

HECC 2024 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY: Key Postsecondary Education Budget and Policy Bills

April 2024



2024 Legislative Session Summary

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INTRODUCTION

This Legislative Report provides an overview of a selection of key investments and bills approved during Oregon's 2024 Legislative Session pertaining to postsecondary education in Oregon and tracked by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). The HECC is a state commission and agency dedicated to a future in which all Oregonians—and especially those whom our systems have underserved and marginalized—benefit from the transformational power of high-quality postsecondary education and training. The HECC's statutory authorities include advising the Oregon Legislature and the Governor on higher education policy, and the development of biennial budget recommendations for public postsecondary education and workforce training in Oregon.

The 82nd Legislative Assembly convened on February 5, 2024, and adjourned Sine Die on March 7, 2024. This abbreviated legislative session provided opportunity for the legislature to amend and increase investments in key areas of focus and agreement between Governor Tina Kotek and the legislature, as well as between political parties. Largely, the session went according to that plan, with the bulk of attention and additional resources being paid to the areas of housing, behavioral health and addiction, and primary and secondary education.

As a result, while the last short session was marked by dramatic impacts in higher education and workforce development, namely the Oregon Tribal Student Grant, the Oregon Promise Grant, and Future Ready Oregon, this short session was more measured and typical of even-year legislative convenings.

As always, the HECC is grateful for the engagement of our PK-20 education and workforce partners, including: the leadership of Oregon's seven public universities and 17 community colleges, the Oregon Student Association, the Workforce and Talent Development Board, Oregon Community College Association, Oregon Council of Presidents, the Oregon Alliance for Independent Colleges and Universities, and others. HECC staff and partners coordinated and collaborated with partners throughout the session on legislative and budgetary proposals, including bill analyses, presentations and testimony, fiscal impact statements, and other activities.

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MODIFICATIONS TO THE 2023-2025 LEGISLATIVELY ADOPTED BUDGET

This section summarizes alterations made to the 2023-2025 Legislatively Adopted Budget. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) budget includes funding for: Oregon’s 17 community colleges; Oregon’s seven public universities and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU); state financial aid and student access programs; capital bonding authority for the public institutions; Oregon’s nine workforce investment boards; workforce and state service programs; and HECC agency operations.

The 2024 session saw a HECC total funds increase of \$24,647,926. The summary table shows the amounts by fund type and category.

Short Session 2024					
Budget Category	Federal Funds	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Grand Total
Debt Service		(\$19,132,465)		\$19,132,685	\$220
Personal Services	\$760,916	\$2,786,558		\$1,143,808	\$4,691,282
Services and Supplies		\$326,926		\$215,000	\$541,926
Special Payments		\$10,005,000	(\$2,500,000)	\$11,909,498	\$19,414,498
Grand Total	\$760,916	(\$6,013,981)	(\$2,500,000)	\$32,400,991	\$24,647,926

Four bills provided direct budgetary impact: SB 1552, SB 5701, HB 5202, HB 5204

SB 1552

SB 1552 is the senate omnibus education bill. This bill directed HECC to begin to create a Direct Admissions process. This provided \$131, 939 in personal services for a limited duration full time Research Analyst 4 as well as \$26,926 in staffing related Service and Supplies.

SB 1552 also directs HECC to conduct a forestry workforce study with a related appropriation of \$300,000 to the Office of Workforce Investments.

SB 1552	
Budget Category	General Fund
Personal Services	\$131,939
Services and Supplies	\$326,926
Grand Total	\$458,865

The bill also includes other policy changes which may cause financial impacts down the road, warranting minor adjustments in future biennia.

SB 5701

SB 5701 is the 2024 short session appropriation bill. The bill provides HECC for spending authority for scholarship programs funded from other agencies’ resources, makes line-item appropriations to specific state programs housed at institutions of higher education, invests in semiconductor workforce, and provides student scholarship funds at Oregon State University.

