

SB 55 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/14/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Gelser, Hass, Kruse, Linthicum, Roblan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) to award more than \$10 million per fiscal year during the biennium that ends on June 30, 2017. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Automation of students' co-pays
- Schools attended by participants
- Participant demographics
- Student experiences
- Students with individual education plans (IEPs)
- Minimum and maximum awards
- Elimination of the \$50 co-pay
- Elimination of the grade point average requirement
- Completion rates
- Job placement statistics
- Oregon's increasing filing rate for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the original bill.

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-A 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.