



Docket Item:

Legislative Update -June 2017

HECC Agency Bills:

Bill	Subject	Status
SB 54	University evaluations and other minor and technical changes	Passed Senate on 4/24 Passed House on 6/1 Requires Senate concurrence
<i>SB 55</i>	<i>Oregon Promise</i>	<i>Signed by the Governor on 4/4</i>
SB 1032	Oregon Promise	Passed Senate Education on 4/6 In Joint Ways and Means Committee Will receive additional amendments as needed based on funding level/program model
HB 2311	40-40-20	Passed House on 4/19 Passed Senate on 5/30 Awaiting Governor's signature
<i>HB 2312</i>	<i>Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act</i>	<i>Signed by the Governor on 5/31</i>
HB 2313	Accelerated College Credit Programs	Passed House Higher Education Committee on 4/18 In Joint Ways and Means Committee due to potential fiscal impact
<i>HB 2314</i>	<i>Agency Catch-All Bill</i>	<i>Signed by the Governor on 5/17</i>

Legislative Deadlines:

As of June 2, the final deadline for policy committees has passed, meaning that bills in committees other than the Joint Ways and Means Committee, the Revenue Committees, and the Rules Committee cannot proceed in their current form. These policy committees may no longer hear bills or schedule bills for committee action.

Additionally, due to the impending sine die deadline for legislative adjournment, legislative leaders have invoked the one-hour notice requirement, meaning that

committees may now meet to take action on items one-hour after posting an agenda, in lieu of the standard 48-hour requirement.

Significant Policy Work:

- **Private Career Schools** - As initially drafted, HB 2701 would have significantly restricted the ability of commission staff to seek improvements and changes in the operations of private career schools by requiring HECC to prevail at an administrative hearing prior to notifying schools of any deficiencies meriting correction. HECC staff met with multiple legislators to ensure HECC retained this important regulatory function. During the interim, HECC will look more closely at the possibility of aligning the warning and sanctions process between private career schools and private degree schools.
- **Student Mental Health** - SB 231 requires HECC to convene a task force to evaluate the delivery of mental health services to students. HECC had significant concerns about its ability to properly conduct such a task force and produce a report, given the lack of available subject matter expertise. HECC worked with the Oregon Student Association to include the Oregon Health Authority in the bill as a co-convenor and resident subject matter expert.
- **Open Educational Resources** - HB 2929 would build on current efforts underway to develop and market free course materials for use in Oregon colleges and universities. HECC has worked to make OER adoption and expansion a campus-focused effort, and has worked with the proponent of the bill to create a campus-based advisory group that will determine how the next round of state resources, if appropriated, can best be used to encourage a wider dissemination of quality, free course materials.
- **Advanced Placement Credit** - Initially, SB 207 would have required all public institutions to accept an AP examination score of three or better for college credit. However, because credit would be awarded as an elective, HECC expressed concerns that the bill would further the problem of excess credit (credit that counts for an elective outside of any general education or major-specific requirements). A new version of the bill allows institutions to request a HECC-convened panel review AP courses and determine appropriate AP score minimums.

Ways and Means:

The Education Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee is nearing conclusion of its work, and the higher education budget is one of the few outstanding items. HECC staff believes the committee will take up the budget as soon as next

week. Without a final agreement on revenue, budgets continue to be subject to change.

Currently, the focus of the committee budget writers is on modifications that may be necessary to ensure the Oregon Promise Program continues to have a positive impact on enrollment and retention rates amongst first-time community college students, while also operating in a way that is more sustainable in the long-term. We continue to recommend that no structural changes be made to the program, but are responsive to the Committee's requests for information.