

HB 3183 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/27, 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$4.5 million from the General Fund for distribution to the Open Educational Resources Program. It declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

Fiscal impact: Fiscal impact issued.

Revenue impact: Revenue impact issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of textbooks on learning and affordability
- Competing costs of food, housing, tuition, and textbooks

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment reduces the appropriation from \$4.5 million to \$2 million.

BACKGROUND:

Open educational resources (OERs) are freely accessible teaching, learning, and research resources such as textbooks, videos, and images, that can be legally adapted and redistributed for students' use at low or no cost. In 2015, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed [House Bill 2871](#), which provided a \$700,000 appropriation to hire an OER specialist and establish a one-time grant program within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). In 2017, [House Bill 2729](#) established Oregon's Open Educational Resources (OER) Program and required HECC to coordinate and report on the effectiveness of the program. The Oregon OER Program awards grants to faculty members to develop open source textbooks and course materials and provides professional development opportunities to train faculty members on using and developing open source materials.

According to information presented to the House Committee on Higher Education on [January 31, 2023](#), the state has awarded \$1,622,186 in OER grants since 2015, leading to an estimated savings of \$16,782,190 for students. [House Bill 3121 \(2023\)](#) proposed an additional \$5.2 million appropriation to Oregon's OER Program.