

SB 416 -1, -2, -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/22, 3/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires community college to include course on criminal justice in social science course cluster for purposes of awarding credit toward degree completion and transfer. Requires that credit for course on criminal justice be awarded equally as that awarded for other courses in social science cluster. Allows Higher Education Coordinating Commission to implement provision by rule.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Inconsistency in credit awarded for criminal justice courses across institutions
- Value of criminal justice curriculum as it relates to civics
- Purpose of clarifications in amendments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes requirement to include course on criminal justice in social science course cluster. Allows curriculum committee to approve criminal justice course for inclusion in social science cluster portion of associate degree.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

-2 Removes requirement for equal transfer credit for criminal justice courses. Requires public universities to accept criminal justice courses that are contained within Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer or Associate of Science degree as general education courses. Defines Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer and Associate of Science degrees. Allows Higher Education Coordinating Commission to implement provisions by rule.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

-4 Replaces measure. Allows community college to include approved course on criminal justice in social science course cluster for purposes of awarding credit toward degree completion and transfer. Requires public universities to accept criminal justice courses that are contained within Associate of Arts Transfer or Associate of Science Transfer degree as general education courses. Defines Associate of Arts Transfer and Associate of Science Transfer degrees. Allows Higher Education Coordinating Commission to implement provisions by rule.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

BACKGROUND:

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) approves degree programs at community colleges through its rulemaking authority. As approved by HECC, associate's degree programs offered by community colleges typically require students to take courses in various subject areas, such as social sciences, to fulfill a general education requirement. In particular, the Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer (AAOT) standardized degree path requires a student to take several lower-division courses in each of various subject areas, including cultural literacy, arts and letters, science and math, and social sciences.

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Senate Bill 416 requires community colleges to regard courses on criminal justice as social science courses, and accordingly issue academic credit for these courses toward degree completion or transfer.

PRELIMINARY