SB 958 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By:	Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst
Sub-Referral To:	Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Meeting Dates:	3/20, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Dreamers Access Program to provide state-funded loans to Oregon public university students who are exempt from paying nonresident tuition and fees under ORS 352.287. Establishes application, eligibility and loan requirements. Establishes maximum loan amount of $10,000 per year and a total of $50,000. Requires public universities to provide loan counseling. Directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to establish interest rates, as specified. Establishes Dreamers Access Program Fund to receive loan repayments, state appropriations, and funds from other sources. Permits HECC to require public universities to provide additional loans, grades, transcripts or diploma if student defaults on loan. Establishes tracking, recording and reporting requirements. Requires program meet the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act and other applicable laws. Requires HECC to report annually to legislature, starting no later than December 1, 2022. Authorizes HECC to adopt rules. First applies to loans for the 2020-2021 academic year. Effective 91st day after sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Tuition Equity
- College retention rates for undocumented students
- Access to loan programs for undocumented students
- Social security numbers and credit reporting
- Eligibility for federal financial aid
- Equality of college access
- Default loan rates for undocumented population
- Financial hardships of undocumented college students
- Accountability for loan repayment
- Self-supporting loan program
- Administration and structure of loan program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure.

Establishes the Dreamers Access Program to provide state-funded loans to students who attend Oregon public universities or Oregon Health and Science University and who are exempt from paying nonresident tuition and fees under ORS 352.287. Establishes application, eligibility, and loan requirements. Establishes maximum loan amount for undergraduate and graduate students, as specified. Directs HECC to establish interest rates, as specified. Establishes Dreamers Access Program Fund to receive loan repayments, state appropriations, and funds from other sources. Establishes tracking, recording, and reporting requirements. Requires program meet the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act and other applicable laws. Directs HECC to establish application, eligibility, and loan requirements by rule. Permits HECC to submit loan defaults to collections unit of the Department of Revenue and report them to consumer reporting agency. Requires HECC to provide a biennial report to Legislative Assembly, starting no later than December 1, 2022. Establishes report requirements. Authorizes HECC to adopt

PRELIMINARY

rules. First applies to loans for the 2020-2021 academic year. Effective 91st day after sine die.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, the legislature passed House Bill 2782 permitting undergraduate students who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents to pay in-state tuition and fees at Oregon public universities. The legislation is commonly referred to as tuition equity. To qualify, a student must attend an Oregon elementary or high school for three years immediately prior to graduating or leaving school without a diploma, attend an elementary or high school in the United States or territory five years immediately prior to graduating or leaving school without a diploma, earn an Oregon high school diploma or equivalent, and demonstrate intent to become a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident. HECC reports that in 2017-2018 approximately 250 undergraduate students qualified for in-state tuition and fees under tuition equity provisions. Students who are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents are not eligible for federal student loan programs. Senate Bill 953 creates a state loan program for students who meet the requirements for tuition equity in Oregon.

PRELIMINARY