

## SB 523 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Education

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**Prepared By:** Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/2

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Repeals requirement that Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)'s plan for applied baccalaureate degree programs include recommendation as to whether community colleges should be allowed to offer applied baccalaureate degrees. Enacts requirement that HECC plan for applied baccalaureate degree programs include name and type of applied baccalaureate degrees to be conferred, with the stipulation that any applied baccalaureate degree for nursing be conferred as bachelor of science: nursing (BSN). Requires applied baccalaureate degree programs in nursing approved by Higher Education Coordinating Commission under ORS 341.013 to confer degrees as BSN.

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

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

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

##### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

##### BACKGROUND:

Planning for community colleges to offer applied baccalaureate degree programs began with House Bill 3093 (2009), which required the Joint Boards of Education to report to the Legislative Assembly on the development of applied baccalaureate degree programs at state institutions of higher education and community colleges. The requirement to develop a plan has remained in statute and responsibility for the plan was shifted to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) by Senate Bill 242 (2011) when the agency was created. HECC received authority to approve applications from community colleges to offer [applied baccalaureate programs](#) with the passage of Senate Bill 3 (2019).

House Bill 4003 (2022) made changes to nurse licensure and staffing to address the nursing workforce shortage, and also directed the Oregon Health Care Workforce Committee to study Oregon's nursing workforce and submit recommendations to the Legislative Assembly. The resulting 2022 report, [The Future of Oregon's Nursing Workforce: Analysis and Recommendations](#), includes information on the levels of nursing licensure as well as education and training programs available in the state of Oregon. According to the report, five schools, both public and private, offer a pathway for registered nurses (RNs) with an associate's degree in nursing (ADN) to earn a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN). In addition, 11 community colleges have partnered with Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) to form the Oregon Consortium of Nursing Education (OCNE), which offers a shared curriculum and provides a pathway for students completing the ADN program at a community college to pursue a BSN at OHSU. Since 2014, Oregon has seen increasing enrollment in BSN programs and declining enrollment in ADN programs.

While students earning either an ADN or a BSN are eligible for licensure as a registered nurse (RN), many universities report an increase in employer preference for job candidates with a BSN.

Senate Bill 523 requires applied baccalaureate programs in nursing offered by community colleges to confer degrees as bachelor of science: nursing.

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*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*