



## **Oregon Community College Association 2017 Legislative Session Highlights**

### **Session Overview**

Legislators began the 2017 session facing a \$1.6 billion shortfall, at a time when the Oregon economy was expanding and tax revenue was up significantly. When tax revenues are up, legislators usually decide where to make new investments in programs. However, increasing costs in programs such as the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) have overtaken the revenue available from Oregon's current tax system, leaving a structural deficit legislators would have to address before adjourning.

Throughout the session, Democratic leadership in both chambers sought to find an agreement on new revenue, mostly through corporate tax increases coupled with cost containment measures that could reach the three-fifths super-majority required to pass tax increases. In the end, legislators did not find a path to the votes they would need for a revenue and cost containment package, taking corporate tax reform and any major changes to the PERS system off the table until at least the 2018 short session.

While no major tax reform passed in the session, legislators were able to push through a \$670 million hospital provider tax dedicated to supporting Medicaid services and keeping open a newly-built mental hospital. State revenues also continued to grow throughout the session with the May state revenue forecast showing the deficit had been reduced to \$1.4 billion (before passage of the hospital provider tax). This allowed legislators to avoid cuts in some areas but still required significant cuts across the state budget.

Democratic legislative leadership said they hope to find a revenue package that could pass at a future date, potentially in the 2019 session.

Along with advocating for the community college budget and capital construction, OCCA prioritized passing transfer legislation comprising the concept developed by the Oregon Presidents Council on aligning credit transfer in the top 25 statewide majors. That concept became one of the key elements of the House Higher Education and Workforce Committee's transfer bill, HB 2998. That legislation passed both chambers unanimously in the final weeks of session.

### **Budget**

The Community College Support Fund (CCSF) received a \$20 million increase from 2015-17, receiving \$570 million for the 2017-2019 biennium. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) recommended \$634 million for the CCSF, the level that would be required to meet all cost increases such as PERS and other employee costs as well other state and federal compliance costs. The Ways and Means Committee leadership cited an increase in local property tax revenue as the reason for the relatively small increase for community colleges. Local property tax revenue is expected to increase \$28.3 million in 2017-19 biennium over the previous cycle. On the House floor, Rep. Mark Johnson led 21 members in voting "No" on the budget bill citing its lack of adequate support for community colleges.

Legislators approved \$196,842,271 in total funds (\$160,865,627 in General Funds and \$20,746,268 Lottery Funds) for the Oregon Opportunity Grant program. That funding level represents an 8.2 percent increase to the Current Service Level. The Oregon Promise received \$39.7 million for the biennium, which is several million dollars short of what is needed to run the program in its current configuration. Legislators approved SB 1032, allowing the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to means test the program by setting a cap on the Expected Family Contribution calculated by the federal government when families fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

[Budget report and measure summary.](#)

### **Capital Construction**

OCCA made a significant push for capital construction dollars in this session, as colleges had not received capital construction dollars since the 2013 session. That year, legislators funded the entire first tier of capital projects but asked colleges not to submit another list until the 2017 session. This session the legislature allocated \$101,397,241 in capital construction spending for community colleges, funding 12 new projects and three carry-over projects.

[Budget report and measure summary.](#)

(P) = Passed (F) = Failed to Pass

### **Accelerated Learning**

#### **(F) Accelerated College Credit Programs ([HB 2313 A](#))**

Revises types of programs considered accelerated college credit programs for the purpose of requirement that school districts provide accelerated college credit programs. OCCA worked with HECC staff to expand definitions of accelerated credit to better reflect community college programs. However, ultimately the bill was sent to Ways and Means and did not receive a further hearing.

#### **(F) Moneys for Books, Tuition, and Fees for Students Who Have Not Received High School Diploma to Attend Community College ([HB 2439](#))**

Allows certain students who have not received a high school diploma to attend community college and to use moneys that would have paid for public school to pay for books, tuition and fees. This bill received a hearing in the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee but never received a work session.

#### **(F) Dual Credit Teacher Requirements ([HB 2867](#))**

Establishes minimum education requirements for teachers of dual credit courses. This bill would have required instructors of dual credit to have 27 hours of graduate work in the subject area they teach. The bill received one hearing but did not move beyond that.

**(P) Advanced Placement Scoring ([SB 207](#))**

Requires public institutions of higher education to provide credit to each student who receives a grade on advanced placement examinations indicating the student is fully qualified to receive the credit. This legislation originally required public colleges and universities to accept a score of three or higher on an advanced placement exam. OCCA testified against the legislation. Ultimately a compromise was reached that tasks HECC with determining whether a score of three is sufficient in a subject area.

**(F) High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Task Force ([SB 353](#))**

Establishes a Task Force on the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Act. This bill received one hearing and then went to Ways and Means where no further action was taken.

