

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Senate Committee On Education****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 03/31/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments And Requesting Referral To Ways And Means.
(Printed A-Engrossed.)**Meeting Dates:** 02/26, 03/03, 03/31**Vote:**

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Gelsler, Hass, Roblan

Nays: 3 - Baertschiger Jr, Knopp, Kruse

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires public universities to allow students, faculty and staff to identify sexual orientation on forms used to collect demographic data. Requires public universities make demographic data available to Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Requires HECC to evaluate compliance, report to Legislative Assembly, and establish format and time frame for data collection and reporting. Requires universities to allow enrolled students to use preferred name other than legal name on campus records. Requires institutions to use legal first names on official transcript and enrollment verification documents. Requires commission to assist public universities in implementing preferred first name policy. Requires 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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

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

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Modifies 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. Removes community colleges from institutions required to allow students, staff, and faculty to identify sexual orientation on forms used to collect demographic data. Requires 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-A builds on House Bill 2995, requiring public universities 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. The bill further requires HECC to support community colleges in developing methods to administer the collection of sexual orientation identification data and to allow enrolled students to use their preferred first names on certain college documents.