

HB 3288 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

Carrier: Rep. Whisnant

Action Date: 04/18/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

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:

Requires each public institution of higher education to submit report to Joint Committee on Ways and Means as part of institution's budget presentation during each odd-numbered year regular legislative session. Specifies each report must identify legislative mandates imposed on institutions, impact of legislative mandates on costs of higher education at institution, causes of increase in administrative positions occurring at institution and actions taken at institution to monitor and control cost drivers. Requires institutions to submit first report during 2019 Legislative Assembly.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of legislative actions on cost of higher education and student debt burden
- Clarification that report requirement is intended for public universities, not community colleges

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Many studies have investigated potential cost drivers for accelerating student tuition figures. Commonly cited reasons for the increased costs of higher education include trends in college and university administrative costs, faculty workload and remuneration, construction and renovation of facilities and technology, impact of federal, state and local laws, regulations or other requirements, state investments in institutions, financial aid program impacts, a culture of prioritizing increased quality and services over tuition reduction, increased expectations for college experience amenities, increased competition for students and expanding geographic recruitment areas.

The National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education, a bipartisan, independent advisory body to Congress and the President, produced a 1998 report and recommended analysis of trends in college and university administrative costs that includes administrative staffing, ratio of administrative staff to instructors or students and remuneration of administrative staff and institution presidents.