

HB 4141 A -A8 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires each public university to have an advisory body to the university president that provides advice on tuition and mandatory enrollment fees for the upcoming academic year for the president's recommendations to the governing board. Specifies advisory body membership. Requires public universities to: establish a process to form the advisory board and its membership; create a written document describing the role and relationships of the advisory body; ensure the advisory body receives certain budget trainings; provide the advisory body with certain plans; and ensure that the process of establishing tuition and mandatory enrollment fees is described on the university website. Requires the advisory board to: document its consideration of whether historically underserved students will be better served under different tuition and mandatory enrollment fee scenarios; provide meaningful opportunities for members of the recognized student government and other enrolled students to participate in the process and deliberations of the advisory body; and to provide a written report to the university president that sets forth the recommendations, deliberations, and observations of the advisory body regarding tuition and mandatory enrollment fees for the next academic year, including any minority reports. Requires the governing board receive and consider all advisory body written reports and minority reports. Requires public universities provide all advisory body written reports, including minority reports, and any other information or materials requested by the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) if the institution request that the HECC approve an increase in tuition and mandatory enrollment fees of more than five percent. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Student participation in the tuition establishment process
- University bond rating concerns
- Student and university collaboration
- Additional amendments anticipated in the Senate
- State funding relationship with tuition and affordability

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A8 Narrows bill to considerations of resident tuition and mandatory enrollment fees. Defines resident tuition and mandatory enrollment fees as the tuition and mandatory enrollment fees for undergraduate students who are enrolled in a degree program and have established residency in Oregon. Adds requirement that advisory body document its consideration of the impact of its recommendation on the mission of the public university.

BACKGROUND:

Under ORS 352.102, the governing boards of Oregon public universities are allowed to authorize, establish, and collect tuition and mandatory enrollment fees up to a five percent annual increase. For proposed annual tuition and mandatory enrollment fee increases of more than five percent, a governing board is required to obtain approval from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) or the Legislative Assembly. Governing boards are required to provide for the participation of enrolled students and the recognized student government as they consider annual tuition and mandatory enrollment fee amounts.

The HECC was established in 2011, and vested with its current authorities in 2013. In May 2017, the HECC approved tuition increases at Southern Oregon University (11.4 percent), Western Oregon University (7.5 percent), and the Oregon Institute of Technology (7.4 percent), and rejected proposals from Portland State University (8.3 percent) and This Summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

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the University of Oregon (10.6 percent). Following additional hearings, the HECC reversed its decisions and approved the Portland State University and University of Oregon proposals.

House Bill 4141 A would require each public university to have an advisory body related to tuition and mandatory enrollment fee recommendations, and to provide the HECC all advisory body written reports and minority reports if the university submits a proposal for an increase of more than five percent.