

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Senate Committee On Education****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/21/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments And Requesting Referral To Ways And Means.
(Printed A-Engrossed.)**Meeting Dates:** 04/16, 04/21**Vote:**

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Gelser, Hass, Roblan

Nays: 3 - Baertschiger Jr, Knopp, Kruse

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires institutions of higher education pay specified percent of health care premiums for qualifying part-time faculty members and their dependents. Specifies that each public institution shall pay a prorated share of premium based on proportion of hours part-time faculty member worked for institution if faculty member works at more than one institution.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Large numbers of faculty who work part-time at multiple institutions
- Challenges faced by part-time faculty trying to access benefits
- High costs of health premiums to part-time faculty
- Necessity of adequate state funding to support universities and colleges
- Inequity in access to benefits amongst different employee categories
- Recent increases in numbers of adjunct faculty

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

According to the American Association of University Professors, more than 50 percent of all faculty hold part-time appointments. Though many “part-time” faculty work the equivalent of full-time, but at multiple institutions, many do not have access to health insurance or other benefits.

ORS 351.704 regulates health care benefits for part-time faculty and currently requires that part-time faculty members at public institutions of higher education pay all insurance premiums for health care benefits, unless otherwise provided for by the policy of the institution or by collective bargaining at the institution.

Senate Bill 702-A proposes to amend ORS 351.704 to require that a faculty member employed on a part-time basis by more than one public institution of higher education be considered a full-time employee if the aggregate total of all hours worked at public institutions of higher education by the faculty member in the prior year is equivalent to at least 30 hours per week.