

HB 2550 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure extends eligibility for the Oregon Promise program to any Oregon resident who has completed high school, has not yet earned a degree, and enrolls at an Oregon community college.

Detailed Summary

- Extends eligibility for the Oregon Promise program to students enrolled in applied baccalaureate degree and Bachelor of Science: Nursing degree programs, in addition to associate degree programs.
- Removes references to Oregon statutes regarding high school graduation and completion, thereby extending eligibility to any Oregon resident who has completed high school, not just those who completed high school in Oregon.
- Removes language limiting eligibility to students who enrolled in community college within six months of completing high school.
- Removes exemptions to the limitation on enrolling in community college within six months of completing high school.
- Removes language limiting eligibility to students who earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher in high school.
- Applies changes to the Oregon Promise program in the 2026-2027 academic year.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

Revenue impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Promise program, established in Senate Bill 81 (2015), is the state's second-largest, state-funded financial aid program. The Oregon Promise grant provides financial assistance for tuition and fees at Oregon community colleges.

In 2022, the Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education (JTUSHE) discussed a proposal from Senator Michael Dembrow to remove the six month limitation on Oregon Promise eligibility ([Report on Findings and Recommendations for 2023 Legislative Session](#), page 24).