



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate removes barrier to job training programs at community colleges

HB 3341B repeals the 'adverse impact' law that allows for-profit colleges to veto community college courses

SALEM—This morning the Oregon Senate removed a barrier to allow community colleges greater flexibility in offering coursework that serves the surrounding area. House Bill 3341B, which passed on a 21-7 vote with two excused, repeals the 'adverse impact' law, which allows for-profit colleges to stop local community colleges from offering courses they deemed too similar to their own.

"No other state has a law that allows private, for-profit schools to veto course offerings of community colleges. Under this law, the community colleges lose, the students lose, and our communities lose," said Senator Mark Hass (D-Beaverton), chair of the Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee. "It's time to retire this law so that we can let colleges respond to local workforce needs by creating lower-cost programs for students."

Under current law, community colleges seeking to establish new programs that are also offered by for-profit career colleges must give a notice of intent to the career college. If the career college demonstrates that it may be adversely impacted by the community college offering, the community college is prohibited from developing and offering the new course. HB 3341B eliminates the career college's ability to unilaterally block a community college course.

"Removing this barrier will allow our community colleges to get back in the business of offering affordable courses to help Oregonians get the job training they need," said Hass.

Under HB 3341B, the Higher Education Coordinating Committee will set up a process for community colleges and career colleges to work out potential issues of duplication and adverse impacts.

"Repealing the adverse impact law will strengthen Oregon's workforce by allowing job seekers to obtain skills and training at their local community college," said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland). "Community colleges play a critical role in preparing Oregonians for the needs of the 21st Century economy. It's time they had the flexibility to offer more courses to respond to the needs of their communities."

The bill now returns to the Oregon House of Representatives for a concurrence motion.

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