

HB 3563 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/16, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Oregon Youth Works Advisory Board in Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to provide advice and oversight for Oregon Youth Corps, Oregon Conservation Corps Program, and Oregon Youth Employment Program. Permits Governor to determine membership and requires Governor to appoint members. Prohibits members from receiving compensation other than reimbursement for expenses incurred in performance of official duties. Requires HECC to provide staff support to advisory board. Transfers roles and responsibilities of Oregon Youth Corps Advisory Board and Oregon Conservation Corps Advisory Committee to Oregon Youth Works Advisory Board. Operative January 1, 2024. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential to streamline administration and decrease duplication of work

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission currently organizes the Oregon Youth Corps (OYC), Oregon Conservation Corps (OCC), and Oregon Youth Employment Program (OYEP) under the umbrella of Oregon Youth Works within its Office of Workforce Investments, along with the Department of Human Services Youth Employment Program and Oregon Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Programs. These five programs all provide workforce development grants for youth.

The Oregon Youth Corps (OYC) was established in 1987 as the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps and last updated by House Bill 2871 (2019). OYC provides grant funding, training, and resources to youth-serving agencies across the state to create employment and workforce development opportunities for youth, particularly in the areas of stewardship and natural resources. The Oregon Youth Corps Advisory Board is the state-appointed advisory committee overseeing OYC.

Both the Oregon Conservation Corps (OCC) Program and the Oregon Conservation Corps Advisory Committee were established by SB 762 (2021), an omnibus bill related to wildfire protection and mitigation. OCC provides grant funding in accordance with [OAR 715-101](#) to aid in reducing wildfire risk and to provide workforce training. The Legislative Assembly appropriated a maximum of \$1 million to match private donations to the program.

The Oregon Youth Employment Program (OYEP) was created by Senate Bill 175 (2011) as part of a broader legislative initiative on workforce development. OYEP, as administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), partners with local workforce development boards to provide work experience and training grants for youth ages 14 to 24. Participants in OYEP receive individual development plans; work readiness instruction; and at least 5 weeks of paid internships, preapprenticeships, or other work experience

House Bill 3563 establishes the Oregon Youth Works Advisory Board to replace the Oregon Youth Corps Advisory Board and Oregon Conservation Corps Advisory Committee.