

HB 3026 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/7, 5/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies public meeting requirements and membership requirements for certain subcommittees of the Transfer Council, grants procurement authority to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, modifies the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program (OTSP), requires HECC to study reporting requirements for public institutions of higher education and HECC, and extends the deadline for HECC's forestry workforce study to December 31, 2025. It declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

Detailed Summary

Section 1

Adds subcommittees of the Transfer Council related to unified statewide transfer agreements to exemptions from public meeting requirements.

Section 2

Allows HECC to appoint a subcommittee with unequal representation from public universities and community colleges in cases where courses are unevenly distributed between colleges and universities.

Sections 3-4

Authorizes the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to procure or supervise the procurement of goods, services, personal services, and information technology, in accordance with the Public Contracting Code. Makes conforming amendments.

Sections 5-7

Modifies the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program (OTSP). Permits HECC to award grants to teacher candidates who have experience with diverse populations, rather than culturally and linguistically diverse candidates. Removes language referencing the Educators Equity Act goal for educator diversity. Requires administrative rules to address ways candidates may demonstrate experience with diverse populations. Modifies the duration of the scholarship from two academic years to the equivalent of two full-time academic years. Applies changes to grants awarded for the 2025-26 academic year. Permits current recipients of the OTSP grant to maintain eligibility.

Sections 8-9

Requires HECC to study reporting requirements for public institutions of higher education and HECC and submit a report by November 15, 2026. Requires the study to include an inventory of reporting requirements and recommendations to improve efficiency, relevance, and quality of reports using existing capacity.

Section 10

Extends the deadline for HECC's forestry workforce study from June 30, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

Section 11

Declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

Fiscal impact: Has minimal fiscal impact.

Revenue impact: No revenue impact.

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 35; Nays, 24

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

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EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Sections 1-2

Senate Bill 233 (2021) established the Transfer Council to develop major transfer maps and a common course numbering system for introductory and other lower division courses to ensure the transfer of credits between institutions of higher education in Oregon. The bill permitted the Transfer Council to form subcommittees to advise the council. These subcommittees are generally groups of faculty tasked with addressing curriculum differences among institutions in areas such as English, math, psychology, and business. In 2024, Section 43 of [Senate Bill 1552](#) exempted subcommittees of the Transfer Council related to curriculum alignment from public meeting requirements.

Sections 3-4

Under ORS 279A.140, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) is required to conduct all procurements and administer all contracting on behalf of a state agency unless that agency is specifically authorized to conduct their own procurements and administer their own contracts. Since its creation in 2013, HECC has not had independent procurement and contracting authority.

Sections 5-7

The Oregon Teacher Scholars Program (OTSP) was enacted in Senate Bill 182 (2017) and is administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. The program awards scholarships of \$12,000 per academic year for a maximum of two years to teacher candidates with culturally or linguistically diverse characteristics, with partial scholarships available for part-time enrollment. Culturally or linguistically diverse is defined as having certain ethnic or racial backgrounds or a first language that is not English (ORS 342.433, OAR 575-066-0002).

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 fluency in a relevant language, a degree or minor in a relevant language, or a TSPC-approved World Language endorsement.

Sections 8-9

[House Bill 2458](#) would require HECC to study reporting requirements for public universities and to develop a plan to eliminate unnecessary or duplicative requirements.

Section 10

Sections 40-42 of Senate Bill 1552 required HECC to study the forestry workforce, including existing education, training, and workforce development programs as well as occupations, wages, demographics, and needs of the workforce, and submit a report by June 30, 2025.

PRELIMINARY