The following chart summarizes complete SB 5701 bill impacts by section:

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SB 5701 Section	Activity Funded	Amount	Fund Type	Office or Program
6	Oregon Teacher Scholars Program	\$5,000,000	Other Funds	Office of Student Access and Completion
7	Educator Equity Plan Grants	\$1,100,000	Other Funds	Academic Policy and Authorization
420	PSU - Center for Women's Leadership	\$500,000	General Fund	Public University State Programs
421	UO - Just Futures Institute	\$1,000,000	General Fund	Public University State Programs
470	Bond Issuance Costs	\$115,000	Other Funds	Public University Debt Service
484	Oregon Opportunity Grant adjustment	\$17,500,000	Lottery Funds	Office of Student Access and Completion
485	Oregon Opportunity Grant adjustment	\$(17,500,000)	General Fund	Office of Student Access and Completion
486	OSU - Vet Lab Zoonotic Disease Coordination	\$1,905,000	General Fund	Public University State Programs
487	UO - Semiconductor	\$2,013,423	General Fund	Public University State Programs
487	PSU - Semiconductor	\$1,946,309	General Fund	Public University State Programs
487	OSU - Semiconductor	\$2,013,423	General Fund	Public University State Programs
487	OIT - Semiconductor	\$671,141	General Fund	Public University State Programs
487	PCC - Semiconductor	\$1,677,852	General Fund	Support to Community Colleges
487	MHCC - Semiconductor	\$1,677,852	General Fund	Support to Community Colleges
488	UO - Labor Education and Research Center	\$100,000	General Fund	Public University State Programs
506	Outdoor School Education Fund Reduction	\$(20,000,000)	Lottery Funds	Statewide Public Services, Extension Services
507	OSU - Student Scholarships	\$10,000,000	General Fund	Public University State Programs
519	Salary Pot - HECC Programs	\$2,555,091	General Fund	Agency Wide
519	Salary Pot - HECC Programs	\$849,370	Other Funds	Agency Wide
519	Salary Pot - HECC Programs	\$760,916	Federal Funds	Agency Wide
519	Salary Pot - Oregon Tribal Student Grant	\$18,925	General Fund	Office of Student Access and Completion
519	Debt Service Adj Government Obligation bonds	\$(19,132,465)	General Fund	Public Universities Debt Service
519	Debt Service Adj Government Obligation bonds	\$19,132,685	Other Funds	Public Universities Debt Service
519	Salary Pot - ARPA Workforce Ready - Salary Pot	\$203,936	Other Funds	Workforce Investments
519	Salary Pot - Maritime Workforce	\$14,198	General Fund	Workforce Investments
519	Salary Pot - Sexual Misconduct Survey	\$66,405	General Fund	Research and Data

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SB 5701				
Budget Category	Federal Funds	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds
Debt Service		(\$19,132,465)		\$19,132,685
Personal Services	\$760,916	\$2,654,619		\$1,143,808
Services and Supplies				\$215,000
Special Payments		\$6,005,000	(\$2,500,000)	\$5,909,498
Grand Total	\$760,916	(\$10,472,846)	(\$2,500,000)	\$26,400,991

HB 5202

HB 5202 permits HECC to issue Article XI-Q bonds for the Central Hall Capital Improvements project at SOU.

HB 5202	
Budget Category	Other Funds
Special Payments	\$6,000,000
Grand Total	\$6,000,000

HB 5204

HB 5204 awards specific universities for Behavioral Health Workforce Grants.

- (1) \$666,667 to Eastern Oregon University
- (2) \$666,667 to Oregon Institute of Technology
- (3) \$1,333,332 to Portland State University
- (4) \$666,667 to Southern Oregon University
- (5) \$666,667 to Western Oregon University

HB 5204	
Budget Category	General Fund
Special Payments	\$4,000,000
Grand Total	\$4,000,000

BILL SUMMARIES

NOTE: Bill summaries are an unofficial analysis of the effect of bills provided by staff. They are not intended to capture every requirement or nuance contained in a piece of legislation, and do not carry the force of law. If there are any ambiguities or differences between the summary and the statutory text, the statutory text controls. Budget bills and appropriations pass-through bills without other legislatively established policy elements are not included in this section. Resolutions and other legislative measures that are not law are also not included.

*Senate Bill 1552 is an omnibus measure covering a variety of unrelated higher education, workforce, and K-12 topics. For this summary, the bill is broken down by sections covering distinct issues.

