

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: SB 231 - A

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Establishes Task Force on Student Mental Health Support.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), Legislative Assembly, Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Analysis:

Senate Bill 231 establishes the 15-member Task Force on Student Mental Health Support charged with examining the impact of mental health issues and substance abuse disorders on college recruitment, retention, and graduation. The bill takes effect on the 91st day after the end of the 2017 legislative session. The task force sunsets on December 31, 2018.

Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)

The fiscal impact of this bill on HECC is indeterminate depending on the scope of work undertaken by the task force. HECC is required to provide staff support to the task force. Although HECC anticipates reprioritizing the duties and responsibilities of existing staff to facilitate and to attend task force meetings, as well as to prepare the report to the legislature, the agency may need additional staff resources if the work of the task force requires significant data collection, research, and analysis. In addition, the bill allows the task force to consult experts and conduct research as necessary. Assuming the task force will meet from October 2017 until December 2018, the agency estimates the staffing and related costs of supporting the task force could range from \$13,176 to \$299,242 depending on workload and consulting needs.

Members of the task force must include one faculty and one counselor from a university, as well as one faculty and one counselor from a community college. This fiscal assumes that the appointed university and community college will reprioritize duties and responsibilities of existing staff to allow participation on the task force.

Legislative Assembly

The bill specifies that non-legislative members of the task force serve as volunteers and are not entitled to compensation and reimbursement. However, four members of the task force will be legislative members who are entitled to per diem and travel reimbursement. Although the 2017-19 Legislative Assembly budget contains funds allocated for interim committee and task force, if the work required by this task force, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2017-19 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required. The task force would not incur additional costs to the Legislative Assembly budget if the meetings are held at the Capitol building during Legislative Session, Task force or Legislative Days.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Passage of this bill is anticipated to have minimal impact on OHA. The agency is required to appoint a representative to serve as a member of the task force. This fiscal assumes OHA will reprioritize duties and responsibilities of existing staff to allow participation on the task force.