

SB 1032 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/30, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes \$10 million cap on Oregon Promise grants per fiscal year. Reduces the amount a person receives by \$50 for each term the person receives a grant.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Allows students who were unable to meet the timeline for enrollment in the Oregon Promise Program because they were either officers in a agricultural student organization approved by the Oregon Department of Education or experienced a significant hardship to maintain their eligibility for the program.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Promise program was created by Senate Bill 81 (2015). For students meeting certain eligibility requirements, the program offsets tuition remaining after deducting state or federal grants and a \$50 co-pay. SB 55 reduces the amount by \$50 in lieu of the person's \$50 co-pay. According to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), in the program's first year, 19,223 students applied for the program. Nearly 14,000 were eligible, and of those students, 10,816 had a valid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form on file. On those FAFSA forms, 10,459 students listed at least one Oregon community college, making them eligible for an award, though only 6,634 are estimated to have received an award.