

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Fiscal: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates:

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct evaluation on providing tuition waiver for students at community colleges and public universities who are pursuing mathematics-related degrees. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Tuition prices have reportedly increased 58 percent at public community colleges and 72 percent at public four-year institutions nationally over the last decade (see College Board's *Trends in College Pricing*). States are increasingly exploring the affordability of postsecondary education institutions and enacting laws to provide increased access to affordable opportunities. Two prominent examples include Senate Bill 81 (2015), the "Oregon Promise," and Tennessee's "Promise Scholarship" program (HB 2491). Both bills allow qualifying residents to attend community colleges with their tuition waived.

Senate Bill 1540 would direct the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct evaluation on providing tuition waiver for students at community colleges and public universities who are pursuing mathematics-related degrees, and would require a report to the Legislature no later than January 15, 2017.