

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Digest: The Act tells HECC to study higher learning for people with a disability. The Act declares an emergency and becomes law when the Governor signs it. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.2).

Directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct a study on ensuring post-secondary educational opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Directs the commission to convene an advisory group for purposes of the study. Directs the commission to report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026.

Sunsets on January 2, 2027.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to a study on post-secondary educational opportunities for individ-
3 uals with disabilities; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

6 (a) **“Disabilities” includes intellectual and developmental disabili-**
7 **ties, physical disabilities, conditions that require the use of mobility**
8 **aids, mental illness, neurodiverse conditions, vision impairment,**
9 **deafness and hearing impairment, acquired brain injuries and acquired**
10 **spinal injuries.**

11 (b) **“Neurodiverse conditions” includes autism, attention deficit**
12 **hyperactivity disorder, dyslexia, dyscalculia and obsessive-compulsive**
13 **disorder.**

14 (2) **The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall conduct**
15 **a study on ensuring post-secondary educational opportunities for in-**

1 **dividuals with disabilities. For purposes of the study, the commission**
2 **shall convene an advisory group and shall consult with the advisory**
3 **group to receive information that would assist the commission in in-**
4 **vestigating whether statutory changes, institutional policy changes or**
5 **financial investments would improve the experience and outcomes of**
6 **students with disabilities.**

7 **(3)(a) The advisory group convened for purposes of the study con-**
8 **ducted under this section must be appointed by the executive director**
9 **of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and must include:**

10 **(A) The director of the diversity, equity, inclusion and access unit**
11 **of the commission, or the director's designee;**

12 **(B) One representative of an organization or nonprofit corporation**
13 **that advocates for individuals with disabilities;**

14 **(C) One representative of a statewide organization representing**
15 **students;**

16 **(D) Two faculty members of community colleges who have experi-**
17 **ence working with students with disabilities;**

18 **(E) Two faculty members of public universities who have experience**
19 **working with students with disabilities;**

20 **(F) Two staff members who work in a disability resource center at**
21 **a community college;**

22 **(G) Two staff members who work in a disability resource center at**
23 **a public university;**

24 **(H) Two students with disabilities who attend a community college;**
25 **and**

26 **(I) Two students with disabilities who attend a public university.**

27 **(b) The commission shall solicit nominations from organizations**
28 **representing faculty, students and community colleges to determine**
29 **the membership of the advisory group.**

30 **(4) Not later than December 15, 2025, the advisory group shall sub-**
31 **mit to the commission a report on the study conducted under this**

1 **section.**

2 **(5) The commission shall submit a report in the manner provided**
3 **by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to**
4 **the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to higher**
5 **education no later than September 15, 2026.**

6 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.**

7 **SECTION 3. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-**
8 **ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-**
9 **clared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect on its passage.**

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