

## FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: SB 234 - 2

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official*

---

Prepared by: Kim To  
Reviewed by: Julie Neburka, Doug Wilson  
Date: March 29, 2021

---

### Measure Description:

Directs Department of Corrections to consider certain education programs as qualifying programs for purposes of monetary performance reward system offered to adults in custody.

### Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Corrections (DOC), Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)

### Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

### Analysis:

SB 234 with the -2 amendment requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to consider training for approved high school equivalency tests such as the General Educational Development (GED) or a post-secondary education program approved by the Higher Educational Coordinating Commission (HECC) to be a qualifying program for the purposes of any monetary performance reward program offered to adults in custody. In addition, the measure directs HECC to conduct a study and develop recommendations on how to establish a coordinated, statewide approach to best serve adults in custody who are eligible to receive federal student grants. The measure specifies that HECC must convene a group of stakeholders with representatives from community colleges, public universities, prison advocates. HECC must submit a report to an interim committee of the legislature by December 31, 2021. The measure contains an emergency clause and take effect upon passage.

#### Department of Corrections (DOC)

The fiscal impact of complying with this measure would ultimately depend on the number of adults in custody (AIC) attendance in educational programs. The Performance Recognition and Award System (PRAS) is a direct result of Measure 17 – Oregon’s mandate to engage AICs in full time work and workforce development assignments. DOC reports that under current practice the agency offers PRAS points for GED programs but not for post-secondary education. With passage of this measure, DOC would begin treating post-secondary education programs in the same manner as GED offering 1 PRAS point per day for participation in the program. Assuming 10% of the population (1,250 AICs) would participate for about 8 months per year, DOC estimates the cost of allowing a post-secondary education program to be a qualifying program for PRAS to be an estimated \$160,000 per biennium.

#### Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)

Although complying with the provisions of this measure will increase workload for HECC, the Commission anticipates absorbing the cost of convening a stakeholder group and conducting a study and develop recommendations on how to establish a coordinated, statewide approach to best serve adults in custody who are eligible to receive federal student grants.