HB 3025 A   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates:	4/23, 4/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure removes the shared responsibility model for calculating Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) awards from statute, replacing it with a requirement that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) determine award amounts based on enrollment level and financial need. It also allows HECC to award the OOG to qualifying students who are pursuing non-degree programs, such as certifications, and makes changes to the definition of enrollment level and qualifying student.

Detailed Summary

- Removes the shared responsibility model for calculating Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) awards from statute.
- Requires HECC to determine OOG award amounts based on enrollment level and financial need.
- Allows HECC to award the OOG to qualifying students enrolled in eligible institutions in a program that does not lead to a degree.
- Requires HECC to adopt rules defining which non-degree programs are eligible and how the commission will determine award amounts for students in eligible non-degree programs.
- Defines enrollment level as a proportion of full-time course load, allowing HECC to award financial aid on a prorated basis instead of exclusively full-time or half-time.
- Restricts eligibility for state financial aid programs to students who have been a resident of Oregon for at least 12 months prior to enrollment and have not been admitted to the United States for the purpose of enrolling in higher education.
- Applies changes starting in the 2026-27 academic year.
- Allows HECC to delay making awards to non-degree seeking students until after the 2026-27 academic year.

Fiscal impact: Has minimal fiscal impact.

Revenue impact: No revenue impact.

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 34; Nays, 22

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Examples of non-degree programs
- Potential changes in number of applications
- Potential for workforce development

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Opportunity Grant was created in 1971 and is Oregon's largest state-funded financial aid program. The program's 2023-25 budget was $308.4 million, according to the Legislative Fiscal Office's detailed analysis of the Legislative Adopted Budget (pg. 54), which represented a nearly 50 percent increase in funding over the previous biennium. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) administers the OOG and issues an annual evaluation of the grant program. The House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development heard a presentation from HECC on the OOG and the Oregon Promise on February 4, 2025.

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

Senate Bill 334 (2007) modified the OOG by establishing a methodology for determining the appropriate student, family, federal, and state share of the cost of education, commonly known as the Shared Responsibility Model. It required the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (now the HECC Office of Student Access and Completion) to calculate the difference between the cost of education (including living expenses) and the student's ability to pay, and use this calculation to determine award amounts.

Due to declining state investment in higher education starting in 2008, this model was never fully implemented. Under ORS 348.205(8) and OAR 575-031-0025, when available funding is insufficient to cover the state share, HECC calculates a maximum award amount and prioritizes students with the greatest financial need. This is the method that is currently used to calculate award amounts.

For 2023-24, the maximum award amounts were $3,900 for full-time students attending community colleges and $7,524 for full-time students attending four year universities. The House Interim Committee on Higher Education heard a presentation on the OOG award methodology and changes to the 2023-24 award tables on November 7, 2023. Senate Bill 1552 (2024) required future changes to OOG award amounts to be made by the HECC in administrative rule.