

HB 2961 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$5 million from General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for allocation to public universities and community colleges to expand scope and community reach of college access and success programs. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of amendment
- Recommendations from Joint Task Force on Underrepresented Students in Higher Education

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. Declares legislative findings. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to establish program to enable post-secondary institutions of education to provide current high school students with services and outreach to transition from high school to post-secondary institutions and access available resources. Requires HECC to establish and administer block grant program to fund specified programs. Requires Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) to conduct comprehensive review of Oregon Student Child Care Grant Program and campus-based child care centers to determine how to meet needs of greatest number of students. Requires DELIC to submit report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024. Requires each public institution of higher education to develop integrated network of specified student support offices and provide each student with liaison responsible for helping student navigate integrated network. Permits HECC to provide Oregon Opportunity Grant awards in excess of maximum amount to low-income qualified students. Appropriates unspecified amount General Fund to HECC to provide enhanced Oregon Opportunity Grants. Appropriates unspecified amount General Fund to HECC to provide grants to keep students enrolled during emergency situations. Appropriates unspecified amount General Fund to HECC for distribution to Oregon TRIO Association, Future Connect scholarship and support program, and Educational Opportunities Program. Appropriates unspecified amount General Fund to HECC for purposes of implementing legislative findings. Appropriates unspecified amount General Fund to HECC to provide block grants to public institutions of higher education. Declares emergency, takes effect July 1, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 5006 (2021), Section 158, included a \$5 million appropriation to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for programs assisting access to post-secondary education opportunities. The budget report for the bill notes that the appropriation was intended for distribution in amounts of \$1 million to five programs or organizations: Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone (ASPIRE), College Possible, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), BUILD EXITO at Portland State University, and the Oregon TRIO Association.

House Bill 2961 appropriates \$5 million to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to expand the scope and community reach of college access and success programs.