

HB 3030 -2 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: 3/27, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure codifies the Oregon Administrator Scholars Program and requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to administer the program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- HECC and TSPC's capacity to administer scholarship programs
- Provisions of proposed amendment
- Constitutional concerns about strict diversity requirements
- Number of scholarships available, number of applicants

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment replaces the measure. It establishes the Oregon Administrator Scholars Program and requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to administer the program. It permits HECC to award grants to school administrator candidates who have experience with diverse populations, rather than culturally and linguistically diverse candidates. It removes language referencing the Educators Equity Act goal for educator diversity. It requires administrative rules to address ways candidates may demonstrate experience with diverse populations.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Teacher Scholars Program (OTSP) was enacted in Senate Bill 182 (2017) and is administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. The Oregon Administrator Scholars Program (OASP) is administered by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) and exists primarily in administrative rules that were first adopted in 2021. Both programs award scholarships of \$12,000 per academic year for a maximum of two years to teacher or administrator candidates with culturally or linguistically diverse characteristics, with partial scholarships available for part-time enrollment. For both programs, culturally or linguistically diverse is defined as having certain ethnic or racial backgrounds or a first language that is not English (OAR 575-066-0002, OAR 584-235-0205).

The Teacher Standard and Practices Commission (TSPC)'s Diversity License Expense Reimbursement (DLER) program, which used the same definition for diverse educators, was the subject of the lawsuit *Lynn v. Goff*, first filed in February 2024. The lawsuit was voluntarily dismissed after TSPC temporarily [suspended](#) the program in May 2024 and [repealed](#) it in August 2024. In [October 2024](#), TSPC approved a temporary rule to instead reimburse licensure expenses for educators with language fluency, a degree or minor in a relevant language, or a TSPC-approved World Language endorsement (OAR 584-200-0125).