

HB 2590 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Kim To, Fiscal Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes an eight-member Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education charged with visiting public post-secondary institutions of education in Oregon to meet with prospective, current, and former students from underrepresented populations, as well as faculty who support these students. Based on these meetings, the Task Force is directed to develop student success policy and funding proposals for the 2023 legislative session. The measure authorizes the Task Force to create one or more subcommittees to advise the Task Force. The measure requires the Task Force to report its findings and proposals to the Legislative Assembly by December 15, 2022. The Task Force sunsets on December 31, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law defines people who are underrepresented or diverse as people who identify as Black, Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian, Alaskan Native, or whose first language is not English. According to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, the share of students from these communities at public universities and community colleges has grown each year.

House Bill 2590 charges a task force with visiting public universities and community colleges to meet with students from populations that are underrepresented in student bodies as compared to Oregon's population. These groups are specified as people who are underrepresented as defined in ORS 342.120, people who are diverse as defined in ORS 342.433, people from rural communities in Oregon, people from low-income families, experience disabilities, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, intersex, asexual, nonbinary, or other gender identity or sexual orientation, are undocumented, and have been in foster care.