BILL SUMMARIES: AFFORDABILITY

SB 1552, SECTIONS 15-19: OREGON OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM RULES*

These sections require HECC to develop rules specifying the way the Commission determines student awards under the Oregon Opportunity Grant program.

Effective Date: April 4, 2024, for awards issued for the 2025-2026 academic year

SB 1552, SECTION 28: OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES*

This section clarifies the ability of HECC to contract for the administration of the statewide Open Educational Resources program.

Effective Date: April 4, 2024

BILL SUMMARIES: PATHWAYS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

SB 1552, SECTIONS 9-11: DIRECT ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT DATA*

These sections require HECC to establish a direct admissions program in conjunction with community colleges and public universities, to proactively accept and notify students of admission to Oregon public institution. The Department of Education is required to develop a plan for collecting course-level completion and grade data, and report to the legislature the funding needed to implement such a plan. HECC and the Department shall collaborate on the use of such data in direct admissions.

Effective Date: April 4, 2024

SB 1552, SECTIONS 33-34: COREQUISITE STUDENT SUPPORT*

These sections require HECC to establish a representative workgroup to examine the possibility of fully transitioning all developmental education to a corequisite model, wherein students are enrolled in college-level courses with additional embedded academic supports. The workgroup will examine best practices, determine whether a transition should occur, and develop recommendations to assist such a transition by December 15, 2024.

Effective Date: April 4, 2024

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SB 1552, SECTIONS 35-38: FUNDING FOR APPLIED BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS*

These sections require HECC to include in the Community College Support Fund distribution model payments for activity related to applied baccalaureate degrees and Bachelor of Science: Nursing degrees, beginning in the 2025-2026 academic year. They further require HECC to report during its 2025 budget presentation to the legislature the estimated impact of funding such programs and any recommendations for alternate funding mechanisms.

Effective Date: April 4, 2024

HB 4137: INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS AND HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules by which a student who has completed an International Baccalaureate program may satisfy statutory credit requirements for high school graduation, subject to certain provisions.

Effective Date: January 1, 2025

BILL SUMMARIES: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND ACCESABILITY

SB 1532: STATEWIDE EDUCATION PLANS FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE STUDENTS

The bill requires the Department of Education to develop a statewide education plan for asylum seekers, refugees, and other immigrants who may experience disproportionate educational outcomes. The plan must address such disparities through a variety of mechanisms designed to increase support and engagement for plan students and families. HECC is a required participant in the statewide education plan advisory group.

Effective Date: January 1, 2025

HB 4164: CAMPUS CLIMATE AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

The bill updates Oregon's provisions regarding campus climate and sexual misconduct passed via HB 3456 (2023). It delays the delivery date of the first campus sexual misconduct survey to the 2025-2026 academic year, alters the definition of student to remove students seeking to enroll at an institution, creates a waiver process by which institutions can be exempt from requirements to partner with a local victim advocacy organization, removes the requirement that outside organizations develop institutional policy and programming, aligns reporting requirements to existing definitions, and makes other minor changes to HB 3456 provisions.

Effective Date: March 27, 2024

BILL SUMMARIES: EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, AND WORKFORCE

SB 1552, SECTION 40-42: FORESTRY WORKFORCE STUDY*

These sections require HECC to conduct a study to identify needs, challenges, trends, and opportunities in the Oregon forestry sector related to workforce issues, submitting a report to the Legislative Assembly by June 30, 2025.

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Effective Date: April 4, 2024

HB 4151: YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

The bill requires the System of Care Advisory Council to convene a subcommittee on the youth behavioral health workforce, including members who represent higher education programs and skills training programs.

Effective Date: April 4, 2024

HB 4154: SEMICONDUCTOR WORKFORCE

The bill establishes a Semiconductor Talent Sustaining Fund within HECC, for the purpose of funding education, training, and research opportunities to assist in growing the semiconductor industry in the state. The fund is entitled to receive monies from donations, appropriations, interest, and such monies are continuously appropriated to HECC through January 2, 2030.

