SB 794 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To:	Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Meeting Dates:	3/11, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires forms used to collect demographic information by community colleges and public universities to include a question allowing students to identify as a parent. Requires institutions to provide data to HECC. Establishes data collection and reporting requirements. Requires HECC to provide progress report and available parent data during each regular session of the Legislative Assembly. Authorizes HECC to adopt rules. First applies to the 2020-2021 academic year.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need to gather more data on student parents;
- Data-driven decision making;
- Child care expenses;
- Increasing number of student parents at community colleges and public universities;
- Lower college graduation rates of student parents;
- Using data to provide better services to student parents;
- Lack of adequate student parent data under current system;
- Student parents' time constraints and attendance issues;
- Lack of awareness of available services, such as child care subsidies;
- Second-generation impact of earning college degree.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Adds legal guardian. Eliminates requirement that all forms used to collect demographic data allow students to identify as parent. Requires at least one form used on an annual basis to collect demographic data allow students to identify as parent or legal guardian. Removes requirement that HECC identify full demographic data of parent, including ethnicity and income.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon has 17 community colleges and seven public universities, serving over 450,000 students each year. In Oregon, public universities are governed by institutional governing boards, and community colleges are governed by locally-elected district boards. At the state level, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) coordinates policy related to Oregon's public universities and community colleges, including collecting statewide data on student demographics such as gender, race, ethnicity and first-generation status. Senate Bill 794 requires statewide demographic data to include students identifying as parents.

PRELIMINARY