
Docket Item:

April Legislative Update

Summary:

The legislative session is now well underway. By and large, measures that were introduced in late January are no longer eligible for action unless they received a vote in their first committee by this past Monday, April 9th. Measures in some committees are exempt from this requirement. A number of policy measures have passed out of their committee of origin and this report focuses on the most substantial of them.

Affordability/Financial Aid

HB 2910 – Oregon Promise Program for Incarcerated/In-custody Students: The Oregon promise program requires students to have received a GED or a diploma within 6 months of enrollment in a college. Some offenders, who earn their GED or diploma while in custody, are able to qualify, while others who do the same are not due to the date of release. OSAC does not consider criminal history in making awards to students. The bill resets the six-month eligibility requirement to the date of a student's release, so that any student earning a GED or diploma during a period of custody or incarceration is eligible (STATUS: Passed House Education Committee, referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means)

HB 2213/HB 2214 – Open Educational Resources: Continuing work funded by the legislature in 2015, the House Education Committee introduced two bills on textbook affordability and open educational resources. The first, HB 2213, is a policy bill, requiring institutions to adopt textbook affordability plans. The second, HB 2214 is a bill which would sustain funding for statewide OER development, editing, and faculty convening activities through the next biennium. An interim work group will be formed to discuss the issue of on-time course material adoption and notification to students and return with a new bill for the 2020 short session. (STATUS: HB 2213 – Passed House, HB 2214 – Passed House Education Committee, referred to Joint Committee on Ways and Means)

SB 279 – Regulation of Student Loan Servicers: Accounting for a relaxed regulatory environment at the federal level, the bill seeks to make student loan servicers subject to state licensure and oversight by the Department of Consumer and Business Services. It additionally requires HECC to develop a student loan counseling service, or to contract for such service, in order to provide borrowers with information and tools necessary to work with student loan servicers to receive the best possible loan payment terms from their servicer. (STATUS: Passed Senate Judiciary, referred to Joint Ways and Means)

Accelerated Learning

SB 800 – Transfer of Accelerated Learning Credit: Following on the successful completion of the Core Transfer Map as part of the HB 2998 work, SB 800 establishes a HECC facilitated process to work toward ensuring that credits earned as part of an approved accelerated learning credit program are transferable in accordance with the new foundational curriculum. The bill requires HECC to provide to updates to the legislature regarding the work toward this alignment. (STATUS: Passed Senate Education Committee, referred to Joint Committee on Student Success)

Commission Operations

HB 3280 – Voting Members on the Commission – This bill converts the current non-voting members of the Commission to voting members and adds a representative of graduate students to the Commission. With passage, the commission would expand from 14 to 15 members, with all 15 members of the Commission being eligible to vote. (STATUS: Passed House Education Committee, on House Floor)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

HB 2942 – Statewide Equity Plan: The bill requires the HECC to adopt a statewide equity plan in collaboration with institutions and representatives of diverse groups, and to include in its strategic plan goals designed to decrease the achievement gap. The bill includes the requirement that HECC have a

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diversity, equity and inclusion officer on staff. (STATUS: Passed House Education Committee, referred to Joint Committee on Ways and Means)

Private School Regulation

HB 2976 – Veterans Benefits Loophole: In order to be eligible to receive federal financial aid, Title IV eligible institutions but derive 10 percent of revenues from non-federal financial aid sources. Despite being a source of financial aid, veterans' tuition benefits are counted toward the 10%. Institutions may more heavily recruit veterans in order to meet federal targets. The bill requires 20% of revenue for Oregon-based institutions to be derived from non-federal sources, and includes veterans' education benefits as a federal source. (STATUS: Passed House Education Committee, referred to Joint Committee on Ways and Means)

Transfer

SB 730 – Simpler Pathways and Student Portal: SB 730 is the Senate introduced version of HECC sponsored legislation to continue to build upon the beginning of the new credit transfer system established in HB 2998. The bill states the principal that exceptions and variances within major transfer maps should be limited, and when required, must be justified by the institution's chief academic officer. The bill also requires HECC or institutions to establish a transfer portal to communicate transfer maps and ensure the smooth accounting of earned credits (STATUS: Passed Senate Education Committee, referred to Joint Committee on Ways and Means).

Budget Update

The Joint Committee on Student Success unveiled a \$2b package of investments in K12 education last week. None of the proposed investments are intended for higher education needs. Broadly, the package includes \$400m for early childhood investments, \$600m for specific statewide investments in an array of targeted initiatives (drop out prevention, support for students with disabilities, school meals, and other activities) and \$1b in school improvement funding.

Today, Governor Brown will address the Committee and indicate that the lack of funding for higher education in this package is problematic, and will encourage the Committee and legislative leaders to provide additional funding for post-secondary student support

Agency Legislation

<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Status</u>
HB 2028	Credit Transfer	Failed to advance. Incorporated into SB 730
HB 2029	Accelerated Learning Credit	Failed to advance. Incorporated into SB 800
HB 2030	Minor and Technical Revisions	On House Floor
HB 2871	OYCC	On House Floor
SB 17	eTranscripts	In Joint Committee on Student Success
SB 730	Credit Transfer	In Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Staff Recommendation:

This is an informational item. No action is required.