Effective Date: July 4, 2024

HB 5204: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

The bill is a broad effort to increase resources available for mental health and substance abuse services. Section 4 provides HECC with \$4m for distribution to Eastern Oregon, Southern Oregon, Western Oregon, Oregon Tech, and Portland State to engage in activity designed to expand the behavioral health workforce in Oregon, which may include awarding financial assistance to students; providing behavioral and mental health services to individuals from underserved communities, partnering with community organizations and labor management partnerships to develop career pathways, developing education and training programs, or any other method reasonably necessary to expand access to relevant education and training.

Effective Date: April 1, 2024

BILL SUMMARIES: EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

SB 1552, SECTION 39: PART-TIME FACULTY HEALTH CARE*

This section refines the Part-Time Faculty Healthcare program by specifying criteria for the selection of a home institution for the purpose of receiving benefits.

Effective Date: April 4, 2024

BILL SUMMARIES: GOVERNANCE

SB 1502: RECORDINGS OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

The bill requires public universities and community colleges to post video recordings of all meetings of their governing bodies to a website or social media site no later than 7 days following the meeting, excluding portions of the meeting held in executive session.

Effective Date: January 1, 2025

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BILL SUMMARIES: OTHER

SB 1552, SECTION 43: TRANSFER COUNCIL OPERATIONS

The section exempts from public meeting law requirements meetings of Transfer Council subcommittees that relate to the common course numbering system and the coordination, establishment, alignment, effectiveness and maintenance core transfer maps.

Effective Date: April 4, 2024

HB 4119: NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS

The bill makes amendments to Oregon name, image, and likeness provisions affecting student athletes in NCAA-related competitions. It adds right to compensation for athletic reputation to statutes governing name, image, and likeness rights for student athletes, prohibits an athletic association, conference, or organization from penalizing an institution of higher education or a student athlete due to a violation of its rules and regulations related to name, image, and likeness rights, prohibits student athletes from hiring an agent who was employed by an institution of higher education within the last four years and repeals prohibition on hiring a professional representative who represented a post-secondary institution within the last four years, prohibits the use of athletic performance as a condition for compensation for a student athlete's name, image, likeness, or athletic reputation, permits the use of attendance at a particular institution as a condition for compensation for a student athlete's name, image, likeness, or athletic reputation, and makes other related changes.

Effective Date: March 20, 2024

ASSIGNED REPORTS, WORK GROUPS, AND BUDGET NOTES

REPORTS ASSIGNED BY LEGISLATION IN 2024

BILL	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	DUE DATES
SB 1552	Forestry Workforce	Needs, challenges, trends, and opportunities in the Oregon forestry sector related to workforce issues	<i>June 30, 2025</i>
SB 1552	Applied Baccalaureate Funding	The estimated impact of funding such programs and any recommendations for alternate funding mechanisms outside of the Community College Support Fund	<i>Legislative Budget Hearings, 2025</i>

WORKGROUPS ASSIGNED BY LEGISLATION

BILL	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
SB 1552	Developmental Education	Study of evidence-based corequisite student support models, including models that use in-class tutoring, online learning labs, paired courses and other aligned academic supports, and a

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submission of a report containing determinations and recommendations regarding a transition to corequisite developmental education.

BUDGET NOTES

BILL	TOPIC	NOTE CONTENT
HB 5701	Workforce Impact of Automation and Artificial Intelligence	The University of Oregon Labor Education and Research Center is directed to submit a report on their research and findings to the Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology, including recommendations for legislation, no later than February 1, 2025.

POTENTIAL AGENCY RULEMAKING ACTION

The absence of a bill or topic within a bill in the following table does not indicate that rulemaking is prohibited or will not occur. As HECC staff develop work plans and further analyze legislation, it may be determined that rulemaking is required or permitted and the preferred mechanism of establishing requirements for areas not listed here.

BILL	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
SB 1552	Oregon Opportunity Grant	Adopting principles for determining student award amounts.
SB 1552	Applied Baccalaureate Program Funding	Allowing applied baccalaureate and Bachelor of Science: Nursing programs to receive reimbursement from the Community College Support Fund.
SB 1552	Direct Admissions	Detailing program parameters and participation requirements
