

SB 1082 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to establish project to connect adults in custody (AICs) and former AICs to community colleges, public universities, and apprenticeship programs. Specifies requirements of project, including at least one institutional partnership between one public university and one or more community colleges. Establishes Oregon Rebound Fund in State Treasury and appropriates moneys in fund to HECC for purposes of operating project. Requires HECC to work with Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) and community corrections agencies to establish statewide network for assisting AICs and former AICs with enrollment in post-secondary classes and programs and apprenticeship programs. Requires HECC to hire five regional navigators who have previously been incarcerated to assist AICs and former AICs. Permits HECC to adopt rules necessary for implementation. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of peer-to-peer support
- Low recidivism rates for formerly incarcerated individuals with higher education
- Implementing statewide model

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. Defines adjudicated youth and individuals who have been in custody. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to establish project to connect adults in custody (AICs) and former AICs to community colleges, public universities, and apprenticeship programs. Specifies requirements of project, including at least one institutional partnership between one public university and one or more community colleges. Establishes Oregon Rebound Fund in State Treasury and appropriates moneys in fund to HECC for purposes of operating project. Requires HECC to work with Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) and community corrections agencies to establish statewide network for assisting AICs and former AICs with enrollment in post-secondary classes and programs and apprenticeship programs. Requires HECC to hire five regional navigators who have previously been incarcerated to assist AICs and former AICs. Permits HECC to adopt rules necessary for implementation. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

In 2020, Oregon Solutions conducted an assessment of the feasibility of implementing a campus-based, peer mentor program to help formerly incarcerated individuals access post-secondary education, based on a similar program in California. The resulting [Redeeming Scholars Assessment Report](#), published in February 2021, found strong interest in the concept and included recommendations for how to implement such a program. Oregon Solutions convened the [Redeeming Scholars](#) project in 2021 and has published background information and resources on the concept.

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission's report [SB 234 Workgroup: Postsecondary Education for Adults in Custody](#) includes background information on the federal expansion of Pell Grant eligibility to AICs, beginning with the Second Chance Pell Program in 2015, as well as the educational programs currently offered at correctional facilities by public universities and community colleges.

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Portland State University (PSU)'s [Higher Education in Prison](#) program offers a bachelor's degree program in liberal studies at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF), as well as a dedicated college navigator. According to [PSU](#), the [program](#) first launched in 2019. The University of Oregon (UO)'s [Prison Education Program](#) offers both credit-bearing classes and not-for-credit activities for AICs. According to the Senate Bill 234 workgroup report, UO's programs were offered at five facilities in 2021: CCCF, Deer Ridge Correctional Institution (DRCI), Oregon State Correctional Institution (OSCI), Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP), and Santiam Correctional Institution (SCI).

Senate Bill 1082 requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish a project to connect adults in custody (AICs) and former AICs to higher education and apprenticeship programs through an institutional partnership between universities and community colleges, as well as to hire five navigators to connect AICs and former AICs with regional educational and training programs.