ORS 350.412 is amended to read:

29 “350.412. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall regu-
30 larly [*convene*] **use the Transfer Council established in section 4 of this**

1 **2021 Act to work with** representatives from community colleges and public
2 universities listed in ORS 352.002 in order to:

3 “(a) Facilitate the coordination and establishment of foundational cur-
4 ricula described in ORS 350.400; and

5 “(b) Facilitate the development, and ensure the continued alignment, of
6 the unified statewide transfer agreements described in ORS 350.404.

7 “[2] *The commission shall provide staffing for each meeting held under*
8 *subsection (1) of this section.*]

9 “[3] **(2)** The commission shall seek to ensure that community colleges,
10 public universities listed in ORS 352.002 and students are informed and en-
11 gaged on the current status and developments of foundational curricula and
12 unified statewide transfer agreements.

13 “[4] **(3)** Each community college and public university listed in ORS
14 352.002 shall report annually to the commission, for each unified statewide
15 transfer agreement established under ORS 350.404, the number of academic
16 credits that were successfully transferred in that major course of study by
17 students who transfer from a community college to a public university.

18 “[5] **(4)** To the extent relevant data is available, the commission shall
19 report annually to the Legislative Assembly on whether existing unified
20 statewide transfer agreements are meeting the goals set forth in ORS 350.404
21 (2).

22 **“SECTION 10. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate**
23 **preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is**
24 **declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect on its passage.”**

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