

HB 2565 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Witt

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

Action Date: 02/21/17

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Alonso Leon, Bynum, Clem, Heard, Johnson, Reardon, Reschke, Sollman, Whisnant

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies priority enrollment system to offer course registration to continuing, qualified students prior to continuing, non-qualified students within the same credit-year classification. Requires public universities and community colleges to accommodate priority registration for new, qualified students as practicable pursuant to institutional orientation requirements.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Veteran barriers to obtaining a post-secondary degree
- Importance of veteran priority for course registration
- Report on institutional implementation of priority registration under House Bill 2645 (2015)
- Current law offers priority registration for only first term of veteran attendance
- Importance of priority registration for upper division coursework

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In the 2015 legislative session, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed a law (House Bill 2645) that required public universities to establish a priority enrollment system for active members of the Armed Forces, veterans and eligible dependents (“qualified students”). The law also required that community colleges with an existing priority enrollment system, for other types of students, establish a priority system for these qualified students. The law gave qualified students who had completed new student orientation requirements priority registration over: 1) qualified students who had not completed new student orientation requirements, and 2) not qualified students who were registering for the first time, regardless whether new student orientation requirements had been completed. In effect, this law gave registration priority to qualified students for only the first quarter of their first school year since the system was based on new student orientation requirements. The law took effect on September 15, 2016.

It has been five months since implementation, and Oregon students and universities report that the statutory change has had a smaller impact than 2015 proponents had desired, particularly since the prioritization only affects registration for a student’s first quarter of classes.