

House Bill 2539

Sponsored by Representative ELMER; Representative GOMBERG (at the request of Hugh Ady, Statecraft) (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Tells the HECC to create a plan that allows students at community colleges to earn credits from certain training programs. Tells the HECC to give a report on the plan to the legislature. Ends the plan on January 2, 2027. Declares an emergency and takes effect when the Governor signs it. (Flesch Readability Score: 62.8).

Requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to develop a plan for enabling community colleges to offer an associate's degree completed in coordination with credits earned in an apprenticeship or training program.

Requires the commission to submit a report detailing the plan by September 15, 2026.

Sunset on January 2, 2027.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to associate's degrees; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall develop a plan for**
5 **enabling community colleges to offer an associate's degree that is completed in coordination**
6 **with credits earned in an apprenticeship or training program that is:**

7 (a) **Four years or greater in length; and**

8 (b) **Registered with the State Apprenticeship and Training Council in conformity with**
9 **ORS 660.002 to 660.210.**

10 (2) **The plan developed under subsection (1) of this section shall:**

11 (a) **Ensure that participation in an apprenticeship or training program will satisfy any**
12 **mathematics requirement necessary to obtain an associate's degree;**

13 (b) **Set forth the additional general education requirements that are necessary to qualify**
14 **for an associate's degree;**

15 (c) **Ensure that accelerated college credit programs count toward satisfying any addi-**
16 **tional general education requirements identified in paragraph (b) of this subsection; and**

17 (d) **Ensure that participation in the program is made available to individuals who have**
18 **completed an applicable apprenticeship or training program in previous years.**

19 (3) **The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall submit a report containing the**
20 **plan, along with proposed legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly**
21 **related to higher education no later than September 15, 2026. The report shall also include:**

22 (a) **An analysis of whether any additional accreditation for apprenticeship or training**
23 **programs is necessary to implement the program;**

24 (b) **The resources required to implement the program;**

25 (c) **The timeline necessary to implement the program; and**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **(d) The number of additional associate’s degrees that are expected to be earned under the**
2 **program during each biennium.**

3 **SECTION 2.** **Section 1 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.**

4 **SECTION 3.** **This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
5 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect**
6 **on its passage.**

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