

HB 2519 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Doherty

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/01/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Alonso Leon, Doherty, Helt, Neron, Reardon, Reschke, Sollman, Wallan

Exc: 1 - Hernandez

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Alethia Miller, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/13, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires each institution of higher education adopt written policy on hazing. Defines institution of higher education as community college, university or college operating in the state and offers baccalaureate degree programs and enrolls students receiving financial aid. Requires institutions to provide annual on-campus policy training for students that identifies harmful effects of hazing, relevant laws, and institutional policies prohibiting hazing. Requires each institution of higher education report to the Legislative Assembly no later than December 31 of each calendar year identifying number of hazing incidents reported and investigated by institution. Defines "haze" as meaning given in ORS 163.197.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Types of universities and colleges subject to the reporting requirement
- 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:

Replaces measure.

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 individuals to other similar forms of physical brutality. Hazing also includes compelling an individual to consume food, liquid, alcohol, cannabis, controlled substances, or other substances that subject them to unreasonable risk of harm and 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 A requires each community college, university and college offering baccalaureate degree programs and enrolling students receiving financial aid, to adopt a written policy on hazing, and provide on-campus training. They must report this information to the Legislative Assembly no later than December 31.