

SB 269 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Corrections (DOC) and Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to enter into memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding correctional education system, with provisions to include data sharing, available education programs, availability of distance learning, aid to adults in custody applying for federal financial aid, an any policy or program necessary for compliance with federal regulations. Requires DOC and HECC to annually review and update MOU. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Collaboration between Higher Education Coordinating Commission and Department of Corrections
- Implementing California model of post-secondary education for formerly incarcerated individuals

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In response to the 2020 reinstatement of Pell Grant eligibility for adults in custody (AICs), Senate Bill 234 (2021) required the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to convene a stakeholder group on postsecondary education for AICs. The resulting [SB 534 Workgroup: Postsecondary Education for Adults in Custody](#) report includes background information on the federal expansion of Pell Grant eligibility to AICs, beginning with the Second Chance Pell Program in 2015. All AICs who are enrolled in approved programs will have access to Pell Grants starting July 1, 2023.

The Senate Bill 234 workgroup report also provides a list of postsecondary education and training opportunities offered at DOC facilities as of 2021. At that time, two community colleges – Chemeketa Community College and Treasure Valley Community College – offered Pell Grant-eligible Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer Degrees to adults in custody at 3 facilities, none of which housed women. The report identified 7 additional post-secondary academic programs offered at correctional facilities by Oregon universities and colleges that may be Pell Grant-eligible after July 1, 2023.

Senate Bill 270 requires the Department of Corrections and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to enter a memorandum of understanding regarding the correctional education system.