

HB 2686 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

Action Date: 04/08/25

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

Vote: 5-1-1-0

Yeas: 5 - Fragala, Harbick, Hudson, McDonald, Munoz

Nays: 1 - Yunker

Exc: 1 - Wright

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/20, 4/3, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to provide a grant to an organization that re-enrolls Oregon residents with some college and no credential in higher education and training programs. It specifies services that the grantee must provide, appropriates \$2 million from the General Fund to HECC to provide the grant, declares an emergency, and takes effect July 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- High rates of people attaining some college but having no credential in Oregon
- Predicted return on investment in terms of additional students and tuition for institutions
- Barriers to transferring credits to new institutions
- Ability for third party organization to support students in navigating higher education system
- Need for ongoing funding
- Implementation of the program
- Professional background of coaches conducting outreach
- Limits on number of student contacts and duration of support vs limits on institutions or regions
- Limitations on HECC's ability to conduct a similar campaign in-agency
- Buy-in from institutions
- Need for program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment replaces the unspecified appropriation with a \$2 million appropriation.

BACKGROUND:

Every year, some students who have enrolled in a higher education program leave college or university without receiving a degree, certificate, or other credential. The [National Student Clearinghouse Research Center](#) produces a periodic report on this population, known as "some college, no credential" (SCNC). According to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission's [2023 Annual Performance Progress Report](#), the percentage of Oregon adults ages 25 to 34 with some college but no credential was 18.4 percent in 2021 and remained relatively steady from 2017 to 2021.

Some states and institutions have made efforts to reach and reenroll these students, either statewide or institution by institution. On [December 11, 2024](#), the Senate Interim Committee on Education heard a [presentation](#) from ReUp, a company that contracts with colleges, universities, and states to conduct outreach to adults with SCNC and reconnects them to degree and training programs. ReUp operates programs in states including Alabama, Colorado, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey,

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Ohio, and Washington. Certain program features, including funding for student reengagement, student coaching and support, and target populations, vary by state.