

HB 3254 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 4/27, 5/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to establish statewide semiconductor industry consortium for purpose of building strategic partnerships between semiconductor industry, institutions of education, workforce organizations, and community-based organizations. Requires consortium to develop comprehensive educational curriculum framework. Requires HECC to appoint panel led by representatives of semiconductor industry. Requires HECC and industry panel to develop method for providing financial rewards to institutions of education that produce graduates with academic degrees that lead to employment in semiconductor industry. Appropriates funds to HECC for purpose of establishing education curriculum framework, industry consortium and new academic programs. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Semiconductor workforce
- Talent and workforce strength in Oregon
- The semiconductor competitiveness task force
- Support for Oregon educational institutions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Replaces the measure.

Establishes Semiconductor Talent Sustaining Fund (Fund). Establishes three subaccounts within Fund: STEM Education and Work-Based Learning Subaccount, Workforce Training Subaccount, and Advanced Degree Workforce Training Subaccount.

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) establish semiconductor advisory committee (committee). Committee will develop statewide strategy to guide investments and build educational pathways and research capacity in the semiconductor industry and make recommendations to HECC for allocations of moneys in Fund. Funding recommendations must include criteria and measurements for HECC to use when allocating moneys and recommendations for future funding requests to Legislative Assembly.

Requires HECC to allocate moneys from Fund to provide education, training, and research to propel industry innovation and productivity in semiconductor industry and provide rewarding careers to Oregon residents who receive technical certificates, technical degrees, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, and graduate-level degrees in fields related to semiconductors. HECC must consider recommendations of committee regarding allocation of moneys in Fund. If HECC does not follow one or more recommendations, HECC must submit written explanation for its decision to committee.

Appropriates \$10 million for STEM Education and Work-Based Learning subaccount to expand STEM education and work-based learning, and increase awareness of STEM career pathways, for historically underrepresented youth and adults. Appropriates \$20 million for Workforce Training Subaccount to build capacity and strengthen workforce training for the semiconductor industry at prebaccalaureate level. Appropriates \$30 million for Advanced Degree Workforce Training Subaccount to build capacity and strengthen workforce training for semiconductor industry at baccalaureate, graduate and research level.

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Provides \$5 million grant to Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon for providing small businesses technical support; \$2 million grant to Building Blocks 2 Success for purpose of increasing workforce development; \$5 million grant to Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center for purpose of building workforce and business development center; and \$1.2 million grant to Self Enhancement, Inc. for establishing Underserved and Underrepresented Youth Cohort to identify pipeline of diverse students.

Requires committee to submit report to Legislative Assembly no later than January 2, 2025, and at least once every two years thereafter. Specifies content of report.

Repeals Committee, Fund, and all subaccounts on June 30, 2027. Any funds remaining in Fund or subaccounts return to General Fund. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Semiconductor Competitiveness Taskforce purpose was to analyze the state of the semiconductor industry in Oregon and how this important industry can continue to thrive, grow, and help produce prosperity and opportunity for a broad cross-section of Oregonians. One of the recommendations that came out of the task force was to create a statewide semiconductor industry consortium to build robust, strategic partnerships among industry, education, workforce, and community-based organizations focused on communicating and meeting industry education and workforce needs.

House Bill 3254 requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to establish a statewide semiconductor industry consortium for the purpose of building strategic partnerships between the semiconductor industry, institutions of education, workforce organizations, and community-based organizations. Requires the consortium to identify skills needed for employment in the semiconductor industry and develop a comprehensive educational curriculum framework to provide those skills and update that framework every two years.

Requires HECC to appoint a panel led by representatives of the semiconductor industry. Requires HECC and the industry panel to develop a method for providing financial rewards to institutions of education that produce graduates with academic degrees that lead to employment in the semiconductor industry.

Appropriates funds to HECC for the purpose of establishing an education curriculum framework, the industry consortium, and new academic programs.