

Docket Item:

February Legislative Update

Summary:

The 2019 legislative session began on January 22, and HECC staff are now tracking 145 bills related to higher education or agency operations.

Budget Discussions

Representatives of the higher education community, including institutions, students, and labor organizations, are active in the community discussing the need to increase funding for higher education. The dominating issue at the top of legislators' minds is funding for K-12 education, and the Joint Committee on Student Success continues its work searching for a comprehensive package of education specific revenues and expenses. As of now, no route for higher education to engage in the same or similar discussion has been identified. However, individual legislators privately speak to the need to provide additional resources for higher education.

Agency Legislation

| <u>Bill Number</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| HB 2028 | Credit Transfer | Awaiting scheduling |
| HB 2029 | Accelerated Learning Credit | Awaiting scheduling |
| HB 2030 | Minor and Technical Revisions | Public hearing held |
| SB 17 | eTranscripts | Scheduled for 2/13 hearing |
| SB 720 | Credit Transfer | Scheduled for 2/13 hearing |

Other Significant Policy Legislation

Open Educational Resources (HB 2213) - Commission members expressed significant interest in 2018 in forwarding a legislative concept on the expansion of open educational resources availability statewide. The agency did not submit a concept under its own name, but worked with members of the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee to draft a bill. The current bill focuses on early notification of materials requirements to students and campus textbook affordability plans.

Accelerated Learning Credit (LC 3229/Not yet introduced) - K-12 advocates are likely to introduce legislation that requires more universal credit acceptance for accelerated learning credit courses offered in conjunction with HECC standards.

Applied Baccalaureate Degrees (SB 3) - Sen. Courtney's bill to authorize community colleges to award applied baccalaureate degrees provided such programs are approved by the Commission has passed the Senate Education Committee and moves to the Senate Floor. Patrick Crane previously presented to the Committee on the utility of AB degrees.

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

Docket Item 3.0:

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Staff Recommendation:

This is an informational item. No action is required.