

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**Measure: SB 523 - A**

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

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

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**Measure Description:**

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission plan regarding applied baccalaureate degrees to include name and type of applied baccalaureate degrees to be conferred.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Community Colleges, Public Universities, Board of Nursing, Oregon Health and Science University

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate but anticipated to be minimal - See explanatory analysis.

**Analysis:**

Senate Bill 523 A-engrossed defines “Bachelor of Science: Nursing degree” (BSN) to mean a post-licensure degree program in which individuals who have already received an associate degree in nursing receive a bachelor’s degree in nursing. The measure authorizes community colleges to offer BSN degrees, in addition to Applied baccalaureate degrees. Community colleges must apply to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for approval of a proposed Bachelor of Science: Nursing degree program. The measure takes effect on January 1, 2024.

The measure is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact on HECC, community colleges, Oregon State Board of Nursing, and Oregon Health and Science University.

While the measure would not increase public universities’ expenditures, it may reduce student fee and tuition revenue to the universities. Public universities do not offer BSN degrees; however, some public universities allow their students to complete BSN degrees on their campuses through Oregon Health and Science University. Public universities have identified a population of approximately 330 OHSU students pursuing BSN degrees on public university campuses who pay student fees to these universities. Permitting community colleges to offer BSN degrees may reduce the number of OHSU students pursuing BSN degrees on public university campuses and the number of students pursuing BSN prerequisites at public universities, which would be accompanied by a loss of student fee and tuition revenue to public universities. Public universities have two primary funding sources for the core educational enterprise: state support and tuition. Any financial impact will require either additional General Fund support from the State, increased tuition, cost-saving measures in other education activities and general expenses, or some combination of these measures. The amount of lost revenue is presently indeterminate, but it is anticipated to be minimal and absorbable.