

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 4 - 1 - 0

Yeas: Bonamici, Metsger, Morse, Hass

Nays: Kruse

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/25, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prohibits student organization or its members from intentionally hazing potential members. Defines hazing. Defines student organization to include fraternity, sorority, athletic team, or other organization operating on a college, university, elementary, or secondary school campus to provide members an opportunity to participate in student activities. Applies to conduct occurring on or after effective date of the Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Group responsibility for individual acts
- Penalty for Class A and Class B violations
- Classification of acts as criminal only if committed by members of a designated organization
- Definition of student organization
- Current statutes prohibiting hazing

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure but for the applicability provision.

BACKGROUND: The term hazing is often used as a synonym for harassment or bullying. While hazing can involve many behaviors that would also characterize harassment and bullying, its definition is more specific and generally includes behavior that is humiliating, degrading, emotionally, and/or physically harmful. It is behavior that is expected in order to join or maintain one's full status in a group or membership organization and can occur regardless of an individual's willingness to participate.

Although hazing is often thought to exist primarily in fraternities and sororities, a 1999 study by Alfred University and the National Collegiate Athletic Association found that approximately 80 percent of college athletes had been subjected to some form of hazing. Half were required to participate in drinking contests or alcohol-related initiations while two-thirds were subjected to humiliating hazing. Additionally, much of the reported hazing in high schools occurs during initiations related to athletic teams with many problems arising during preseason sports camps.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.