

HB 2404 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the State Board of Education and Eastern Oregon University to develop a pilot program to help middle and high school students in Eastern Oregon learn about and apply for post-secondary education and training. It requires the Oregon Department of Education to report to the Legislative Assembly by December 15, 2026, appropriates funds to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to implement the program, and takes effect on the 91st day after adjournment.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau's [American Community Survey](#), counties in Eastern Oregon have lower college-going rates than the state overall. Compared to a statewide average of 45.4 percent, just 29.9 percent of adults 25 or older have completed at least an associate's degree in the eight easternmost counties of Oregon. In the 17 easternmost counties included in the definition of Eastern Oregon in ORS 321.700, 39.3 percent of adults have an associate's degree or higher.

The passage of [Senate Bill 3 \(2023\)](#) required high school students to complete a one semester course in higher education and career path skills in order to earn a high school diploma.