

## HB 2747 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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**Action Date:** 03/25/25

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

**Vote:** 7-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Fragala, Harbick, Hudson, McDonald, Munoz, Wright, Yunker

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/18, 3/25

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure expands the online education program administered by the Oregon Department of Corrections to three additional correctional facilities in Oregon. It requires new programs at other facilities to be operational by September 1, 2026. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential amendment, need to implement programs in phases
- Access to technology within correctional facilities
- Impact on adults in custody (AICs) and recidivism rates
- Current eligibility and enrollment among AICs

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The measure expands the DOC's online education program to the Oregon State Correction Institution, the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, and the Deer Ridge Correctional Institution.

#### BACKGROUND:

In response to the 2020 reinstatement of Pell Grant eligibility for adults in custody (AICs), [Senate Bill 234 \(2021\)](#) required the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to convene a stakeholder group on postsecondary education for AICs. The resulting report, [SB 234 Workgroup: Postsecondary Education for Adults in Custody](#), includes background information on the federal expansion of Pell Grant eligibility to AICs, beginning with the Second Chance Pell Program in 2015.

[Senate Bill 1522 \(2022\)](#) created a pilot program to deliver online education at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and Snake River Correctional Institution. On [September 23, 2023](#), the Senate Interim Committee on Education received an update from the DOC on the implementation of the Senate Bill 1522 pilot program.

In addition, [Senate Bill 270 \(2023\)](#) permitted adults in custody to apply for and enroll in postsecondary academic programs, including remote programs at community colleges and universities throughout Oregon. [Senate Bill 269 \(2023\)](#) required the DOC and the HECC to enter a memorandum of understanding regarding the correctional education system.