**(F) Oregon Empowerment Scholarship Program ([SB 891](#))**

Establishes an Oregon Empowerment Scholarship Program for the purpose of providing options in education to students of this state. This bill did not receive a hearing.

## **Budget**

**(F) Umpqua Community College Recovery Grant ([HB 2590](#))**

Directs the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to issue a grant to organizations dedicated to addressing community needs relating to the October 1, 2015, shooting on the campus of Umpqua Community College. This legislation received a hearing in the House Rules Committee but was referred to Ways and Means where it did not move any further.

**(F) Umpqua Community College Patrol and IT Security Specialist ([SB 653](#))**

Appropriates \$504,300 to HECC for distribution to Umpqua Community College for the purpose of employing security patrol persons and an information technology network security specialist. This bill received a hearing in the Senate Education Committee but was referred to Ways and Means where no further action was taken.

**(P) Reporting Requirements for Potential State Government Workforce Costs ([SB 1067](#))**

Establishes specified reporting requirements to ensure legislative review of potential future costs in state government workforce. This bill begins the process for merging the Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) and the Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB) to achieve administrative cost savings. In addition, it directs OEBB and PEBB to limit the growth of premium expenditures to 3.4 percent per year and limits hospital reimbursement rates. Employees are also restricted from having double coverage in PEBB or OEBB through a spouse or family member. Additional flexibility is provided to make lump sum payments into PERS side accounts as a mechanism for reducing employer rates. This legislation represented one of the session's major cost containment efforts.

**(P) HECC Operating Fund ([SB 5524](#)) (See Budget Section on Page 1-2)**

Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to HECC for biennial expenses.

## **Capital Construction**

### **(P) Unique Service Areas ([SB 203](#))**

Defines two unique service areas for the Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC) District and the Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC) District. This bill provides a technical fix to statutory language defining the service areas for two of the four community college expansion districts. This change was necessary to allow SWOCC and CGCC to put bond measures before their entire district or each service area carrying out the intent of the statutory change made in 2009.

### **(P) Capital Construction Bill ([SB 5505](#)) (See Capital Construction on Page 3)**

Establishes amounts authorized for issuance of general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, certificates of participation and other financing agreements for biennium.

### **(P) Capital Construction Spending Limitations ([SB 5506](#)) (See Capital Construction on Page 3)**

Limits for a six-year period beginning July 1, 2017, payment of expenses from fees, moneys or other revenues, including Miscellaneous Receipts, but excluding lottery funds and federal funds, collected or received by various state agencies for capital construction.

## **CTE/STEM**

### **(F) Career and Technical Education Pathways ([HB 2789](#))**

Requires the Department of Education and HECC to establish career and technical education (CTE) pathways to permit students to easily progress from secondary schools to public post-secondary institutions of education. This was an OCCA bill meant to drive a conversation about connecting new investments in high school CTE to pathways in community college CTE. The bill received a hearing but did not move further in the process.

### **(F) Apprenticeship and Associate's Degree ([HB 3335 A](#))**

Requires HECC to develop a plan for enabling community colleges to offer associate's degrees completed in coordination with credits earned in apprenticeship or training programs.

### **(F) Career and Technical Education Pathways ([SB 138](#))**

Requires the Department of Education and HECC to establish career and technical education pathways to permit students to easily progress from secondary schools to public post-secondary institutions of education. This was the companion bill to an OCCA concept (SB 138) meant to drive a conversation about connecting new investments in high school CTE to pathways in community college CTE. The bill received a hearing but did not move further in the process.

### **(F) STEM Partnerships ([SB 286](#))**

Specifies conditions under which State Board of Education may identify a youth job development organization, nonprofit organization or other entity for partnership with school districts, education service districts, public schools, public charter schools, community colleges or public universities for

purposes of awarding grants related to education in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. This legislation did not receive a hearing.

**(F) CTE-STEM Investment Council ([SB 297](#))**

Establishes the CTE-STEM Investment Council. This legislation would have created a CTE-STEM investment council within the Chief Education Office. The legislation did not receive a hearing and in other legislation the Chief Education Office was effectively defunded.

**(F) Career and Technical Education Revitalization Grant Program ([SB 672](#))**

Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Department of Education for the purpose of awarding grants under the Career and Technical Education Revitalization Grant Program. This bill would provide \$25 million for CTE revitalization at community colleges. The same concept had been submitted by the bill's sponsor, Sen. Alan Olsen, in the past without moving forward in the process. Again, it did not receive a hearing.

## **Data**

**(P) High School Graduation Reporting ([HB 2147 EN](#))**

Requires each post-secondary education institution, other than career schools, to provide HECC with the number of Oregon high school graduates from each school district enrolled at an institution and the graduation rate at that institution for Oregon high school graduates from each school district. While the legislation places responsibility on colleges for providing the information, HECC has the information more readily available. OCCA will work with HECC in the interim to find the least costly manner of providing the information.

