

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2998 - A4

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

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Measure Description:

Requires community colleges and public universities to establish foundational curriculum or foundational curricula for first year of coursework at public post-secondary institutions of education and establishes requirements for foundational curricula.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Community Colleges defined in ORS 341.005, Public Universities listed in ORS 352.002

Analysis:

The bill requires community colleges and public universities to collaboratively establish foundational curricula so community college students can transfer academic credits to a public university. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is required to convene meetings with community colleges and public universities to facilitate the establishment of at least one foundational curriculum for use by the beginning of the 2018-19 academic year. Beginning in 2020 community colleges and public universities must establish transfer agreements for three major courses of study per year.

HECC must provide a report on the status of this work to the Legislative Assembly by February 1, 2018; as well as an annual report on the status of existing transfer agreements. Community colleges and public universities must provide a joint report to an interim committee on higher education by June 1, 2018, that relates to the development of the foundational curriculum, transfer agreements, and includes content related to student advising effectiveness and academic support services. Community colleges and public universities are required to provide an annual report to the HECC on the number of academic credits that were successfully transferred in each major course of study for which transfer agreements are established.

The workload to the HECC related to convening meetings, conducting data analysis, and report writing, is anticipated to require one limited-duration Operations and Policy Analysts 3 (0.50 FTE) at a cost of \$107,528 in the 2017-19 biennium, and one limited-duration Research Specialist 3 (0.50 FTE) at a cost of \$93,607 in the 2017-19 biennium. The workload to HECC associated with providing an annual report on the status of existing transfer agreements is considered minimal and absorbable within existing budgetary parameters.

Public universities and community colleges anticipate a fiscal impact associated with varying staffing costs related to enhanced student advising and academic support services, faculty time and travel expenses for meetings to develop the foundational curriculum and transfer agreements, as well as potential IT/registrar reprogramming costs. With the exception of Eastern Oregon University and Portland State University - which indicate the potential need for as much as a 1.00 FTE each, the associated workload is anticipated to be met with existing staffing resources.