

B-Engrossed
House Bill 2998

Ordered by the House June 29
Including House Amendments dated April 24 and June 29

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

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.

Requires community colleges and public universities to develop unified statewide transfer agreements based on foundational curricula for each major course of study. Establishes requirements for transfer agreements and goals community colleges and public universities should seek to achieve in designing transfer agreements. Requires community colleges and public universities to establish transfer agreements for three major courses of study per year.

Requires community college to provide specified information to student when student attending community college informs community college that student intends to transfer to public university.

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to regularly convene and consult with representatives from community colleges and public universities for specified purposes.

Requires each community college and public university to report annually to commission, for each unified statewide transfer agreement, on number of academic credits successfully transferred. Requires commission to report annually to Legislative Assembly on whether unified statewide transfer agreements are meeting stated goals.

Requires community colleges and public universities to submit joint report to Legislative Assembly no later than June 1, 2018.

Requires commission to provide report to Legislative Assembly no later than February 1, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to transfer of credits to public post-secondary institutions of education; and declaring an
3 emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) Community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall:**

6 **(a) Evaluate existing one-year curricula for students at a public post-secondary institu-**
7 **tion of education who plan to transfer to a different public post-secondary institution of ed-**
8 **ucation; and**

9 **(b) Establish a foundational curriculum, or foundational curricula, for the first year of**
10 **coursework at public post-secondary institutions of education in this state.**

11 **(2) A foundational curriculum established under subsection (1) of this section must con-**
12 **tain a minimum of 30 college-level academic credits.**

13 **(3) Students at a community college who complete a foundational curriculum established**
14 **under subsection (1) of this section shall:**

15 **(a) Be able to transfer each academic credit contained within the foundational curric-**
16 **ulum from a community college to any public university listed in ORS 352.002; and**

17 **(b) Have each academic credit from the foundational curriculum be counted towards the**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 student's degree requirements at any public university listed in ORS 352.002.

2 **SECTION 2.** The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall convene community
3 colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 to ensure that at least one foundational
4 curriculum described in section 1 of this 2017 Act is established and available for use by
5 community college students by the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year.

6 **SECTION 3.** (1) Community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall
7 collaborate to develop a unified statewide transfer agreement, based on the foundational
8 curricula established under section 1 of this 2017 Act, for each major course of study. Each
9 unified statewide transfer agreement developed under this section must:

10 (a) Enable a student to transfer from a community college to a public university listed
11 in ORS 352.002 without the loss of academic credit or the requirement to retake a course at
12 a public university that the student has successfully completed at a community college,
13 provided that the grade in each course that is transferred meets the degree requirements
14 established by the unified statewide transfer agreement;

15 (b) Contain provisions that identify the optimal number of academic credits, including
16 credits in the major course of study, that the student should have when the student trans-
17 fers from a community college to a public university listed in ORS 352.002 in order for the
18 student to efficiently receive a bachelor's degree;

19 (c) Define the classes and completion standards for the optimal number of academic
20 credits identified in paragraph (b) of this subsection that may be taken at a community col-
21 lege;

22 (d) Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this subsection, ensure that if a student at a
23 community college has completed 90 academic credits of coursework in conformity with the
24 completion standards identified in paragraph (c) of this subsection and transfers to a public
25 university listed in ORS 352.002, the student will:

26 (A) Receive junior status in the major course of study at the public university; and

27 (B) Be able to receive a bachelor's degree in the major course of study by completing the
28 additional academic credits identified in the unified statewide transfer agreement after
29 transferring, based on the total number of academic credits and standards approved by the
30 accrediting body for the public university; and

31 (e) For unified statewide transfer agreements that in paragraph (b) of this subsection
32 identify an optimal number of academic credits to transfer other than 90, ensure that if a
33 student at a community college has completed the identified number of academic credits of
34 coursework in conformity with the completion standards identified in paragraph (c) of this
35 subsection and transfers to a public university listed in ORS 352.002, the student will:

36 (A) Receive status at the public university, based on the number of academic credits
37 referenced in the transfer agreement, that is comparable to the status of students with the
38 same number of academic credits in the major course of study who began their post-
39 secondary studies at the public university; and

40 (B) Be able to receive a bachelor's degree in the major course of study by completing the
41 additional academic credits identified in the unified statewide transfer agreement after
42 transferring, based on the total number of academic credits and standards approved by the
43 accrediting body for the public university.

44 (2) In designing unified statewide transfer agreements under subsection (1) of this sec-
45 tion, community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall:

1 (a) Focus on ensuring that community college students who transfer to public universi-
2 ties to complete a bachelor's degree are able to obtain the bachelor's degree with a similar
3 number of academic credits to those required for students who begin their post-secondary
4 studies at a public university;

5 (b) Seek to minimize student debt;

6 (c) Seek to increase the rate at which community college students who transfer to public
7 universities receive bachelor's degrees; and

8 (d) Seek to maintain the standards of intellectual and academic rigor at community col-
9 leges and public universities.