**(P) Tracking of Foster Youth through Post-Secondary Education ([SB 395 EN](#))**

Requires HECC to, on an annual basis, work with the Department of Human Services, each public university and each community college to determine the numbers and graduation rates of former foster children and current foster children at each college or university. This legislation passed both chambers on near-unanimous votes.

## **Education Policy**

**(P) Revision of 40-40-20 Goal ([HB 2311 EN](#))**

Makes 40-40-20 higher education goals relate to Oregonians completing education, rather than to all adult Oregonians. Revises 40-40-20 goal to apply to the student pipeline from K-12 to postsecondary education. Directs HECC, in consultation with the State Workforce Investment Board, to develop attainment goals for the adult population.

**(F) Public Charter School Sunset ([HB 2418](#))**

Removes the sunset on the authority of an institution of higher education to sponsor a public charter school. This was referred to the House Education Committee but did not receive a hearing.

**(F) Modification of State Educational Goals ([HB 2587](#))**

Removes 40-40-20 as a completion goal. Requires all students have the opportunity to obtain a certificate or degree. The bill received a hearing but did not move further in the process.

**(P) Oregon's Open Educational Resources ([HB 2729 A](#))**

Establishes the official name of the open resources program as "Oregon's Open Educational Resources (OER) Program." Requires HECC to collaborate with public universities and community colleges to analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of previously adopted open educational resources, to increase the number of open educational resources used in courses that are transferable between public universities and community colleges and to convene, as necessary to enhance effectiveness. While funding for this legislation remained in doubt throughout session, in the final weeks, \$1 million in funding was added to the legislation.

**(P) Transfer Bill ([HB 2998 B](#))**

Requires community colleges and public universities to establish foundational curriculum or foundational curricula for the first year of coursework at public post-secondary education institutions and establishes requirements for foundational curricula. This legislation included the concept developed by the Oregon Presidents Council to align the top 25 majors so a student at any Oregon community college may transfer seamlessly and without credit loss to any Oregon public university. This legislation was a major priority for OCCA throughout the session. Rep. Mark Johnson led the House Higher Education Committee's work on the legislation which passed both chambers unanimously.

**(F) Post-secondary Education for Incarcerated Individuals ([HB 3011](#))**

Directs the Department of Corrections to enter into interagency agreements with community colleges and public universities for the purpose of establishing a program that provides post-secondary education to inmates. This bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee but did not receive a hearing.

**(P) Competency-based Education Annual Report ([HB 3289 EN](#))**

Directs HECC to submit an annual report to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly that describes progress made in providing competency-based education in public post-secondary education institutions. Rep. Gene Whisnant sponsored this legislation, which passed both houses nearly unanimously.

**(F) Importance of Competency-Based Education ([HB 3290](#))**

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to recognize and endorse online, competency-based education as an important component of Oregon's system of higher education and to select a regionally accredited, nonprofit, online baccalaureate degree granting institution of higher education to work with and to integrate programs and services of said institution into Oregon's higher education policy and strategy. Rep. Gene Whisnant sponsored this legislation, along with HB 3290 (above). However, this legislation went much further requiring the HECC to recognize online, competency-based education and to offer state financial aid for those programs. The legislation did not receive a hearing.

### **(F) Community College and Public University Merger ([SB 8 A](#))**

Permits the merger of community colleges and public universities. This legislation was sponsored by Senate President Peter Courtney. Neither community colleges nor universities voiced support for the concept, however, being a bill by the Senate President, there was also no open opposition to the concept. The bill was sent to the Senate Rules Committee after being passed out of the Senate Education Committee with no recommendation. The bill did move out of the Rules Committee.

## **Ethics**

### **(F) Full-disclosure of Lobbying Activities ([HB 2577 A](#))**

As introduced, this bill would have added significant reporting requirements for individuals engaged in lobbying activities. The bill as introduced was replaced by an amendment in the Senate to add information that must be reported to the Government Ethics Commission by registered lobbyists. The most significant change is that lobbyists must now list all of the legislative topics on which they engaged in lobbying activities. In addition, lobbyists must certify that they have read and understand the laws governing lobbying activities in Oregon. This bill passed the House but did not make it through the Senate by the end of session.

### **(F) Revision and Clarification of Lobbyist Registration ([SB 43 A](#))**

Revises and clarifies circumstances in which individuals, including public officials and elected public officials, must register with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission and file lobbyist registration statements. OCCA joined other local governments in raising concerns about this bill to ensure it does not overreach and require registration for elected officials and community college staff who occasionally lobby the Legislature. An amendment was added in the Senate to clarify that it does not apply in those situations. The House Rules Committee adopted an amendment adding back stronger language from HB 2577 (see above) that requires lobbyists to list every bill they lobbied, including the position they lobbied, and a listing of every topic they lobbied for or against if there was no bill associated with their lobbying activities. Because the House and Senate bills could not be reconciled before the end of session the bill died.

