

**HB 4055 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Education**

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**Prepared By:** Alethia Miller, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/5, 2/12

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to conduct a study on the prevalence of food and housing insecurity and develop recommendations for Oregon community colleges and public universities. Specifies data solicitation required by the HECC. Establishes components the HECC, or entity designated or hired by the HECC, shall include in the report. Requires the report be submitted to the interim legislative committee responsible for higher education by December 15, 2020. Repeals reporting requirement on December 31, 2021. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- State policies that raise price of food
- Price of food contributing to food insecurity

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice surveyed 86,000 students at 123 colleges and universities in 24 states. The survey found that 47 percent of community college students and 42 percent of university students were food insecure in the 30 days preceding the survey. The survey also found that students with food insecurity were more likely to have lower grades than other students. Oregon universities and colleges have responded to food insecurity by providing various items: a campus food pantry, a harvest share free food market, food packages, and meal swipe donation programs.