

HB 3185 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

Action Date: 03/20/25

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 6-1-0-0

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

Nays: 1 - Yunker

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/27, 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure makes changes to nonprofit work study programs at Eastern Oregon University and Portland State University. It declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

Detailed Summary

- Allows universities to prioritize participation by students in certain courses of study.
- Increases the wages that universities can reimburse from 50 percent to 100 percent.
- Removes the restriction on partnering with nonprofit organizations with an annual budget of more than \$5 million.
- Appropriates \$888,412 to operate the program.
- Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Programs established by House Bill 2802 (2023)
- Lessons learned from the first year of the pilot program
- Impact on students

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

[House Bill 2802 \(2023\)](#) directed the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to establish a pilot program at Eastern Oregon University (EOU) and Portland State University (PSU) through which students could work at eligible nonprofit organizations associated with their area of study in return for both compensation and a reduction in tuition. The measure appropriated \$294,206 to operate the program in the 2023-2024 biennium.

On [December 12, 2024](#), PSU and EOU presented to the House Interim Committee on Higher Education on their progress implementing the work study program, which began in fall 2024. PSU reported that it had partnered with two nonprofit organizations to participate in its program, with capacity for a total of five student workers. PSU's vice president recommended several changes to the program, including increasing funding in order to increase the number of participating students, removing the restriction from partnering with nonprofits with budgets of more than \$5 million, and increasing the amount of wages that universities can reimburse. EOU's Rural Engagement and Vitality (REV) Center reported that it had the capacity to hire nine student workers through the program and that EOU had identified 15 community partners.