

HB 3182 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

Action Date: 03/20/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 6-1-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Fragala, Harbick, Hudson, McDonald, Munoz, Wright

Nays: 1 - Yunker

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/27, 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to distribute grants to public universities and community colleges for basic needs programming. It also creates a Task Force on Student Housing and requires HECC to award grants to nonprofit organizations that provide affordable housing support to low-income students in higher education in Oregon. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

Detailed Summary

Section 1.

Directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to distribute grants to public institutions for basic needs programming based on the proportion of students who receive the Oregon Opportunity Grant. Requires HECC to establish a distribution formula and report to the Legislative Assembly by December 15, 2026, on the impact of the grants.

Section 2.

Repeals Section 1 on January 2, 2027.

Section 3.

Establishes the Task Force on Student Housing. Establishes membership requirements. Requires the Task Force to review and report on barriers to affordable housing for students in higher education and to make policy recommendations to increase student access to affordable housing. Requires the Legislative Policy and Research Office to provide staff support.

Section 4.

Repeals Section 3 on January 2, 2027.

Section 5.

Appropriates \$10 million to fund the grant program for basic needs programming.

Section 6.

Requires the HECC to award grants to nonprofit organizations that provide affordable housing support to low-income students in higher education in Oregon.

Section 7.

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Repeals Section 6 on January 2, 2028.

Section 8.

Appropriates \$6.5 million to fund grants to nonprofit organizations that provide affordable housing support to students.

Section 9.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Prevalence of basic needs insecurity
- Funding for benefits navigators

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment changes the deadline for HECC to report to the Legislative Assembly on the impact of the basic needs grants distributed to public institutions, from September 2026 to December 2026. It also changes one member on the Task Force on Student Housing from a commissioner on the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to the agency's executive director or their designee.

BACKGROUND:

Many students at institutions of higher education face challenges in affording basic needs while receiving their education. In hearings before the 2023-2024 House Committee on Higher Education – including an informational hearing on benefits navigators on [January 19, 2023](#); a public hearing for House Bill 3089 (2023) on [February 7, 2023](#); and an informational hearing on student basic needs on [January 11, 2024](#) – students and benefits navigators have reported that Oregon students experience high rates of food and housing insecurity. These students may be eligible for need-based public assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Medicaid. Additional local programs may offer housing assistance, child care, or financial assistance for textbooks.

[House Bill 2835 \(2021\)](#) required each public institution of higher education in Oregon to employ a benefits navigator to assist students in applying for assistance from benefits programs. The original legislation appropriated \$4,999,150 for community colleges and public universities to hire benefits navigators for the 2021-2023 biennium.

Additional bills introduced but not passed in the 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions would have provided additional funding or created additional programs to support benefits navigators and basic needs programs. [House Bill 2262 \(2023\)](#) would have appropriated funds for institutions to hire or employ benefits navigators, while [House Bill 3089 \(2023\)](#) would have provided funding for programs specifically addressing food insecurity on campus. [House Bill 4162 \(2024\)](#) would have created a grant program and funding formula for a basic needs program through HECC using language similar to House Bill 3182.

Among the Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education (JTUSHE)'s [findings and recommendations](#), released December 2022, was a recommendation to create a statewide workgroup to examine the question of student housing availability. [House Bill 2263 \(2023\)](#), which would have established task forces on both student housing and student access to child care, introduced language similar to House Bill 3182.

On [January 28, 2025](#), the House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development held an informational hearing on student basic needs that included a presentation about College Housing Northwest's affordable student housing and rental subsidy programs.