

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

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Oregon State
University

2026 Legislative Session Summary

Budget Update

- No reductions to higher education
- \$42M for OSU-Cascades land remediation and construction of Health & Recreation Center

Policy Bills

- SB 1507: Partially disconnects from federal tax code
- SB 1538: Education discrimination
- HB 4079: Immigration enforcement notification
- HB 4138: LEAVA
- HB 4161: Public official receiving food and drink
- HB 4177: Public meeting law

- HB 4122: Student Government

Southern Oregon University

\$15M in a Special Appropriation Account for the purpose of supporting SOU with short-term financial stability.

Budget Note

- Requires HECC report to the Emergency Board no later than June 2026 on Southern Oregon University's updated financial modeling and operational plan to continue through June 30, 2027.
- SOU must collaborate with HECC to submit a report by April 30, 2026, that details the actions the university will take to ensure continued operations through June 30, 2027, including updated financial modeling demonstrating the institutions' ability to meet all obligations through June 30, 2027.
- Beginning May 2026, SOU must provide monthly financial statements, and an updated cash flow forecast on a quarterly basis summarize the operational status of the institution and identify any risks affecting contractual commitments and obligations to students.

Southern Oregon University (continued)

\$500,000 to HECC for SOU long-term financial sustainability plan

Budget Note

SOU shall collaborate with the HECC to develop a plan for future delivery of higher education in southern Oregon, without reliance on ongoing increases in state support. The plan must:

- Align existing and potential revenue sources with budgeted expenditures to achieve a balanced budget for the 2027-29 biennium and long-term structural fiscal balance;
- Identify programs and functions of the university that are both specifically meaningful to southern Oregon or the state and that are capable of sustained delivery; and
- Evaluate options for sustainability that may include partnership with other institutions or as part of an alternative higher education structure.

Oregon Higher Education Study

\$2,500,000 to HECC to conduct the study directed in HB 4124

HB 4124

Directs HECC to conduct a study of the condition of Oregon's post-secondary education system and to develop detailed recommendations for the design, implementation and operation of a viable and superior institutional framework. Preliminary report due on October 1, 2026 and final report on April 1, 2027.

QUESTIONS?



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