10 (3)(a) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall regularly convene and con-
11 sult with community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 in order to deter-
12 mine the major courses of study for which a unified statewide transfer agreement will be
13 established.

14 (b) Determinations made under this subsection must identify a sufficient number of ma-
15 jor courses of study to enable colleges and public universities to comply with subsection (4)
16 of this section.

17 (c) The commission shall publicly identify the criteria used to make determinations under
18 this subsection, which must include, but need not be limited to, a consideration of:

19 (A) The major courses of study with the most workforce demand; and

20 (B) The most common major courses of study among students who transfer from a
21 community college to a public university.

22 (4) Community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall establish a
23 unified statewide transfer agreement for three major courses of study per year.

24 **SECTION 4.** Notwithstanding section 3 (4) of this 2017 Act, community colleges and public
25 universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall develop the first three unified statewide transfer
26 agreements required under section 3 of this 2017 Act under the following time frame:

27 (1) The first unified statewide transfer agreement must be established by December 1,
28 2018;

29 (2) The second unified statewide transfer agreement must be established by April 1, 2019;
30 and

31 (3) The third unified statewide transfer agreement must be established by December 1,
32 2019.

33 **SECTION 5.** When a student attending a community college informs the community col-
34 lege that the student intends to pursue a bachelor's degree by transferring to a public uni-
35 versity listed in ORS 352.002, the community college shall:

36 (1) Provide the student with information on potential major courses of study that the
37 community college has received from the public university;

38 (2) Provide the student with a list of existing unified statewide transfer agreements; and

39 (3) Encourage the student to identify a potential major course of study or unified state-
40 wide transfer agreement prior to the student completing 45 academic credits.

41 **SECTION 6.** (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall regularly convene
42 representatives from community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002 in or-
43 der to:

44 (a) Facilitate the coordination and establishment of foundational curricula described in
45 section 1 of this 2017 Act; and

1 (b) Facilitate the development, and ensure the continued alignment, of the unified state-
2 wide transfer agreements described in section 3 of this 2017 Act.

3 (2) The commission shall provide staffing for each meeting held under subsection (1) of
4 this section.

5 (3) The commission shall seek to ensure that community colleges, public universities
6 listed in ORS 352.002 and students are informed and engaged on the current status and de-
7 velopments of foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements.

8 (4) Each community college and public university listed in ORS 352.002 shall report an-
9 nually to the commission, for each unified statewide transfer agreement established under
10 section 3 of this 2017 Act, the number of academic credits that were successfully transferred
11 in that major course of study by students who transfer from a community college to a public
12 university.

13 (5) To the extent relevant data is available, the commission shall report annually to the
14 Legislative Assembly on whether existing unified statewide transfer agreements are meeting
15 the goals set forth in section 3 (2) of this 2017 Act.

16 **SECTION 7.** No later than June 1, 2018, community colleges and public universities listed
17 in ORS 352.002 shall submit a joint report to the interim committees of the Legislative As-
18 sembly relating to higher education regarding best practices for advising students about:

19 (1) Foundational curricula established under section 1 of this 2017 Act;

20 (2) Unified statewide transfer agreements established under section 3 of this 2017 Act;

21 (3) Methods for identifying a major course of study no later than the student's second
22 year of post-secondary education;

23 (4) Strategies and resources available to enhance student advising effectiveness and in-
24 crease student access to information about unified statewide transfer agreements; and

25 (5) Academic support services, with an emphasis on assisting students enrolled in courses
26 or major courses of study with high rates of incompleteness.

27 **SECTION 8.** No later than February 1, 2018, the Higher Education Coordinating Com-
28 mission shall provide to the Legislative Assembly a written report that:

29 (1) In consultation with community colleges and public universities listed in ORS 352.002,
30 defines "lost academic credits" for purposes of the report;

31 (2) States the typical number of lost academic credits by current students who transfer
32 from a community college to a public university listed in ORS 352.002;

33 (3) Makes a recommendation on whether more than one foundational curriculum should
34 be established;

35 (4) Makes a recommendation on whether foundational curricula established under section
36 1 of this 2017 Act should be transferable for students who transfer from one community
37 college to a different community college or from one public university listed in ORS 352.002
38 to a different public university; and

39 (5) Lists the initial major courses of study for which unified statewide transfer agree-
40 ments will be established under section 3 (3) of this 2017 Act.

41 **SECTION 9.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the General Fund appropriation
42 made to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission by section 1 (1), chapter __, Oregon
43 Laws 2017 (Enrolled Senate Bill 5524), for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, is increased
44 by \$220,490 for the purpose of implementing this 2017 Act.

45 **SECTION 10.** This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public

1 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect**
2 **on its passage.**

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