

House Bill 2984

Sponsored by Representatives MCLAIN, EVANS, DRAZAN; Representatives OWENS, REARDON, Senator FREDERICK (at the request of Caddy McKeown)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires public institutions of higher education to award academic credit in each instance in which enrolled student completed high school class or participated in high school program that offered learning and experiences comparable to introductory communications, public speaking or argumentation course offered at institution.

Requires institution to award two academic credits to each student who participated in DECA program, FFA program or speech and debate program for two or three years while at high school.

Requires institution to award four academic credits to each student who participated in DECA program, FFA program or speech and debate program for four years while at high school. Prohibits institution from requiring these students to take introductory communications, public speaking or argumentation course offered at institution as prerequisite for taking more advanced courses at institution.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to academic credits at public institutions of higher education.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **“Certified by the student’s high school” means that a high school previously attended**
6 **by an incoming student enrolled at a public institution of higher education has certified, in**
7 **a manner determined by the Department of Education by rule, that the student has com-**
8 **pleted a specified number of years in a DECA program, FFA program or speech and debate**
9 **program.**

10 (b) **“DECA program” means a high school program that is affiliated with the national**
11 **DECA Inc. nonprofit corporation.**

12 (c) **“FFA program” means a high school program that is considered under ORS 327.910**
13 **to be an approved agriculture, science and technology program of study as a member of the**
14 **National FFA Organization.**

15 (d) **“Public institution of higher education” has the meaning given that term in ORS**
16 **350.350.**

17 (e) **“Speech and debate program” means a high school program that is affiliated with the**
18 **National Speech and Debate Association.**

19 (2) **An award of academic credit by a public institution of higher education under this**
20 **section must align with state statutes, rules, standards and requirements regarding the**
21 **transfer of academic credits to public institutions of higher education.**

22 (3)(a) **Each public institution of higher education shall award academic credit in each**
23 **instance in which an incoming student enrolled at the institution has completed high school**
24 **classes or participated in high school programs that offer learning and experiences compa-**
25 **table to an introductory communications, public speaking or argumentation course offered**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 at the public institution of higher education.

2 (b) A student who is certified by the student's high school as having completed a DECA
3 program, FFA program or speech and debate program for two or three academic years shall:

4 (A) Be considered to have fulfilled the requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of this
5 subsection; and

6 (B) Receive two academic credits at the public institution of higher education.

7 (c) A student who is certified by the student's high school as having completed a DECA
8 program, FFA program or speech and debate program for four academic years:

9 (A) Shall be considered to have fulfilled the requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of
10 this subsection;

11 (B) Shall receive four academic credits at the public institution of higher education; and

12 (C) May not be required by the public institution of higher education to take an intro-
13 ductory communications, public speaking or argumentation course offered at the public in-
14 stitution of higher education as a prerequisite to taking more advanced courses at the
15 institution.

16 (4) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the Department of Education
17 may enact rules necessary for the implementation of this section.

18 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2021 Act first applies to the 2022-2023 academic year.

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