

HB 2666 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires community college boards to collect mandatory student-initiated fees upon request of the recognized student government. Defines mandatory student-initiated fee as fees that:

- are initiated by recognized student government of community college;
- students are required to pay in addition to tuition fees;
- are collected by board of community college; and
- are allocated by recognized student government of community college.

Allows student governments to establish collection processes in consultation with boards, and authorizes student governments to allocate mandatory incidental fees. Clarifies that a board may require a campus referendum in which the student body votes on whether to approve the fee. Stipulates that if fee is rejected by a student body in a referendum, the recognized student government may not request another mandatory student-initiated fee for remainder of academic year. Allows community college president to refuse a mandatory student-initiated 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 student-initiated fees budget would increase by a percentage that is greater than the percentage increase in tuition and other fees approved by board for upcoming academic year, or if the fee request is not advantageous to the cultural or physical development of students. Requires student government and president seek to reach agreement on any dispute involving mandatory student-initiated fees, if necessary with aid of a process established by board, prior to a decision by the president. Allows student government to appeal the decision of the president to community college board. Authorizes board to render final decision prior to adoption, use or modification of a mandatory student-initiated fee.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Recognized student governments at public universities currently have a mandatory student-initiated fee process, and recognized student governments at community colleges do not have a similar, uniform process
- Student ability to choose to request fee increases for student services
- Clarification that student body support is needed in order to raise fees

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

Student-initiated 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 Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 3120, which established a process for public university boards to collect mandatory incidental fees upon request of the recognized student government. The language of HB2666 (2017) is similar to the language of HB3120 (2013), with the major difference being that HB 2666 pertains to community colleges.