

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Establishes Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education. Directs task force to develop student success policy proposals focusing on increasing likelihood of student success in higher education for students from populations that are underrepresented in higher education enrollment.

Sunsetts task force on December 31, 2021.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to underrepresented students at public post-secondary institutions
3 of education; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Student Success for Underrep-**
6 **resented Students in Higher Education is established.**

7 **(2) The task force consists of eight members appointed as follows:**

8 **(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint four members from**
9 **among members of the Senate.**

10 **(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four**
11 **members from among members of the House of Representatives.**

12 **(3) The task force shall visit public post-secondary institutions of**
13 **education in this state for the purpose of meeting with students from**
14 **populations that are underrepresented in the student bodies of these**
15 **institutions, including students who:**

16 **(a) Qualify as an underrepresented person as defined in ORS 342.120;**

17 **(b) Qualify as diverse as defined in ORS 342.433;**

18 **(c) Are from rural communities in this state;**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (d) Are from low-income families; and

2 (e) Have physical disabilities or learning disabilities.

3 (4) Based on conversations with students described in subsection (3)
4 of this section, the task force shall develop student success policy
5 proposals for the 2021 regular session of the Legislative Assembly.
6 Policy proposals developed under this section shall focus on increasing
7 the likelihood of student success in higher education for students de-
8 scribed in subsection (3) of this section by addressing:

9 (a) Access, including student admissions, placement and funding;

10 (b) Retention, including student support, student services, increased
11 diversity of faculty, housing needs, food insecurity, child care costs,
12 health care costs, mental health care access and counseling;

13 (c) Graduation, including graduation timelines, career counseling,
14 career planning and the level of debt incurred by students; and

15 (d) Entry into the workforce, including internships, job and career
16 placement, the correlation between degrees received and jobs entered
17 into and the correlation between the amount a student pays for a de-
18 gree and the salary received by the student upon graduation.

19 (5) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quo-
20 rum for the transaction of business.

21 (6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a ma-
22 jority of the members of the task force.

23 (7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chair-
24 person.

25 (8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority
26 shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

27 (9) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the
28 call of the chairperson or of a majority of the members of the task
29 force.

30 (10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of
31 the task force.

1 (11) In addition to the tasks described in subsections (3) and (4) of
2 this section, the task force may pre-session file legislation in the
3 manner provided in ORS 171.130 for interim committees. All legislation
4 recommended by official action of the task force must indicate that
5 it is introduced at the request of the task force.

6 (12) The task force shall report its findings and any student success
7 policy proposals developed under this section to the Legislative As-
8 sembly in the manner provided in ORS 192.245 no later than December
9 15, 2020.

10 (13) The Legislative Policy and Research Director may employ per-
11 sons necessary for the performance of the functions of the task force.
12 The Legislative Policy and Research Director shall fix the duties and
13 amounts of compensation of the employees. The task force shall use
14 the services of continuing legislative staff, without employing addi-
15 tional persons, to the greatest extent practicable.

16 (14) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are
17 directed to assist the task force in the performance of the duties of the
18 task force and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to
19 confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the
20 task force consider necessary to perform their duties.

21 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2020 Act is repealed on December 31,
22 2021.

23 SECTION 3. This 2020 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-
24 ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-
25 clared to exist, and this 2020 Act takes effect on its passage.