

HB 4146 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/10/20

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Alonso Leon, Bonham, Doherty, Helt, Hernandez, Neron, Reardon, Sollman

Exc: 1 - Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Alethia Miller, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/5, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that part-time faculty members at public institutions of higher education who qualify for health care benefits will pay 10 percent of insurance premiums for employee coverage. Requires the state to pay for the remaining costs of insurance premiums for health benefit plans out of the moneys appropriated to the Oregon Educators Benefit Board (Board). Allows the Board to adopt rules for implementation, including which plans are offered and their selection. Permits institutions to agree through either institution policy or collective bargaining to pay portion of health care benefits paid for by employee. Prevents institutions from increasing the eligibility requirements that must be met for part-time faculty to be eligible for health benefit plans. Requires institutions continue to provide comparable health care benefits to part-time faculty who are not eligible for benefit plans. Provides that any savings realized by institutions are subject to collective bargaining. Establishes Part-Time Faculty Insurance Fund (Fund) in the State Treasury. Allows interest earned to be credited to the Fund. Appropriates money from the General Fund to the Oregon Educators Benefit Board beginning July 1, 2019. Applies to health benefit plans offered to part-time faculty members on or after October 1, 2020. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reasons why universities and colleges use adjunct faculty
- Budgetary issues in post-secondary institutions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, each community college and public university calculates whether part-time faculty members' hours make them eligible for health care benefits under ORS 350.355. Institutions may calculate this by reviewing classroom instruction hours, research hours, paid committee hours, and other required duties. Others review employment status, teaching versus teaching and research, and position descriptions.

House Bill 4146 provides part-time faculty members at public institutions who qualify for employee health coverage to pay 10 percent of insurance premiums and requires the state to pay the remaining costs out of moneys appropriated to the Oregon Educators Benefits Board.