## **Financial Aid**

### **(F) Student Loan Information ([HB 2474](#))**

Directs HECC to establish, by rule, a process to ensure that each applicable student at institutions of higher education is provided annually with, during student orientation, counseling services that set forth an estimate of the amount of education loans received, an estimate of the total amount of education loans students will owe at graduation and an estimate of the amount students will have to pay each month to service loans. This was one of several pieces of legislation dealing with student loan transparency. While it received a hearing, it did not move forward. OCCA testified about conflicts with federal law in this concept.

**(F) Loan Interest and Subtraction from Personal Income Taxes ([HB 2929 A](#))**

Establishes the subtraction from personal income taxes for amounts that taxpayers pay in student loan interest. This legislation did not receive a hearing.

**(P) Student Loan Information ([SB 253 EN](#))**

Requires institutions of higher education to provide to each applicable student information detailing the amount of education loans received, amount of tuition and fees the student has paid to the institution, an estimate of the total payoff amount of education loans the student has received, an estimate of the amount the student will have to pay each month to service loans and percentage of the borrowing limit the student has reached for each type of federal loan. OCCA worked to clarify on the record that colleges would be able to provide a table of potential interest rates and payoff amounts rather than individually calculate this information for each student. The latter would have come at significant additional cost to colleges. Of all of the loan transparency bills, this legislation was lobbied, in large part, by the Office of the Attorney General and ultimately became the concept that passed through the process.

**(F) Loan Factsheet ([SB 438](#))**

Requires the entity that provides educational loans to annually provide institutions of higher education with fact sheets for each enrolled student receiving loans from entities that detail estimates of educational loans the student received, total amount of educational loans the student will owe at graduation, amount the student will have to pay each month to service loans, number of monthly payments needed to service loans, and the date on which educational loans will be serviced in full. This was one of several loan transparency bills that did not move through the process.

**(F) Oregon Opportunity Grant and STEM ([SB 443](#))**

Requires that at least 25 percent of Oregon Opportunity Grant moneys be awarded to students committed to majoring in science, technology, engineering or mathematics fields. This legislation received a public hearing but did not move out of committee.

**(F) Transfer Pilot Program for Foster Youth ([SB 551](#))**

Directs HECC to develop and implement a pilot program to assist foster youth transitioning from community colleges to public universities. This bill received a hearing in Senate Education and was then referred to Ways and Means. It did not move out of the Ways and Means Committee.

**(F) Oregon Opportunity Grant and STEM ([SB 576](#))**

Requires that at least 25 percent of Oregon Opportunity Grant moneys be awarded to students committed to majoring in science, technology, engineering or mathematics fields. This bill received a hearing in Senate Education but did not receive a work session.

**(F) Oregon Promise Program and Community Service Requirement ([SB 577](#))**

Requires a student to complete eight or more hours of community service before the start of each term and to meet regularly with a mentor provided by the Office of Student Access and Completion in order

to maintain eligibility to receive the Oregon Promise grant. OCCA opposed this concept for adding a community service requirement to the Oregon Promise. It did not receive a hearing.

**(F) Exemption for Account Established for Higher Education Expenses ([SB 759 A](#))**

Specifies that the amount in an account established for higher education expenses is disregarded for purposes of determining individual's financial eligibility to receive assistance or benefit authorized by law other than means-tested state financial aid for higher education, to the extent permitted under federal law. This legislation was passed out of Senate Education and referred to Ways and Means where it did not move further.

## **Healthcare**

**(F) OHSU and Treasure Valley Community College Partnership ([HB 2479](#))**

Requires Oregon Health and Science University to create a program to enable students to receive bachelor's degrees in nursing while taking all required classes at Treasure Valley Community College. This bill did not receive a hearing.

**(F) Applied Baccalaureate Degrees in Nursing ([HB 2540](#))**

Permits community colleges to offer applied baccalaureate degrees in nursing to individuals with specified qualifications. Chemeketa Community College brought this concept forward, which received a hearing in the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee. With significant opposition from public universities and Oregon Health and Sciences University, the bill did not receive a work session.

**(F) Allocation of Money to Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program ([HB 2862](#))**

Allocates \$350,000 to Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program. This bill passed out of the House Higher Education Committee and was referred to Ways and Means where it did not move further.

**(F) Coordinate Care Organizations ([HB 3428](#))**

Enrolls specified public employees in coordinated care organizations (CCOs). This bill would have required all public employees who receive health benefits through the Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) and the Public Employee Benefit Board (PEBB) to enroll in coordinated care organizations as a cost savings measure. In addition, it would have abolished OEBB as a separate entity. OCCA testified in opposition to the measure and raised questions about the impact on employees in rural areas that have limited providers and CCO access and about the potential fiscal impact on expanding coverage to part-time employees down to .50 FTE.

