

SB 55 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/2

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.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

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.