

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/13/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 05/04, 05/13

Vote:

Yeas: 8 - Gallegos, Hayden, Johnson, Nearman, Read, Reardon, Whisnant, Williamson

Exc: 1 - McKeown

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires public universities, community colleges and Oregon-based private universities and colleges to adopt written protocols for responding to sexual assault involving student, faculty or staff. Protocols are to be posted on institutional website and distributed to students at orientation. Requires protocols ensure that victims who report sexual assault are provided with written notification containing information on their rights, legal options, campus-based services and state- and community-based resources.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Devastating impacts of sexual violence involving college students
- Current practices of universities and colleges to address incidents of sexual violence
- Potential liability of institutions for actions of unrelated persons
- Clarification that only requirement is for development and distribution of written protocol, not provisions of services to victims

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Expands applicability beyond university facilities to apply in all cases involving students, faculty and staff of the institution regardless of location of the assault. Adds requirement that written protocol be made available to students during orientation and on university website.

BACKGROUND:

Out of 5,446 women surveyed for the 2007 Campus Sexual Assault Study by the National Institute of Justice, 28.5 percent reported having experienced an attempted or completed sexual assault either before or since entering college. Of the women surveyed, 19 percent reported experiencing completed or attempted sexual assault since entering college, a slightly larger percentage than those experiencing such incidents before entering college.

Senate Bill 759-B requires public universities, community colleges and Oregon-based private universities and colleges to adopt a written protocol regarding sexual assault. The protocol is to be posted on the institution's website, distributed to incoming students at orientation and provided to anyone reporting a sexual assault involving a member of the university community, regardless of where the assault takes place. Additionally, Senate Bill 759-B requires that the protocol adopted ensure that victims who report sexual assaults are provided with written notification containing information on their rights, legal options, campus-based, state and community-based resources.