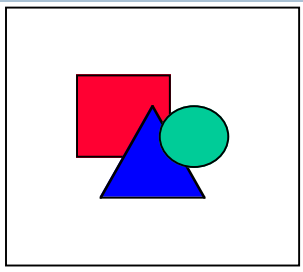




Legislative Bulletin

Shared Responsibility Model, SB 334, Approved by House Education Committee



Monday, May 14
UO Day @ Capitol

Tuesday, May 15
Quarterly Revenue
Forecast will be
released

Those interested in hearing the Revenue report can tune in Tuesday morning at 8:45 to hearing Room A:

<http://www.oregonchannel.org/ras.html>

Forecast report available at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/OEA/index.shtml>

Wednesday, May 16
Joint Lobby Day
at the Capitol
join OUS, SEIU,
AFT, OSA, OCCA

May 28 – 31
Ways & Means
Education Subcommittee
Higher Education
Work session
HR F @ 3:00pm

On Friday, May 11, the House Education Committee heard testimony from Sen. Kurt Schrader (D-Canby), the chief sponsor of SB 334. Senator Schrader stated that the Legislature has an opportunity to make significant improvements to Oregon's need-based financial program, making college attendance affordable for students who wish to attend and are willing to work for it. The bill revises and renames the Oregon Opportunity Grant to the Shared Responsibility Opportunity Grant. Ms. Margie Lowe of the Governor's Office briefly summarized how the model works and how it would impact future opportunity grant awards to Oregon's neediest students.

Dennis Johnson, Executive Director of the Oregon Student Association stated that while the model is complex, it is extremely do-able, though more accurate projections are essential to the successful administration of the model. The Shared Responsibility Model was developed at the Governor's request by the State Board of Higher Education with participation of students, community colleges, private colleges, the business community and foundations.

Also testifying were students, and representatives of for-profit colleges who are requesting the bill be amended to allow Oregon students attending for-profit private colleges to receive grants under the Shared Responsibility Opportunity Grant.

The Committee adopted -2 amendments which clarify

that the name of the Oregon Opportunity Grant will not be changed. The amendments were introduced by Rep. Brian Clem (D-Salem), to minimize any administrative costs which would be required for forms, documents and other publications.

Rep. Jerry Krummel (R-Wilsonville) moved the -3 amendments, which were introduced by advocates of the School Choice Working Group. The -3 amendments would have amended SB 334 to include the text and concept of HB 3010 which would have created the "Freedom to Choose My School Grant program" within the Department of Education. HB 3010 would allow an eligible student to attend public or private school under the program and to direct the district to pay grant funds to schools participating in the program. Rep. Mitch Greenlick (D-Portland) objected. Krummel stated that the amendments provide a student, any student, irrespective of where they live, the ability to attend any public school. Rep. John Dallum (R-Hood River) asked the committee to look at it through the "prism of a student's eyes".

Rep. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay) stated that SB 334 has a specific purpose, to assist students attending post-secondary education, and that he wanted to retain its purpose. Clem stated that SB 334 is very important to him and was concerned that amending the bill would jeopardize support on the House floor. The motion failed.

The bill, as amended by the -2 amendments, was approved by the Committee.

Bills of Interest

SB 554: Requires public body to respond to written request for public record as soon as practicable and without unreasonable delay.

Judiciary Committee 5/14
8am Room 357

SB 671: Allows public body to release condensed version of factual information in record in lieu of disclosing record.

Judiciary Committee 5/14
8am Room 357

HB 3539: Requires employer to provide reasonable accommodation to religious observance or practices of employee unless providing accommodation would impose undue hardship on employer.

Elections, Ethics & Rules
5/14 8:30am HR E

SB 215: Defines “person in parental relationship” for purposes of school district residency.

Education Committee 5/14
1pm HR D

SB 465: Expands ability of employer to prohibit use of medical marijuana in workplace.

Elections, Ethics & Rules
5/16 8:30am HR E

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE APPROVES TEXTBOOK ALTERNATIVE FORMAT LEGISLATION

On Friday, May 11, the House Education Committee approved SB 261-A which states that all post-secondary students with print disabilities should have equal and effective access to instructional materials in alternative formats. The bill further requires the publisher, upon a request from a post-secondary education institution, to provide instructional materials in electronic formats and authorizes the State Board of Higher Education to develop guidelines to administer the provisions of the bill.

The bill was introduced and amended to address concerns arising with students with print disabilities to access basic assistive technologies at Oregon’s public universities. Those technologies include screen readers for students who are blind, screen enlargers for students with low vision, speech recognition for students with mobility issues, and in-class computer-based note-taking for students with hearing impairments. Disability service offices at institutions are responsible for manually scanning and formatting textbooks for students who require alternative formats. Students testified that in some cases they cannot obtain textbooks in an alternative format in a timely manner and suffer in their coursework or, ultimately, have to withdraw from courses and retake them once materials are available.

Joint Ways and Means Approves Budget for Oregon Health and Science University

In a work session Friday, May 11, the Joint Ways and Means Committee approved Senate Bill 5529, the operating budget for OHSU. Under the approved budget, \$87 million for the 2007-09 biennium will expand the nursing school enabling the training of an additional 162 registered nurses per year, for a total of nearly 400 nurses at training sites throughout Oregon. Also under the bill, the number of prospective doctors admitted to the OHSU medical school will increase from 108 to 120.

The budget received approval from the Ways and Means Committee with 16 members voting in support. Three Republicans, Rep. Susan Morgan (R-Myrtle Creek), Rep. Bob Jenson (R-Pendleton) and Rep. Bruce Hanna (R-Roseburg) and the Independent Senator Avel Gordly (I-Portland) voted no on the grounds that the budget did not go far enough to sufficiently expand the rural medical partnership stating an additional \$7 million was necessary to add to the medical school and \$300,000 to expand the state’s dental school.

The \$87 million in state funding represents an increase of 18 percent from the current state spending on OHSU.

*Don't forget,
Sunday, May 13
is...*





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OUS LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

The Government Relations office of the Chancellor's Office will be sending you this electronic newsletter about important events of the past week in Salem and things to come in the days ahead. The newsletter will be published every Friday at 4:00 p.m. throughout session. If you wish to suggest items for inclusion or comments on coverage of issues affecting OUS interests at the Legislature, please feel free to e-mail or phone the Salem Government Relations office.
(mary_robinson@ous.edu, 503-373-7490).

BILLWATCH AVAILABLE FOR TRACKING

A comprehensive OUS bill tracking system called BillWatch, has been developed to record information about bills affecting the OUS, and to track their progress through the legislative process. BillWatch is designed to be used by members of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, Chancellor's Office staff, campus leadership and OUS advocates. BillWatch is a secure system and users must obtain a user name and password from the Office of Government Relations to use this service.

Subscribing to BillWatch allows users to subscribe and designate particular bills of interest or to provide a broader search of all legislation. A second benefit of subscribing is notification: upon subscribing to a particular bill, users will receive automatic email notification when action is taken on the bill, e.g., hearings scheduled, amendments engrossed, etc. To request access, go to <http://billwatch.ous.edu/>. From there, choose *Request an Account*. Your request should be processed within 24 hours. An electronic users guide is available by clicking on HELP at the BillWatch main login menu.

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