

HB 2666 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates: 3/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires community college boards to collect mandatory incidental fees upon request of the recognized student government. Allows student government to establish process in consultation with the board, and specifies process may include a student body referendum. Authorizes student government to allocate mandatory incidental fees. Allows community college boards or presidents to refuse a mandatory incidental fee, use of the fee, or decision to modify an existing fee if fee assessment or allocation is in violation of local, state and federal law, if allocation conflicts with a preexisting contractual financial commitment, if the total mandatory incidental fees budget would increase more than 5 percent over previous year, or if the fee request is not advantageous to the cultural or physical development of students. Specifies board or president refusal may not be based on considerations about the point of view the funding seeks to advance. Requires student government and board to seek to reach agreement on any dispute involving mandatory incidental fees prior to board decision, using mediation if needed. Establishes process to appeal board decision if agreement cannot be reached. Allows student government to appeal decision to Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) within seven days of board decision. Requires board to submit response to HECC within seven days of appeal. Requires HECC to render decision within seven days of board response receipt.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

Incidental fees are mandatory, non-academic fees paid by all students taking on-campus courses at Oregon post-secondary institutions. Rates vary by institution, and are assessed quarterly to each student. These fees typically fund student programs such as educational and cultural activities, recreational sports, student involvement, student union operations and student government.

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3120, which pertained to public universities and mandatory incidental fees. The language of House Bill 2666 (2017) is nearly identical to the language of House Bill 3120 (2013), except that the changes pertain to community colleges.