

HB 2519 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/13, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires each university and college who receives state financial aid shall adopt written policy on hazing and provide on-campus training. Requires universities and colleges report to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission no later than September 1 of each calendar year. Requires HECC report to the Legislative Assembly no later than December 31 each calendar year.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Providing clarification on types of universities and colleges the reporting requirement would apply toward
- Definition of hazing and implications of legal definition
- Interest in educating students on hazing and work provided by Oregon State University on hazing prevention

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires each institution of higher education adopt written policy on hazing and provide annual on-campus policy training for students that sets forth harmful effects of hazing and laws and institutional policies prohibiting hazing. Requires report be submitted no later than December 31 of each calendar year that identifies number of hazing incidents reported and investigated by institution. Defines "haze" as meaning given in ORS 163.197 and defines institutions of higher education, as specified.

BACKGROUND:

Hazing is defined in Oregon law (ORS 163.197) as a student organization or a member of a student organization that hazes any member intentionally as a condition or precondition of attaining membership in the organization or attaining office/status. The law prevents any consent to being hazed as a defense. Haze is defined as subjecting an individual to whipping, beating, striking, branding or electronic shocking, to place a harmful substance on an individual's body, or to subject an individual to other similar forms of physical brutality. It is also defined as to compel an individual to consume food, liquid, alcohol, cannabis, controlled substances, or other substances that subject them to unreasonable risk of harm affecting the physical health or safety of the individual. Student organizations are defined as fraternity, sorority, athletic team, or other organization that is organized or operating on a college, university or elementary or secondary school campus for the purpose of providing members an opportunity to participate in student activities.

House Bill 2519 requires each university and college who receives state financial aid adopt a written policy on hazing and provide on-campus training. They must report this information to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.