

OCCA Report
February, 2018
Doris Lathrop, Trustee

The OCCA Board of Directors has not met since my last report. Notes follow from last Monday's conference call related to the legislative session.

Legislative Call
January 29, 2018 4:00 p.m.
Zoom Conference Call

1. Review of Bills

Andrea Henderson reviewed the priority 1, 2, and 3 bills OCCA is tracking for the 2018 Legislative Session. Henderson said the \$32 million funding ask is the biggest priority, but that is not associated with a bill.

Priority 1

HB 4043

Summary: Requires community colleges to jointly conduct study to determine best methods for helping community college students learn about and apply for benefits.

OCCA Position: Support

Discussion: PCC is taking the lead. Directs us to work with Governor's Office and state agencies to come back with recommendations in 2019. Recommending support.

Priority 2

HB 4014

Summary: Removes requirement that current foster child or former foster child complete volunteer service hours during previous academic year to qualify for tuition waiver.

OCCA Position: Support

HB 4017

Summary: Requires school district to obtain approval from Department of Education before entering into funds diversion agreement for payment of debt service on pension obligation bonds.

OCCA Position: Oppose

Discussion: Two major concerns: 1) it would require approval by the state and it should not be the Department of Education granting approval to community colleges; 2) it could lead to increased interest rates if the pension obligation bonds are not backed by the full faith and credit of the state.

HB 4035

Summary: Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to provide tuition assistance for qualified members of Oregon National Guard to attend community colleges or public universities.

OCCA Position: Neutral

Discussion: As currently drafted, this bill does not have any funding associated with it. It would need to have funding associated to move forward, so we are taking a neutral stance.

HB 4046

Summary: Provides that outside compensation of employee of public university or community college is not included in employee's salary for purposes of Public Employees Retirement System.

OCCA Position: Neutral

Discussion: The bill is not necessary based on the current statutory definition of salary and there is no intention to change that definition to include outside compensation.

HB 4053

Summary: Requires Department of Education and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to jointly prepare annual report on accelerated college credit programs.

OCCA Position: Under review

Discussion: As drafted, there are a lot of problems but there are amendments coming out and we are working with bill sponsors to work on the bill. A lot of the data required in the bill is not currently collected. Henderson has recommended to the bill sponsors that they focus on data available in the statewide longitudinal data system. Ultimately, we would recommend not to oppose once changes are made as greater data is a good thing, but it needs to focus on data that is already available and not put the burden on the colleges to collect it.

HB 4071

Summary: Modifies funding mechanism for public employees' health care benefit to avoid excise tax under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

OCCA Position: Oppose

HB 4123

Summary: Permits duplicate health benefit plan coverage for public employees who begin employment before January 1, 2020.

OCCA Position: Support.

Discussion: Current employees would be grandfathered in.

SB 1557

Summary: Requires community colleges, public Universities and Oregon Health and Science University to provide certain rights to students ordered to federal or state active duty for 30 or fewer consecutive days.

OCCA Position: Support

Discussion: We will run this by CIA, but ultimately want to support it. Will check with student services folk about the timeline. Question about how this relates to National Guard people who go on duty once a month. Support pending further examination.

SB 1563

Summary: Removes requirement that students who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents apply for official federal identification document to be eligible for exemption from paying Nonresident tuition at public Universities.

OCCA Position: Support with amendments

Discussion: Support the concept but will work to remove language related to community college board authority because it is not necessary given current community college residency requirements.

SB 1566

Summary: Establishes Employer Incentive Fund.

OCCA Position: Support

Discussion: Relates to the PERS unfunded actuarial liability. Takes excess revenue from lottery and puts it in a side account for community colleges and universities to bring down liability. Support.

Priority 3

HB 4012

Summary: Extends sunset on provisions allowing retired member of Public Employees Retirement System to be reemployed by participating public employer as teacher of career and technical education without loss of retirement benefits.

OCCA Position: Support

HB 4039

Summary: Requires state agency that grants or lends moneys for capital costs of research center to obtain right to receive portion of revenue derived from patents obtained from work by research center.

OCCA Position: Under review

Discussion: Funding is for emergency preparedness and we are tracking this bill to see if community colleges would be included.

HB 4040

Summary: Directs Oregon Military Department to establish program to award scholarships to certain persons who have served in military.

OCCA Position: Neutral

HB 4042

Summary: Establishes Prosperity 1,000 Pilot Program to provide career coaching, occupational training and job placement services for 1,000 low-income job seekers in east Multnomah County.

OCCA Position: Neutral

HB 4051

Summary: Establishes Task Force on Rural Education

OCCA Position: Support

Discussion: The task force would include the entire education spectrum and would include a specific community college representative on the task force.

HB 4070

Summary: Establishes retirement benefits payable under Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan to persons who establish membership in Public Employees Retirement System on or after effective date of Act.

OCCA Position: Under review

Discussion: We do not anticipate movement on this bill.

HB 4072

Summary: Names certain scholarships offered by health care provider incentive program as Doctor Alan Bates Legacy Scholarship program.

OCCA Position: Neutral

Discussion: Community college students would be eligible.

HB 4077

Summary: Requires statement of economic interest to include certain information about sources of income for business in which public official or candidate, or member of household of public official or candidate, is officer or holds directorship if source of income has legislative or administrative interest and 10 percent or more of total gross annual income of business comes from that source of income.

OCCA Position: Neutral

HB 4080

Summary: Updates connection date to federal Internal Revenue Code and other provisions of federal tax law.

OCCA Position: Under review

Discussion: We are watching to see if they will be any impact to community colleges.

HB 4102

Summary: Directs Department of Education to conduct study related to school dropouts.

OCCA Position: Neutral

HB 4127

Summary: Permits contracting agency, in conducting procurement for architectural, engineering, photogrammetric mapping, transportation planning and land surveying services, to consider pricing

policies, proposals and other pricing information along with prospective consultant's qualifications in specified circumstances.

OCCA Position: Support

HB 4131

Summary: Provides that member of Public Employees Retirement System may not accrue pension benefits for future service.

OCCA Position: Under review

HB 4141

Summary: Requires governing board of each public university to establish Tuition Advisory Council to make recommendations regarding tuition and mandatory enrollment fees.

OCCA Position: Watch

Discussion: Relates to university tuition, but watching to make sure they do not make recommendations on community college tuition.

HJR 201

Summary: Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution to allow municipal corporations to use certain bonded indebtedness to finance capital costs of affordable housing, with certain limitations.

OCCA Position: Under review

HJR 202

Summary: Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution to allow state to incur general obligation indebtedness to finance costs associated with acquiring, improving, constructing, developing, remodeling, repairing, equipping or furnishing real or personal property, or planning therefor, or issuing grants or loans, in order to maintain or increase availability of affordable housing in this state.

OCCA Position: Under review

Discussion: We are watching to see if this is applicable to community college students.

2. February Budget Ask

John Wykoff gave an update on the February budget ask campaign. He said Ballot Measure 101 passed so we are moving forward with the \$32 million ask. We will have a community college lobby day on February 8. He also mentioned that we received information back from HECC about the allotment totals for each campus at various funding levels (\$32 and \$22 million). We will share this with the presidents and have more detailed information by lobby day.

Meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Next call is Monday, Feb 5 at 4 p.m.