

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Education

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Gretchen Engbring, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 2/26, 3/3, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires institutions of higher education to allow students, staff, and faculty to identify sexual orientation on forms used to collect demographic data. Requires institutions to make demographic data available to Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Requires commission to establish format and time frame for data collection and reporting, evaluate compliance, and report to Legislative Assembly. Requires institutions to allow enrolled students to use name other than legal name on campus records. Requires commission to assist institutions in implementing preferred first name policy.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of similar legislation in 2013
- Disproportionate challenges facing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students
- Data on LGBT campus community
- Institutional support and resources for LGBT campus community
- Reporting requirements of bill
- Technical issues with timely implementation

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

-3 amendments (proposed) modify instances in which higher educational institutions shall or may permit students to use preferred first names on campus records. Requires institutions to use legal first names on official transcript and enrollment verification documents. Remove community colleges from institutions required to allow students, staff, and faculty to identify sexual orientation on forms used to collect demographic data. Require HECC work with community college representatives to determine and report on methods for community colleges to administer collection of sexual orientation identification data and allow enrolled students to use preferred first names on certain college documents.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 2995 (2013) proposed that public universities, community colleges, or other institutions of higher education allow students, faculty, and staff to identify sexual orientation on forms used to collect demographic data. The bill passed through the house with 41 aye votes to 19 nay votes, but remained in the Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development upon adjournment.

Senate Bill 473 builds on House Bill 2995, requiring institutions of higher education including public universities and community colleges to allow students, staff, and faculty to identify sexual orientation on forms used to collect demographic data while additionally clarifying data collection and reporting requirements.

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