

## **SB 416 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Education**

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**Prepared By:** Matt Perreault, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 5/4, 5/18

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

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.

*Senate Vote: Passed. Ayes, 29; Nays, 1--Heard.*

*FISCAL: No fiscal impact*

*REVENUE: No revenue impact*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Ambiguity in existing statutes regarding transfer of credit for curriculum clusters
- Importance of criminal justice courses in relation to civic participation
- Role of legislature in mandating curriculum and content standards
- Implications for decisions regarding credit transfer
- Relationship with other pending legislation

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **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.

Senate Bill 416 A allows a community college to include an approved course on criminal justice in a social science course cluster for transfer degrees, requires public universities to accept criminal justice courses as general education courses, and allows the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to implement these provisions by rule.