

House Bill 4162

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Higher Education for Representative John Lively)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act provides funds for programs to make college more affordable. (Flesch Readability Score: 64.9).

Appropriates moneys to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the purpose of carrying out Oregon's Open Educational Resources (OER) Program.

Appropriates moneys to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the purpose of the establishment and awarding of grants for basic needs programming at public institutions of higher education.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to higher education affordability; and declaring an emergency.

2 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

3 **SECTION 1. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
4 **ated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium ending June 30,**
5 **2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$1,000,000, for the purposes of carrying out**
6 **Oregon's Open Educational Resources (OER) Program established in ORS 348.748 to 348.757.**

7 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:**

8 (a) **"Basic needs programming" means a program established by a public institution of**
9 **higher education to help students at the public institution apply for and receive assistance**
10 **from benefits programs as defined in ORS 350.262.**

11 (b) **"Public institution of higher education" means:**

12 (A) **A public university listed in ORS 352.002; and**

13 (B) **A community college operated under ORS chapter 341.**

14 (2) **When the Higher Education Coordinating Commission determines that sufficient**
15 **moneys are available, the commission shall administer a grant program to provide funding**
16 **for basic needs programming.**

17 (3) **Each public institution of higher education may submit an application to the com-**
18 **mission in accordance with subsections (4) and (5) of this section for the purpose of receiving**
19 **a grant to support basic needs programming at that public institution.**

20 (4) **The commission shall by rule establish a process for public institutions of higher ed-**
21 **ucation to apply for grant moneys under this section.**

22 (5) **The commission shall adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this section,**
23 **including:**

24 (a) **Specifying the form and timelines for submitting an application for a grant under this**
25 **section;**

26 (b) **Calculating the amount to award to grant recipients under this section; and**

27 **NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (c) Collecting data required to evaluate program effectiveness.

2 (6) The commission shall prioritize the awarding of grants under this section based on
3 the following:

4 (a) The amount of funding requested;

5 (b) A description of how the funds requested would support the expansion and enhance-
6 ment of basic needs programming at the public institution of higher education;

7 (c) Any potential impact on students without the requested funding;

8 (d) A proposed mechanism for the distribution of any funding received;

9 (e) A proposed timeline, including any benchmarks, for funding distribution;

10 (f) The public institution's anticipated costs necessary for the operation of the public
11 institution;

12 (g) The number of students served through basic needs programming at the public in-
13 stitution, including those students who are in a historically underrepresented population; and

14 (h) The number of students at the public institution who are recipients of an award from
15 the Oregon Opportunity Grant program established under ORS 348.205.

16 (7) The commission shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 to the
17 interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to higher education no later than
18 September 15, 2025. The report submitted under this subsection must include an assessment
19 of how the awarding of grants under this section impacted the basic needs programming at
20 each public institution.

21 **SECTION 3.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
22 ated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium ending June 30,
23 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$5,000,000, to fund the grant program described
24 in section 2 of this 2024 Act.

25 **SECTION 4.** Section 2 of this 2024 Act is repealed on January 2, 2026.

26 **SECTION 5.** This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
27 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect
28 on its passage.

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