

HEATHER HADWICK

MEMBER FOR THE 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



FACT SHEET

AB 1555 – Allowing Nonresident Oregon Students to Enroll in College of the Siskiyous

IN BRIEF

College of the Siskiyous (CoS) sits on the California-Oregon border, serving community college students in the region who often work in one state and live in the other.

Assembly Bill 1555 allows the CoS to enroll Oregon students as in-state students.

Specifically, this bill authorizes the Siskiyou Joint Community College District to exempt up to 200 students residing in the Oregon counties of Jackson, Josephine, and Klamath from the nonresident tuition fee, counting them as resident full-time equivalent students under Proposition 98 for apportionment purposes.

BACKGROUND & ISSUE

Along the California-Oregon border, residents see themselves not as Californians or Oregonians, but as one cross-border community. Residents of this bi-state community in Siskiyou County interact daily with neighboring Oregon communities for work, healthcare, commerce, and education. Recent data indicates 90 percent of community college students go to college within 50 miles of their home.¹ The CoS provides workforce programs that South Oregon University and nearby colleges cannot meet.

Critical workforce shortages in healthcare, public safety, and natural resources sectors could be met by the CoS' enrollment of Oregon students in its Fire & Wildland, EMS/Paramedicine, Law Enforcement, and LVN/Nursing programs. Most notably, there is an alarming regional shortage of emergency medical training. Increasing enrollment in these programs would also support the Department

of Forestry and Fire Protection and boost California's climate resiliency. The region encompasses major California watersheds, critical habitat for endangered salmon, and agriculture that feeds the state. However, Oregon applicants face significantly higher costs due to nonresident tuition—often paying up to ten times more than California residents.

Current law already authorizes the Lake Tahoe Community College District to enroll an unlimited number of nonresident Nevada students in Lake Tahoe Community College as resident full-time equivalent students.

SOLUTION

Allowing the CoS to enroll nonresident Oregonian students as California resident full-time equivalent students will reflect the imperative role the college plays in regional workforce development in the state's funding formula for community colleges, as apportioned under Proposition 98.

AB 1555 will empower the region socioeconomically and draw Oregon students to California, supporting its critical healthcare, public safety, and natural resources sectors.

SUPPORT

Siskiyou Joint Community College District
(Sponsor)

CONTACT

Andrew Nickens
Andrew.Nickens@asm.ca.gov
(916) 319-2011

¹ https://ticas.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Hillman-Geography-of-Opportunity-Brief-2_2023.pdf