



3225 25th Street SE, Salem, OR 97302
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HECC Legislative Concepts 2021-2023

September 16, 2020

*Concepts are listed in LC number order. LC number does not indicate prioritization on the part of the agency. Concepts that have potentially significant equity impacts, and that are likely to be prioritized by the agency are noted with an asterisk**

LC 591 – Klamath Community College Boundary Change: The Higher Education Coordinating Commission is tasked with determining the boundaries of community college service districts. When the Commission issues a boundary change order, ratification by the legislature is required. This concept proposes to ratify an order by the Commission to include an unincorporated portion of Lake County into the Klamath Community College district.

LC 592 – Boundary Change Process Modifications: Over the last two years, the Commission and staff have worked on two boundary change issues, the first such issues the Commission has considered since its founding. The Commission has determined that the statutes, written in the 1970s, require clarification and modernization to account for current processes and college funding mechanisms.

LC 593 – Lane Community College Boundary Change: This concept proposes to ratify an Order by the Commission (not yet issued) to include an unincorporated portion of northwest Lane County into the Lane Community College district.

LC 594 – Cosmetology School Curriculum: The Commission licenses private career schools, and in doing so ensures they have trained staff, healthy finances, and appropriate academic policies to operate as schools. In most career fields, accrediting bodies or licensure boards are responsible for curriculum oversight, except for cosmetology. This concept proposes to shift the responsibility for curriculum oversight from HECC to the Board of Cosmetology, placing it in the hands of experts in the field.

LC 595 – Deceased or Disabled Public Safety Officer Program Funding: This concept solidifies the Commission's authority to utilize Oregon Opportunity Grant funds to provide awards to qualified recipients of aid under the Deceased or Disabled Public Safety Officer Program, replacing a prior authority that has eroded over the course of years as statutes have been modified.

LC 596* – Oregon Youth Employment Program: Youth, particularly minority youth, are chronically underserved by entry-level jobs that provide the basis for positive development of employment skills and history. The Oregon Youth Employment program is a statutory program that has never been funded. HECC is proposing funding the program, requiring the majority of opportunities go to identified underserved youth, and partnering with those communities directly to provide job and experiential opportunity to youth through the state workforce system.

LC 597* – Financial Aid Redesign: The state funds two primary financial aid programs, the Oregon Opportunity Grant and the Oregon Promise. HECC intends to redesign these programs to emphasize financial need as the primary method of determining financial aid eligibility, to provide for differentiated programs for pipeline and returning learners, and to fund students on a first dollar basis, ensuring the neediest students can use other forms of aid for their expenses.

LC 598* – Placeholder for Reforming Higher Education Delivery: For students of color, early-generation students, low-income student, and rural students, the current higher education delivery model has not provided equitable opportunity, and these effects have and are likely to continue to be exacerbated by the pandemic and recession. HECC is working on building support for a process that forces difficult conversations

around what it means to educate all students in today’s context, and guides institutions to retool with equity and state goals at the forefront.

LC 599* – Credit Transfer: HECC has been working with institutions on credit transfer since the passage of HB 2998 in 2017, and has identified opportunities to improve on the work by updating statutes to account for the new transfer tools, enhance reporting requirements, and provide for technology needs that smooth the atriculation process and help communicate transfer pathways to students, parents, advisors, and counselors. Elements of this bill may ultimately be transitioned into other developing credit transfer proposals sponsored by legislators.

LC 600 – Minor Revisions: This concept proposes to make minor and technical revisions to statutes. These changes typically cover issues such as program name changes, statutory clarifications, and repeals of outdated language.

LC 603 – Placeholder for Reforming Higher Education System Structure: This proposal serves as a placeholder for concepts that may be developed related to the need to make non-education delivery related changes (i.e. changes more related to institutions as business entities) in order to make institutions more resilient given the medium term pandemic and economic outlook. Further information regarding the state budget, student enrollment, and federal aid to states and institutions is required before development.

LC 604 – Placeholder for Workforce System Reform: This proposal serves as a placeholder for concepts that may be developed related to the need to retool the state workforce system in light of the pandemic and associated recession.

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