

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Education

**REVENUE: No revenue impact****FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Gretchen Engbring, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 5/7, 5/26

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to convene work group to analyze and make recommendations on how to address disparities in higher education among traditionally marginalized, underserved and underrepresented communities. Requires work group to submit report detailing analysis and recommendations to interim legislative committees on higher education by September 15, 2015. Sunsets work group on December 31, 2017. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Significant achievement gaps between majority and minority groups that need to be addressed
- Vastly different experiences and perceptions reported between majority groups and traditionally marginalized, underserved and underrepresented communities
- Disproportionate dropout rates for traditionally marginalized, underserved and underrepresented students
- Need for more cultural awareness and sensitivity among staff and faculty to both accommodate diverse students and better prepare all students for international or diverse work place
- Incidences of staff or faculty racially profiling or criminalizing students based on their race, ethnicity, or accents

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:** Disparities currently exist in higher education for groups and subgroups including: people of color, people with disabilities, individuals that are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, nontraditional students, students who formerly served in the Armed Forces of the United States, students whose parents did not attend college, and students whose first language is not English.

House Bill 3308-A directs HECC to convene a work group including students, faculty, staff, and administrators from Oregon's public universities and community colleges, to analyze and develop recommendations for addressing these disparities.