

SB 977 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/17, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes a program that provides a full post-secondary educational experience for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities at community colleges, in coordination with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and Portland State University (PSU). It appropriates \$600,000 for distribution to PSU to support the Career and Community Services Program, and appropriates \$900,000 for distribution to community colleges that participate in the program. The measure also establishes the Task Force on Ensuring Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, requires HECC to provide staff support, and requires the task force to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026. It declares an emergency and takes effect July 1, 2025.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Outcomes for students in the Career and Community Services (CCS) program
- Intention to expand the CCS to community colleges
- Impact of access to higher education on individuals with disabilities
- Lack of federal and state funding to admit new students

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment removes provisions establishing the Task Force on Ensuring Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 977 redrafts provisions of [Senate Bill 572 \(2023\)](#), which moved out of the Senate Committee on Education and remained in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means upon adjournment.

Portland State University (PSU)'s Career & Community Studies (CCS) program is a pre-baccalaureate, non-degree certificate program that offers students with intellectual and developmental disabilities a four-year college experience with inclusive courses, campus housing, and campus events and activities, as well as integrated employment opportunities. The program has been operating since 2015.

The Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education (JTUSHE) was a bicameral legislative task force established by House Bill 2590 (2021). Among its [findings and recommendations](#) related to student support and wraparound services was the recommendation to form a work group to investigate whether statutory changes, policy changes, or investments would improve the experience and outcomes of students with disabilities in higher education.