**(P) Exemption from Prohibition of Practice of Dentistry for those under Supervision of Dental Faculty Member ([SB 561 EN](#))**

Exempts from prohibition on the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene without valid license students of dentistry and dental hygiene engaged in certain clinical studies performed under indirect supervision of a dental faculty member. OCCA supported this bill because it changes the requirement for direct supervision of students in a clinical setting allowing for a greater ratio of students to instructors in these

settings and it brings Oregon law into conformity with the requirements of the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Education Accreditation standards.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **(P) Small Business Development Center Outreach and Marketing ([HB 2152 EN](#))**

Permits small business development centers to use grant funds for outreach and marketing. OCCA was in support of this legislation, which passed both chambers nearly unanimously.

## **Operations**

### **(P) Wildlife Sales and Educational Institutions ([HB 2576 EN](#))**

Exempts from wildlife trafficking prevention program sale of covered animal species parts or products by or to bona fide scientific or educational institution when sale entered into before July 1, 2017. This legislation, of particular importance to Portland Community College, past both chambers unanimously.

### **(P) Blind Vending Priority ([HB 3253 B](#))**

Requires state agencies, departments and political subdivisions to grant to persons who are blind priority to establish and operate vending facilities in public buildings. This bill was introduced to address several issues related to the blind vending program operated by the Commission on the Blind. OCCA worked with the bill sponsors to clarify Oregon law and retain the status quo between community colleges and blind vendors. Language was added to the bill giving blind vendors a preference when a community college issues an Request for Proposal (RFP) for vending and cafeteria services. All other state and local agencies (except schools and universities) must give blind vendors a priority including a right of first refusal when providing these services. Community colleges must notify the commission when they intend to issue an RFP and give the commission an opportunity to bid. The preference awards the contract to the Commission on the Blind only when their bid is equal to or better than another bidder.

### **(P) Immigration Enforcement ([HB 3464](#))**

Prohibits public body from disclosing specified information concerning person unless required by state or federal law. HB 3464 provides additional clarification to public entities on what information can be shared related to a person's immigration status and other personal information. It requires the Attorney General to establish model policies that public bodies are encouraged to adopt.

### **(F) Technical Assistance for Community Colleges to Prevent and Respond to Interpersonal Violence ([SB 318](#))**

Directs Department of Education to provide technical assistance and support to school districts and community colleges to prevent and respond to interpersonal violence. This bill received a hearing in Senate Education but did not receive a work session.

**(P) Definition of “Business Day” ([SB 481 EN](#))**

Defines "business day" for purposes of public records. The bill sets timelines for acknowledging and responding to public records requests. OCCA worked with other education entities to add language stating the timelines do not apply when the central administrative offices of a school, community college, or university are closed. In addition, more general language was added to allow more time if it is “impracticable” to provide a response due to staff on leave, compliance interferes with necessary functions of agency, or the volume of simultaneous requests makes it impracticable to respond.

**(F) Unmanned Aircraft Systems Registration and Public Educational Institutions ([SB 757](#))**

Modifies registration requirements for unmanned aircraft systems used by public educational institutions. This bill would have allowed an instructor to register all drones used for educational purposes for a single registration fee of \$5 renewable every three years. The bill received a public hearing but did not move out of committee.

## **Oregon Promise**

**(F) Oregon National Guard Priority ([HB 2488](#))**

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to adopt rules prioritizing award of Oregon Promise program grants to persons serving in Oregon National Guard who have completed initial active duty training. OCCA opposed this legislation because it would have prioritized some students over others within the Oregon Promise. The bill received a hearing in House Higher Education and Workforce Development but did not move further.

**(F) Oregon Promise Qualification for Persons Who Enter into Service with Career and Technical Student Organization ([HB 3004](#))**

Allows person to continue to qualify for Oregon Promise if, after being awarded a grant, the person enters into service with a career and technical student organization approved by the Department of Education before attending a community college. This legislation did not receive a hearing.

**(P) Oregon National Guard Exemptions ([HB 3423 EN](#))**

Exempts persons serving in the Oregon National Guard from a requirement to enroll in community college courses within six months of attaining previous highest level of education in order to qualify for the Oregon Promise grant, provided that person enrolls in community college courses within six months of completing initial active duty training.

**(P) Oregon Promise Grant ([SB 55 EN](#))**

Provides that the Office of Student Access and Completion may award a total amount in Oregon Promise grants that exceeds \$10 million per fiscal year during biennium ending June 30, 2017. This legislation was necessary as the original Oregon Promise legislation put the funding level of \$10 million dollars in law. \$10 million was the estimated cost of one cohort of students for one year. Fully implemented, the program would have two years of two cohorts costing closer to \$40 million.

