

House Committee On Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/10/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/23, 04/10

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Gallegos, McKeown, Read, Reardon, Williamson

Nays: 4 - Hayden, Johnson, Nearman, Whisnant

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission 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:

- Challenges faced by minority students on college campuses in Oregon
- Unclear process for resolution of intimidation complaints
- Requirement at some institutions to confront professors as first step in complaint process
- Impact of unaddressed intimidation on student persistence among minority students

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Removes references to Oregon Health Authority. Changes sunset date from 2016 to 2017.

BACKGROUND:

Disparities currently exist in higher education for the following groups and subgroups: 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 the Higher Education Coordinating Commission 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.