

Senate Bill 786

Sponsored by Senator NASH, Representative LEVY B; Representative HARBICK (Pre-session 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 colleges to give course credit to an incoming student who took part in certain programs while the student was in high school. (Flesch Readability Score: 65.7).

Requires a public institution of higher education to award academic credit when an enrolled student completed a high school class or participated in a high school program that offered learning and experiences comparable to an introductory communications, public speaking or argumentation course offered at the institution.

Requires the institution to award two or four academic credits to each student who participated in specified programs affiliated with national organizations. Prohibits an institution from requiring certain students to take an introductory communications, public speaking or argumentation course offered at the institution as a prerequisite for taking more advanced courses at the institution.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to academic credits at public institutions of higher education.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, "public institution of higher education" has the**
5 **meaning given that term in ORS 350.350.**

6 **(2) A high school in this state shall certify, in a manner to be determined by the State**
7 **Board of Education by rule, that a student who previously attended that high school and who**
8 **is enrolled at a public institution of higher education participated:**

9 **(a) For not less than two academic years in a program affiliated with a national organ-**
10 **ization whose mission is to prepare high school and college students for careers in market-**
11 **ing, finance, hospitality and management.**

12 **(b) For not less than three academic years in a program affiliated with a national or-**
13 **ganization whose mission is to develop the potential of students for leadership, personal**
14 **growth and career success through agricultural education.**

15 **(c) For not less than three academic years in a program affiliated with a national or-**
16 **ganization whose mission is to support communities committed to empowering students**
17 **through speech and debate.**

18 **(3)(a) Each public institution of higher education shall award academic credit when an**
19 **incoming student has completed high school classes or participated in high school programs**
20 **that offer learning and experiences comparable to an introductory communications, public**
21 **speaking or argumentation course offered at the public institution of higher education.**

22 **(b) A student who is certified by the student's high school as having met the require-**
23 **ments of subsection (2)(a) of this section shall:**

24 **(A) Be considered to have fulfilled the requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of this**
25 **subsection; and**

26 **(B) Receive two academic credits at the public institution of higher education.**

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 (c) A student who is certified by the student's high school as having met the require-
2 ments of subsection (2)(b) or (c) of this section:

3 (A) Shall be considered to have fulfilled the requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of
4 this subsection;

5 (B) Shall receive four academic credits at the public institution of higher education; and

6 (C) May not be required by the public institution of higher education to take an intro-
7 ductory communications, public speaking or argumentation course offered at the public in-
8 stitution of higher education as a prerequisite to taking more advanced courses at the
9 institution.

10 (4) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the State Board of Education
11 may enact rules necessary for the implementation of this section.

12 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2025 Act first applies to the 2026-2027 academic year.
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