**(P) Removal of Prohibition on Awarding more than \$10 million per Fiscal Year ([SB 1032 A](#))**

Amends the Oregon Promise program to remove the prohibition on awarding more than \$10 million in grants per fiscal year. This bill removed reference to the \$10 million funding level altogether, which had been changed in SB 55 to allow the program to exceed the amount. However, SB 1032 also directs HECC to means test the program based on the federally-calculated Expected Family Contribution for higher education.

## **PERS**

**(F) Final Average Salary Calculation ([SB 559](#))**

Changes the calculation of the final average salary for purposes of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) to use five years of salary instead of three years, for salary paid on and after January 1, 2018. SB 559 and SB 560 (see below) were the two bills that were the vehicles for the Senate Workforce Committee's hearings related to efforts to reform PERS and to address cost containment. All of the proposed changes would have been implemented prospectively due to previous court decisions. No agreement was reached on moving forward with the proposed changes and both bills died in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

**(F) Individual Account Program ([SB 560](#))**

Redirects employee contributions made by a member of a system from an individual account program to an account to be used to pay for member's pension or other retirement benefits accrued on or after January 1, 2018. This bill would have moved employee contributions that currently go into the individual account program to an account in the PERS pension account. In addition, it would have capped at \$100,000 the amount of salary that could be calculated as an employee's final average salary. The bill did not move out of the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

**(F) Risk Sharing Account ([SB 1068](#))**

Directs the Public Employees Retirement Board to establish a risk sharing account for a member of an individual account program of the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan. This bill would have moved employee contributions from the individual account program to an account within the PERS pension account and would have required the employee to contribute a percentage of his or her salary to the account. The bill was never heard and did not move out of the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

## **Personnel**

**(F) Community College Instructors and Unemployment Insurance Benefits During Summer Term ([HB 2714](#))**

Provides that unemployment insurance benefits are payable during summer term to a community college instructor who has received assignment for a previous summer term. OCCA opposed this bill and it never received a hearing.

**(F) Restriction of Number of Faculty Personnel Files at Community Colleges ([HB 2860](#))**

Restricts the number of personnel files concerning faculty members that community colleges may maintain. OCCA opposed this bill and it was never heard in committee.

**(P) Requirement for Public Universities to Report Causes of Increases in Administrative Positions and Other Cost Drivers ([HB 3288 EN](#))**

Requires each public university to submit to HECC a report identifying causes of increases in administrative positions and other cost drivers at a university. As originally introduced this bill also included community colleges. OCCA worked with the bill's sponsor to remove community colleges from this requirement.

**(P) Reversal of Amendments to Enrolled Senate Bill 1534 (2016) ([SB 42 EN](#))**

Reverses amendments to statute made by Enrolled Senate Bill 1534 (2016) that were determined by the United States Secretary of Labor to be out of conformity with federal law. The bill was necessary to remove statutory provisions that had been passed in 2016. Additional guidance was recently received from the U.S. Department of Labor on this issue and the Oregon Employment Department is able to address the new guidance through the rulemaking process rather than through a change in the statute. OCCA is part of a work group that will continue to advise the Employment Department on these issues.

**(F) Part-time Higher Education Faculty and Payment of 10 percent of Insurance Premiums ([SB 196 A](#))**

Provides that a part-time faculty member at public institution of higher education who qualifies for health care benefits will pay 10 percent of insurance premiums, with the remaining 90 percent paid by the state. Currently part-time faculty working at multiple institutions can purchase health insurance on a self-pay basis from the Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB). This bill as amended would have required them to pay 10% of the cost with the state picking up 90% of the cost. The bill as amended did not move out of the Joint Ways and Means Committee due to lack of funding.

**(P) Permits Community College Board of Education to Authorize Faculty Compensation from Private or Public Resources ([SB 206 EN](#))**

Permits the board of education of a community college to authorize faculty at the community college to receive compensation from private or public resources. OCCA worked with the bill's sponsors to amend the language to mirror the language currently in statute for university employees. The intent is to ensure that certain forms of outside compensation received by faculty is part of their official compensation for purposes of Oregon's ethics law. The bill gives the authority to determining what compensation is included to the boards of community colleges rather than to HECC as originally proposed.

**(F) Eligibility Study of Employees of Education Institutions for Unemployment Insurance ([SB 296](#))**

Requires the Director of the Employment Department to study eligibility of employees of educational institutions for unemployment insurance benefits. This bill was never heard. OCCA is a part of an Oregon Employment Department Advisory Committee that is looking into these issues given recent guidance received from the U.S. Department of Labor.

## **Property Tax**

### **(F) Taxation and County Authority ([HB 2363](#))**

Authorizes counties to withhold from taxing districts costs to county of assessing property and collecting property taxes. This bill would allow counties to tax all the districts within the county to pay for the assessment and taxation function of the county. In the past, funding has been provided by the Legislature for this function and most special districts pay an additional assessment to pay for this function. The bill was heard but died in the House Revenue Committee.

