SB 794 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Gelser

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date:	03/27/19
Action:	Do pass with amendments and requesting subsequent referral to Ways and Means be rescinded. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote:	4-0-1-0
Yeas:	4 - Gelser, Hass, Thomsen, Wagner
Exc:	1 - Heard
Fiscal:	Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	3/11, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires public universities and community colleges to allow students to identify as a parent or legal guardian for demographic purposes on forms, as specified. Requires institutions to provide data to Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Establishes data collection and reporting requirements. Requires HECC to provide progress report to Legislative Assembly, as specified. 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:

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 to 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 state higher education policies, including collecting statewide data on student demographics such as gender, race, ethnicity, and first-generation status. Senate Bill 794 A requires public universities and community colleges to collect data on students who identify as parents or guardians.