

HB 2553 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates: 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure expands an existing exemption that allows a student to maintain their eligibility for the Oregon Promise while enrolled in a career and technical student organization (CTSO) related to agriculture or farming, to students enrolled in any CTSO that is approved by the Oregon Department of Education. It first applies to students enrolled in courses during the 2024-2025 academic year. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Congressional Research Service's [2022 primer on Career and Technical Education](#), career and technical student organizations (CTSOs) are nonprofit organizations that often provide co-curricular programs to give students practical experience, instruction, and opportunities to network with industry and business leaders. The organizations are generally led by national officers through state and local chapters. Local chapters are often advised by a local CTE teacher. In 1950, Congress chartered one of these CTSOs, the Future Farmers of America (now known as the FFA).

CTSOs approved by the Oregon Department of Education include the FFA; Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA); DECA; Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); Future Natural Resource Leaders (FNRL); HOSA-Future Health Professionals; SkillsUSA; and the Technology Student Association (TSA). The Oregon CTE Student Leadership Foundation (OCTESLF) is composed of the state chapters of these major CTSOs, and provides advocacy and administrative services to CTSOs in Oregon. The [Oregon Department of Education](#) publishes information on locally developed student leadership, as well as obtaining official recognition as a CTSO by the State Board of Education.

The Oregon Promise program was created by [Senate Bill 81 \(2015\)](#) and is the state's second-largest, state-funded financial aid program. Oregon Promise grants are available to Oregon high school graduates or students who pass a high school equivalency exam such as the General Educational Development (GED) test, subject to certain eligibility requirements, and provides financial assistance for tuition and fees at Oregon community colleges. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) administers the program and issues a [biennial report](#) that analyzes the program's progress and impact.

ORS 341.522, which governs the Oregon Promise program, requires students to enroll in community college courses within six months of graduating high school or passing an equivalency test. The statute includes exemptions for students who enter into service with a CTSO relating to agriculture or farming, as well as for members of the Oregon National Guard, so long as those students enroll in community college courses within six

months of completing their CTSO service or active duty training in the Oregon National Guard.