## **Revenue**

### **(F) Change to Distribution of Moneys Collected on Tax of Retail Sale of Marijuana ([SB 845 A](#))**

Changes distribution of moneys collected by the Department of Revenue as a tax imposed on retail sale of marijuana items to transfers of moneys to cities and counties according to specified formula and uses of moneys for specified purposes related to education and public health and safety. The Senate-passed bill provides 10% of the 80% of revenue collected from the marijuana tax to community colleges. The bill did not pass through the House.

## **Students**

### **(F) Minimum Wage for Work-study Students ([HB 2145](#))**

Establishes lower minimum wage for work-study students, adjusted annually for inflation. OCCA opposed this legislation. It did not receive a hearing.

### **(P) Grants Community College Student Government Ability to Establish Process and Allocate Mandatory Student-initiated Fees ([HB 2666 EN](#))**

Gives a community college recognized student government authority to establish process and allocate mandatory student-initiated fees, subject to refusal under certain circumstances by the board of education of a community college district or president of a community college. OCCA worked with the bill's sponsor, Rep. Rob Nosse, and the Oregon Student Association to make significant modifications from the original bill. The changes rest the final decision over such fees with the local community college board. The language also requires no changes to current practice if the current process already meets the requirement or, if it does not, change is only required if the recognized student government makes a formal request to the college board.

### **(P) Cultural Competency Standards at Public Higher Education Institutions ([HB 2864 EN](#))**

Requires each community college and public university to establish a process for recommending, and providing oversight for implementation of cultural competency standards for the institution and the institution's employees. OCCA worked with the bill's sponsor, Rep. Alonso Leon, and the Oregon Student Association so that the legislation was far less prescriptive in the process required for creating cultural competency standards.

**(P) Student Rights Related to Alleged Incident of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, or Stalking ([HB 2972 EN](#))**

Prohibits public university, community college or Oregon-based private university or college to use the threat or imposition of student discipline or other sanction to influence the decision of a victim of alleged incident of sexual assault, domestic violence or stalking regarding whether to report alleged incident or participate in an investigation or adjudication of the alleged incident. OCCA supported this legislation, which passed both chambers unanimously. This bill codifies existing practices at community colleges.

**(F) Establishment of Task Force on Employment-related Child Care and Study ([HB 2985 A](#))**

Establishes Task Force on Employment-Related Child Care to conduct a study on improving access to and availability of subsidies for employment-related child care and to develop a plan to expand access to employment-related child care opportunities. This legislation passed out of the House Early Childhood and Family Supports Committee but was referred to Ways and Means where no further action was taken.

**(F) SNAP benefits for Students ([HB 3009](#))**

Requires Department of Human Services to seek approval from United States Department of Agriculture to allow students to apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits using Free Application for Federal Student Aid form. This bill did not receive a hearing.

**(F) SNAP benefits for Students ([HB 3010](#))**

Requires Department of Human Services to seek approval from United States Department of Agriculture to allow unemployed or underemployed full-time post-secondary students to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. This bill did not receive a hearing.

**(P) Study of Students in Poverty ([HB 3216 EN](#))**

Directs Chief Education Office to conduct a study for the purpose of identifying practices that assist students from impoverished families. OCCA supported this bill, which passed both chambers unanimously.

**(F) Student Transfer Study ([HB 3220](#))**

Requires HECC to conduct a study and develop recommendations on how to ensure students have greatest practical opportunity to transfer credits earned at community colleges to baccalaureate degrees awarded at public universities. This bill was a placeholder for the transfer concept that became part of HB 2998, the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee's transfer bill.

**(P) Task Force on Student Mental Health Support ([SB 231 B](#))**

Establishes Task Force on Student Mental Health Support. OCCA supported this legislation, which passed both chambers unanimously.

**(P) Student Housing and Information on Vaccine-preventable Diseases ([SB 274 EN](#))**

Requires each post-secondary educational institution that provides housing for students to provide to each student enrolling or registering at the institution for first time information on vaccine-preventable diseases known to occur in individuals between 16 and 21 years of age. This bill requires the four community colleges with dorms to provide information to all first time students at the time of enrollment or registration. The information must be provided electronically to the student at the time of enrollment or registration if an online system is used. OCCA attempted to amend the bill to limit the students to whom information must be provided, citing the average age of community college students is greater than 21.

**(F) Job-matching Website for Students ([SB 289](#))**

Directs HECC to develop website to match students with industry professionals for purposes of improving access to internships, job shadowing opportunities and work experience. This bill did not receive a hearing.

**(F) Expulsion of Student Convicted of Riot ([SB 540](#))**

Requires community college or public university to expel any student convicted of riot. OCCA opposed this legislation, which did not receive a hearing.

