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## Oregon Community College Association 2014 Legislative Session and Bill Summary

The 2014 legislative session came to a close Friday with a handful of bills having passed that will affect Oregon community colleges and the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD). Some of the larger issues legislators hoped to address, such as replacing the Columbia River Crossing, did not materialize in a session that seemed to be dominated not by one single issue or agenda but a host of smaller issues. And unlike previous February sessions, legislators were not facing dwindling state revenues requiring mid-biennium cuts.

Part of the focus around issues facing post-secondary and higher education was centered on many of the issues still left unresolved after the reorganization of the Oregon University System (OUS) and the evolving role of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Legislators continued this work by creating a process for the regional universities to move toward local, appointed governing boards. At OCCA's request, this legislation (HB 4018) also included language to move CCWD into the HECC and created a task force to make recommendations on the best way to do so.

Legislators continued to look at high profile ways to improve access to college for Oregonians. Similar to the task force on "Pay it Forward" from the 2013 legislative session, Senator Mark Hass spearheaded SB 1524, which directs HECC to study the cost and feasibility of providing two years of free community college education to all Oregon high school graduates.

As with most sessions, there were a number of bills that would have created new mandates for community colleges. Issues such as the additional regulation of companies like Higher One to handle financial aid disbursement failed to pass through the process. Similarly, HB 1543, which would have significantly increased colleges' health care costs, also failed.

Below is a summary of the bills affecting community colleges and their final status at the close of session.

# Summary of Priority Bills

## Budget

**HB 4082**

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development for Back To Work Oregon program. A public hearing was held on this bill but there was no further action.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4082/Introduced>

**OCCA Position:** Support

**Status:** Failed

## Education Policy

**HB 4058**

Amends 40-40-20 education goals to include apprenticeship programs registered with State Apprenticeship and Training Council.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4058/Enrolled>

**OCCA Position:** Support

**Status:** Passed

**HB 4069**

Establishes Oregon Task Force on Career and Technical Education Teaching for purpose of increasing availability and quality of teachers of career and technical education courses.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4069/A-Engrossed>

**OCCA Position:** Support

**Status:** Failed

**HB 4076**

Directs Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Southern Oregon University and Western Oregon University to develop pilot programs for fixed cost bachelor's degrees.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4076/A-Engrossed>

**OCCA Position:** Neutral

**Status:** Failed

**SB 1524**

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to examine viability of program allowing students who graduated from high school in state or who completed grade 12 to attend community college for specified period without paying tuition and fees.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1524/Enrolled>

**OCCA Position:** Neutral

**Status:** Passed

**SB 1574**

Clarifies that standards for dual credit programs must establish manner by which students in grades 9 through 12 may earn course credit for both high school and community college or public university. An amendment to this bill changed the focus on dual credit programs for high school students adding the grade 9 through 12 requirement. OCCA raised concerns about this policy change and expansion to students in 9th and 10th grades.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1574/Enrolled>

**OCCA Position:** Neutral as amended

**Status:** Passed

## Governance

### HB 4018

Changes date by which Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Southern Oregon University or Western Oregon University may request institutional governing board to May 15, 2014. OCCA supported an amendment to this bill adding provision related to the future of the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD). The bill moves CCWD to the Higher Education Coordinating Council (HECC) by July 1, 2015 and includes a task force tasked with addressing the integration of CCWD into HECC.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4018/Enrolled>

**OCCA Position:** Support

**Status:** Passed

### HB 4127

Requires that majority of members of Oregon Education Investment Board be public educational professionals who work, or have worked, on regular basis in public educational setting.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4127/A-Engrossed>

**OCCA Position:** Neutral

**Status:** Failed

### SB 1525

Grants Higher Education Coordinating Commission authority to enter into and administer interstate agreements regarding provision of post-secondary distance education.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1525/Enrolled>

**OCCA Position:** Support

**Status:** Passed

## Health Care

### SB 1543

Makes reduction of hours worked by full-time employee for sole purpose of preventing employee's eligibility for coverage under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act unlawful employment practice. OCCA testified in opposition to this bill and raised concerns about the policy change and administrative difficulty in implementing the provisions related to part-time staff employed at multiple higher education institutions. The bill received a public hearing only.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1543/Introduced>

**OCCA Position:** Oppose

**Status:** Failed

## Operations

### HB 4081

Specifies acts and practices of charitable organizations that are violations of law. An amendment was added to clarify the intent of this bill to target organizations that willfully ignore Oregon law. This will not negatively impact non-profit charitable organizations such as community college foundations.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4081/Enrolled>

**OCCA Position:** Support

**Status:** Passed

**HB 4102**

Prohibits public or private post-secondary institutions of education from entering into contracts with student financial aid management firms unless contracts meet certain requirements. Efforts to pass compromise amendments failed and this bill died in the Senate committee. OCCA raised concerns about limiting the ability of colleges to use third party institutions to manage financial aid for students.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4102/A-Engrossed>

