

SB 231 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 03/20/17

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

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Knopp, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on Student Mental Health Support. Directs task force to investigate impact of mental health issues and substance abuse disorders on college education, including recruitment, retention, and program completion. Requires task force to submit report to interim committee of the Legislative Assembly relating to higher education by July 1, 2018. Sunsets December 31, 2018. Takes effect 91st day after *sine die*.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Student mental health needs on college campuses
- Level of need for new mental health resources on college campuses
- Conflicting data on campus resources for student mental health needs
- Best practices by colleges addressing student mental health needs

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Modifies task force membership. Requires task force to investigate substance abuse disorders in addition to mental health issues. Replaces emergency clause with effective date 91st day after *sine die*.

BACKGROUND:

Mental health issues are growing concerns on college campuses that can impact student recruitment, retention, and program completion in addition to student well-being. The American Psychological Association reports that in recent years, there have been sharp increases in the number of severe psychological problems being addressed at college counseling centers around the country. Some college students do not discover a mental health issue until after starting school, and mental health issues contribute to many students doing poorly or not successfully completing college programs. Oregon's colleges and universities have differing programs and resources available for students with mental health needs.

Senate Bill 231-A establishes the Task Force on Student Mental Health Support and requires that the task force investigate how mental health issues and substance abuse disorders impact college students, including in the areas of student recruitment, retention, and program completion. The measure requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to provide staff support for the task force, and requires the task force to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly that relates to higher education by July 1, 2018.