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Bill creates better tracking of success beyond high school

HB 2147 requires colleges report status of students by K-12 school district

SALEM – A bill that would help K-12 school districts around the state see how well their students are faring in higher education passed the Senate today and will be going to Gov. Kate Brown for signature.

House Bill 2147 – which passed by a 28-2 vote on the Senate floor today – requires higher education institutions to provide information to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission about the number of Oregon high school graduates from each school district enrolled at the institution and the college graduation rates of students who graduate from high school in each school district. The HECC would be required to supply that information to the Oregon Department of Education, which then would distribute it to school districts.

“Beyond simple graduation rates, there are several different metrics that can be used to help school districts know how successful they are,” said Sen. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay), who carried the bill in the Senate. “This provides school districts with better information about how many of their students are going on to pursue post-secondary education and whether they are graduating from college. This can be a good indicator of how well prepared their students are for the next steps in their educational careers and lives.”

Currently, student-specific data on post-secondary enrollment and graduation rates exists, but school districts typically do not have access to the information. The National Student Clearinghouse – a national independent body that maintains electronic student records data – currently partners with post-secondary institutions and state agencies to collect and provide data. ODE and post-secondary institutions already supply the clearinghouse with data that assists with tracking student progress beyond high school. That information, then, is supplied to

ODE, which produces a report showing college attendance rates of Oregon high school graduates by school district, as well as which post-secondary institutions each Oregon High school graduate attends. That information currently is not made publicly available.

The bill passed by the Senate today would smooth out the process for collecting this information and making the statistics of post-secondary educational progress among a school district's graduates readily available.

HB 2147 now goes to Gov. Kate Brown for signature.

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