

HB 2747 -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: 2/18, 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure expands the online education program administered by the Oregon Department of Corrections at two facilities, the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and the Snake River Correctional Facility, to all correctional facilities in Oregon. It requires new programs at other facilities to be operational by September 1, 2026. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

Fiscal impact: Fiscal impact issued.

Revenue impact: Revenue impact issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential amendment, need to implement programs in phases
- Access to technology within correctional facilities
- Impact on adults in custody (AICs) and recidivism rates
- Current eligibility and enrollment among AICs

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The measure expands the DOC's online education program to the Oregon State Correction Institution, the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, and the Deer Ridge Correctional Institution, instead of to all correctional facilities in Oregon.

BACKGROUND:

In response to the 2020 reinstatement of Pell Grant eligibility for adults in custody (AICs), [Senate Bill 234 \(2021\)](#) required the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to convene a stakeholder group on postsecondary education for AICs. The resulting report, [SB 234 Workgroup: Postsecondary Education for Adults in Custody](#), includes background information on the federal expansion of Pell Grant eligibility to AICs, beginning with the Second Chance Pell Program in 2015.

The Senate Bill 234 workgroup report also provides a list of postsecondary education and training opportunities offered at Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities as of 2021. At that time, two community colleges – Chemeketa Community College and Treasure Valley Community College – offered Pell Grant-eligible Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer Degrees to adults in custody at three facilities. The report identified seven additional postsecondary academic programs offered at correctional facilities by Oregon universities and colleges that may now be Pell Grant-eligible.

[Senate Bill 1522 \(2022\)](#) created a pilot program to deliver online education at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and Snake River Correctional Institution. On [September 23, 2023](#), the Senate Interim Committee on Education received an update from the DOC on the implementation of the Senate Bill 1522 pilot program.

In addition, [Senate Bill 270 \(2023\)](#) permitted adults in custody to apply for and enroll in postsecondary academic programs, including remote programs at community colleges and universities throughout Oregon. [Senate Bill 269 \(2023\)](#) required the DOC and the HECC to enter a memorandum of understanding regarding the correctional education system.