

HB 3121 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education

Action Date: 03/28/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-1-1-0

Yeas: 7 - Bowman, Hudson, Lively, Mannix, McIntire, Sosa, Wright

Nays: 1 - Elmer

Exc: 1 - Ruiz

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/14, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$5,200,000 General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for purposes of carrying out Oregon's Open Educational Resources Program. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of amendment
- Competing costs of food, housing, tuition, and textbooks
- Increase in cost of textbooks relative to inflation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Open educational resources (OERs) are freely accessible teaching, learning, and research resources such as textbooks, videos, and images, that can be legally adapted and redistributed for students' use at low or no cost. In 2015, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2871, which provided a \$700,000 appropriation to hire an OER specialist and establish a one-time grant program within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). In 2017, House Bill 2729 established Oregon's Open Educational Resources Program and required HECC to coordinate and report on the effectiveness of the program. According to information presented to the House Committee on Higher Education on January 31, 2023, the state has awarded \$1,622,186 in OER grants since 2015, leading to an estimated savings of \$16,782,190 for students.

House Bill 3121 A appropriates \$5,200,000 from the General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for Oregon's Open Educational Resources Program.