**(P) Exemption of Sexual Assault Victims and Persons Assisting Sexual Assault Victims from Arrest or Prosecution for Offense Related to Purchase or Possession of Alcoholic Beverage by Person Under 21 ([SB 762 EN](#))**

Exempts sexual assault victims and persons assisting sexual assault victims from arrest or prosecution for an offense related to purchase or possession of alcoholic beverage by person under 21 years of age if evidence of the offense was obtained because of contact with law enforcement agency or emergency medical services to report an assault or obtain assistance. OCCA supported this legislation, which passed unanimously.

**(F) Student Voter Registration Study ([SB 1011](#))**

Requires HECC to conduct a study and develop recommendations regarding the most effective voter registration methods for students attending public universities and community colleges. This bill did not receive a hearing.

**(F) Requires Ballot Drop Site at Higher Education Campuses and Public High Schools ([SB 1012](#))**

Requires the Secretary of State to ensure that there is at least one official ballot drop site at each public high school and on the campus of each institution of higher education. This bill did not receive a hearing.

## **Veterans**

**(P) Priority Enrollment System Changes ([HB 2565 EN](#))**

Changes how a priority enrollment system is applied to continuing qualified students and new qualified students. This legislation was intended to clarify previous legislation guaranteeing priority enrollment for community colleges and universities. It passed both chambers unanimously.

**(F) Establishment of Oregon Educational and Workforce Development Bridge Loan Program ([HB 2690](#))**

Establishes Oregon Educational and Workforce Development Bridge Loan Program in the Department of Veterans' Affairs to conduct outreach and provide loans to veterans and disabled veterans who are enrolled in an approved course of study, approved professional training, approved workforce development program or approved apprenticeship in connection with an institution of higher education, and who are eligible to receive federal educational aid or other financial assistance that is temporarily unavailable. This bill was passed out of the House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee and sent to Ways and Means where it did not move further.

**(F) Establishment of Veterans' Services Fund ([HB 3132](#))**

Establishes Veterans' Services Fund pursuant to a constitutional amendment approved in Ballot Measure 96 (2016). OCCA supported this legislation, which passed out of the House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee. However, it was referred to Ways and Means where it did not receive further action.

**(P) Grant Program to Assist Veterans on Campuses of Community Colleges and Public Universities ([SB 143 EN](#))**

Directs the Department of Veterans' Affairs to develop and implement one or more grant programs statewide to expand and enhance existing campus veteran resource centers and employ campus veteran resource coordinators on campuses of community colleges and public universities to help veterans successfully transition from military service to college life, succeed in college, complete educational goals and transition from college to workforce and community. The program provides one-time grants for expansion of veterans services. It passed both houses unanimously.

## **Workforce**

**(F) Establishment of Oregon Opportunity Commission ([HB 2534 A](#))**

Establishes the Oregon Opportunity Commission, which would be tasked with providing grants and loans to address concentrated poverty. The bill was ultimately sent to Ways and Means where it did not move further in the process.

**(F) Establishment of Task Force on Workforce Training Improvement ([HB 2999](#))**

Establishes Task Force on Workforce Training Improvement. This legislation was referred to the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee where it did not receive a hearing.

**(F) Establishment of Task Force on Workforce Development ([HB 3000](#))**

Establishes Task Force on Workforce Development. This was a committee bill by the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee. The committee did not hold a hearing on the bill.

**(F) Workforce Development System Study ([HB 3001](#))**

Requires the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to study how the current workforce development system could be changed to ensure more businesses start and stay within Oregon. This bill did not receive a hearing.

**(F) Workforce Development System Study on Organizational Efficiency ([HB 3002](#))**

Requires the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, HECC and the Youth Development Council to work together to study how the current workforce development system functions and recommend changes for organizational efficiency.

**(F) Requires Community Colleges that Receive State Moneys for Providing Specific Workforce Development Training to Submit Form Detailing how Money was Used ([HB 3003](#))**

Requires each community college that receives state moneys for the purpose of providing specific workforce development training to complete and return to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission a form detailing how the moneys were used by the community college and the degree to which the moneys achieved the purpose for which the moneys were expended. OCCA shared concerns with this bill to the sponsor, Rep. Jeff Reardon, who chose not to move forward with the concept.

**(P) Workforce System Realignment ([HB 3437](#))** Establishes legislative findings and intent regarding a State Workforce and Talent Development Board. This was a concept developed by Rep. Jeff Reardon, the Chair of the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee. Among other things, it combines the Oregon Work Force Investment Board and the Oregon Talent Council into one body.

**(F) General Fund Moneys for Oregon Employer Workforce Training Program, Local Workforce Investment Boards, and Oregon Youth Conservation Corps ([SB 610](#))**

Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to HECC for the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development for the Oregon Employer Workforce Training Program, local workforce investment boards and the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps. This bill passed out of the Senate Natural Resources Committee and then was referred to Ways and Means where it did not move further.