

HB 2998 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates: 2/28, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to conduct study and develop recommendations on best methods for creating common course numbers for Oregon transfer module courses, and ensuring transfer module courses are commonly accepted as general education requirements at public post-secondary institutions. Requires HECC to submit report detailing recommendations to interim legislative committees on higher education by October 1, 2018. Creates sunset on January 2, 2019.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces measure. Requires HECC to regularly convene community college and public university representatives to facilitate establishment of foundational curricula, determine major courses of study for which unified statewide transfer agreements will be established and to develop those agreements. Requires institutions to collaboratively establish foundational curricula for first year coursework and to develop a unified statewide transfer agreement for each major course of study. Specifies community college students should be able to transfer each academic credit contained within foundational curriculum to any public university, and have each credit be counted towards student's degree requirements. Specifies each unified statewide transfer agreement must enable students to transfer from community college to public university without loss of academic credit or requirement to retake a course at university, identify optimal number of academic credits student should have when transferring to efficiently achieve bachelor's degree, define classes and completion standards for optimal number of credits that may be taken at community college, and ensure if a student has completed 90 academic credits or optimal number of credits at community college and then transfers to university, student will receive junior status in major course of study at university and be able to receive bachelor's degree in major course of study by completing additional academic credits identified in unified statewide transfer agreement. Requires institutions to ensure community college transfer students are able to obtain bachelor's degree with similar number of academic credits as required for students who begin post-secondary education at public university, seek to minimize student debt, seek to increase rate at which community college transfer students receive bachelor's degrees and seek to maintain standards of intellectual and academic rigor at all institutions. Requires community colleges to provide students with information on potential major courses of study and existing unified statewide transfer agreements. Requires HECC to provide report to Legislative Assembly relating to lost academic credits, initial major courses of study for which unified statewide transfer agreements will be established and foundational curriculum recommendations, by February 1, 2018. Requires HECC to provide annual report to Legislative Assembly on whether existing unified statewide transfer agreements are meeting goals. Requires community colleges and public universities to provide joint report to interim committees on higher education by June 1, 2018, that includes best practices for advising students. Requires each institution to provide annual report to HECC on the number of academic credits that were successfully transferred in each major course of study for which unified statewide transfer agreements are established. Requires HECC to ensure at least one foundational curriculum is established and available by beginning of 2018-2019 academic year.

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Requires institutions to establish unified statewide transfer agreement for three major courses of study per year, and to develop first agreement by December 1, 2018, second agreement by April 1, 2019 and third agreement by December 1, 2019. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

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

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Transfer Module (OTM) is a one-year curriculum for students who plan to transfer to a two-year or four-year post-secondary institution in Oregon. The module consists of one year of lower division general education coursework, and results in an OTM designation on a student transcript when requirements have been completed. Since public university transfer requirements vary, the OTM was designed to include all general education coursework that any public university may require, to ensure a smooth student transfer process.

In practice, public university general education requirements are not clearly aligned to the OTM. Course numbering and content are inconsistent between institutions. Thus, while the OTM will meet admission standards of receiving post-secondary schools, general education credit transfers are accepted on a course-by-course, institution-by-institution basis. Following a transfer, students may need to complete additional general education coursework to meet the receiving institution's requirements.