**OCCA Position:** Oppose

**Status:** Failed

**SB 1535**

Limits investment of local government funds to statutory investment pool for local and tribal government funds.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1535/Enrolled>

**OCCA Position:** Support

**Status:** Passed

**PERS****HB 4155**

Authorizes Public Employees Retirement Board to establish procedures for recovering administrative costs from participating public employers for providing to those employers information or services needed to report in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles. OCCA joined other local governments in support of this bill to ensure that PERS will provide audit information necessary to comply with GASB 68 requirements.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4155/Enrolled>

**OCCA Position:** Support

**Status:** Passed

**Public Contracting****HB 4111**

Establishes Public Infrastructure Commission to identify Oregon's public infrastructure funding needs and to research and analyze financing and procurement methods for public infrastructure projects. This bill was amended significantly to clarify impact on local government infrastructure projects. The scope of the commission is limited to examining different public/private financing models for public infrastructure projects.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4111/Enrolled>

**OCCA Position:** Neutral as amended

**Status:** Passed

**HB 4119**

Permits contracting agency to solicit or use pricing policies or proposals or other pricing information to determine compensation for consultant providing certain services only after contracting agency has selected candidate and before entering into contract with consultant.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4119/Introduced>

**OCCA Position:** Oppose

**Status:** Failed

## Students

### HB 4019

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to annually identify federal or national entity that best provides information about affordability and value of institutions of higher education in Oregon. OCCA worked with Sen. Dembrow to amend the bill significantly to address cost concerns. As a result, colleges will be allowed to post a link to the federal fact sheet on their websites to satisfy the bill's requirements.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4019/Enrolled>

**OCCA Position:** Neutral as Amended

**Status:** Passed

### HB 4084

Directs Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development to administer grant program for purpose of distributing funds to community colleges to make child care services available to community college students. This bill failed to move from the Joint Ways and Means Committee. A budget note will be drafted changing the eligibility for the Employment Related Day Care program to allow community college students to receive funds while attending college.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4084/Introduced>

**OCCA Position:** Support

**Status:** Failed

### HB 4116

Directs Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to jointly establish grant program for purpose of distributing moneys to community colleges to increase number of underserved, low-income and first-generation college-bound students who enroll in community college and make progress toward degree or certificate. \$750,000 was appropriated to fund the grant program.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4116/Enrolled>

**OCCA Position:** Support

**Status:** Passed

### HB 4121

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development for child care expenses of community college students.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4121/Introduced>

**OCCA Position:** Support

**Status:** Failed

### SB 1581

Directs public universities and community colleges to increase voter registration access and information. OCCA worked to make several amendments to this bill dramatically limiting its scope from the original version.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1581/A-Engrossed>

**OCCA Position:** Neutral as amended

**Status:** Failed

## Veterans

### HB 4023

Designates portion of U.S. Highway 26 within Warm Springs Reservation as Warm Springs Veterans Memorial Highway. The introduced version of this bill created a lottery program to benefit veterans. CCWD would have administered a program to facilitate education, training, and economic opportunities for veterans. The bill was amended several times, first removing the lottery, then adding it back, then removing again. The final version includes only the highway designation. A budget note was added to HB 5201 allowing for further exploration of a lottery program.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4023/Enrolled>

**OCCA Position:** Support as introduced

**Status:** Passed

### HB 4024

Authorizes Bureau of Labor and Industries to adopt rules to implement provisions of statute requiring public employer to interview each veteran who applies for civil service position or eligibility list, if veteran has skills from military education or experience that substantially relate to civil service position.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4024/Introduced>

**OCCA Position:** Neutral

**Status:** Failed

## Workforce

### SB 1527

Directs Oregon Business Development Department, in coordination with local workforce investment boards, to contract with private or public entities to develop Dislocated Worker Training Program as pilot program to enable unemployed and underemployed engineers and industry professionals in bioscience and manufacturing traded sector industries to be reemployed in Oregon.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1527/Enrolled>

**OCCA Position:** Support as amended

**Status:** Passed

### SB 1566

Declares state public policy to promote coordinated provision of education, employment, economic development and job training. OCCA worked extensively in the interim to convince the Governor's office to drop portions of their workforce proposal that would have moved workforce programs from CCWD to the Employment Department. The Governor's office ultimately drafted legislation without moving workforce and amendments supported by OCCA recognize the role community colleges play in the state's workforce system.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1566/Enrolled>

**OCCA Position:** Neutral as amended

**Status:** Passed

### SR 201

Designates Clatsop Community College as Oregon's Maritime Training College.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SR201/Enrolled>

**OCCA Position:** Support

**Status:** Passed