

SB 600 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/9, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$4,980,000 General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for distribution to Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution at University of Oregon. Prohibits appropriation from being distributed to Oregon Consensus program at Portland State University. Appropriates \$250,000 from General Fund to HECC for distribution to Clinical Legal Education Program. Declares emergency, takes effect July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Ability to serve additional clients at UO domestic violence law clinic
- Experiential learning for UO law students

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution (OOCDR), located in the University of Oregon (UO) School of Law, provides dispute resolution services in counties across Oregon and provides mediation services and conflict resolution training to private parties. OOCDR currently operates dispute resolution centers in [15 counties](#). The Oregon Consensus Program, housed at Portland State University (PSU)'s Mark O. Hatfield School of Government, mediates disputes involving public bodies or public land. Both were created by [Senate Bill 247 \(2005\)](#) and are governed by ORS 36.100 to 36.238. Currently, legislative appropriations to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for dispute resolution program funding are shared by the UO and PSU programs in accordance with [OAR 715-013-0066](#), which designates 65 percent of funds for UO and 35 percent of funds for PSU. According to the Legislative Fiscal Office, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$2,921,696 to HECC for this purpose in the 2021-2023 biennium.

HECC also distributes General Fund appropriations to clinical legal education programs at eligible accredited institutions of higher education in accordance with [ORS 21.007](#) and [OAR 715-013-0060](#). The [UO School of Law Domestic Violence Clinic](#), staffed by faculty and law students, provides legal services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Senate Bill 600 appropriates funds to the Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution at the University of Oregon School of Law and to clinical legal education programs.