

HB 3288 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Kruse

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 06/01/17

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

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

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires public universities to submit reports to Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) by January 1 of each odd-numbered year listing imposed legislative mandates, impact of mandates on costs, causes of increase in administrative positions, and actions taken to monitor and control cost drivers. Requires HECC to compile a unified report and submit report during its biennial budget presentation to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. Takes effect January 1, 2019.

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:

Amends the legislative declaration. Requires public universities to submit reports to HECC by January 1 of each odd-numbered year listing imposed legislative mandates, impact of those mandates on costs, causes of increase in administrative positions, and actions taken to monitor and control cost drivers. Requires HECC to compile a unified report and submit the report during its budget presentation to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. Takes effect January 1, 2019.

BACKGROUND:

Commonly cited reasons for the increased cost 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.