

HB 2548 A BUDGET REPORT and MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Stacey Chase, Department of Administrative Services

Reviewed By: Kim To, Legislative Fiscal Office

**Higher Education Coordinating Commission
2025-27**

PRELIMINARY

Budget Summary*

	2023-25 Legislatively Approved Budget ⁽¹⁾	2025-27 Current Service Level	2025-27 Committee Recommendation	Committee Change from 2023-25 Leg. Approved	
				\$ Change	% Change
General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 666,791	\$ 666,791	100.0%
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 666,791	\$ 666,791	100.0%

* Excludes Capital Construction expenditures

Summary of Revenue Changes

House Bill 2548 appropriates \$666,791 General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to distribute to Portland State University (PSU) and Oregon State University (OSU) to conduct an agriculture industry labor standards study.

Summary of Capital Construction Subcommittee Action

House Bill 2548 directs HECC to distribute one-time funds appropriated by the measure to the PSU Center for Public Service to conduct a study of labor standards in Oregon’s agricultural industry with a focus on the health and safety risks, compensation and benefits, and working conditions of farm workers. The Center shall hold in-person interviews and focus groups and conduct a confidential survey of farmers regarding the workplace benefits provided to farm workers. HECC shall submit three reports on the findings of the study to interim legislative committees related to agriculture, business and labor, and natural resources. The first report is due by May 1, 2026; the second report by September 1, 2026; and the final report by December 1, 2026.

To conduct the study, PSU will require \$367,007 to engage three existing faculty members to provide oversight, guidance, and subject matter expertise. Additionally, PSU will hire three new staff members to serve as a senior research assistant, a program manager, and an administrative support specialist. Three graduate assistants will also be hired to assist with the development of surveys and scripts for interviews and focus groups as well as assist with data collection and facilitation. PSU will require \$143,694 for services and supplies, including but not limited to, operating materials and travel expenses. To recruit study participants, PSU will contract with 20 community-based organizations with connections to the farmworker community. An additional \$106,090 will be needed to provide incentives for survey, interview, and focus group participants. In addition, OSU will require \$50,000 for staffing and travel costs. HECC will not require any additional resources to submit the required reports to the Legislature.

In addition, the measure directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) to conduct a study assessing labor standards in Oregon’s agricultural industry with a focus on the rights and protections of farm workers. The study must include an evaluation of how relevant state agencies coordinate with each other in administering policies and programs regarding farmworkers’ rights and protection. LPRO shall submit a

report to interim legislative committees related to agriculture, business and labor, and natural resources, by September 1, 2026. The report must include the findings of the study and identify any limitation encountered in accessing or collecting data. LPRO assumes a minimal fiscal impact with existing staff to conduct the study assessing labor standards in Oregon's agricultural industry and to submit the report to the Legislature.

PRELIMINARY

DETAIL OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS ACTION

Higher Education Coordinating Commission
 Stacey Chase -- 503-689-4308

DESCRIPTION	GENERAL FUND	LOTTERY FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS		FEDERAL FUNDS		TOTAL ALL FUNDS	POS	FTE
			LIMITED	NONLIMITED	LIMITED	NONLIMITED			
<u>SUBCOMMITTEE ADJUSTMENTS</u>									
SCR 211 - Statewide Public Services									
Special Payments	\$ 666,791	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 666,791		
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS	\$ 666,791	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 666,791	0	0.00
SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION *	\$ 666,791	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 666,791	0	0.00

*Excludes Capital Construction Expenditures

PRELIMINARY