

# House Bill 2590

Sponsored by Representative ALONSO LEON, Senators DEMBROW, WAGNER; Representative HERNANDEZ, Senators FREDERICK, GOLDEN (Presession filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education. Directs task force to develop student success policy proposals focusing on increasing likelihood of student success in higher education for students from populations that are underrepresented in higher education enrollment.

Sunsets task force on December 31, 2023.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to underrepresented students at public post-secondary institutions of education; and de-  
3 claring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in**  
6 **Higher Education is established.**

7 **(2) The task force consists of eight members appointed as follows:**

8 **(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint four members from among members of the**  
9 **Senate.**

10 **(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members from among**  
11 **members of the House of Representatives.**

12 **(3) The task force shall visit public post-secondary institutions of education in this state**  
13 **for the purpose of meeting with students from populations that are underrepresented in the**  
14 **student bodies of these institutions, including students who:**

15 **(a) Qualify as an underrepresented person as defined in ORS 342.120;**

16 **(b) Qualify as diverse as defined in ORS 342.433;**

17 **(c) Are from rural communities in this state;**

18 **(d) Are from low-income families; and**

19 **(e) Have physical disabilities or learning disabilities.**

20 **(4) Based on conversations with students described in subsection (3) of this section, the**  
21 **task force shall develop student success policy proposals for the 2023 regular session of the**  
22 **Legislative Assembly. Policy proposals developed under this section shall focus on increasing**  
23 **the likelihood of student success in higher education for students described in subsection (3)**  
24 **of this section by addressing:**

25 **(a) Access, including student admissions, placement and funding;**

26 **(b) Retention, including student support, student services, increased diversity of faculty,**  
27 **housing needs, food insecurity, child care costs, health care costs, mental health care access**  
28 **and counseling;**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (c) Graduation, including graduation timelines, career counseling, career planning and  
2 the level of debt incurred by students; and

3 (d) Entry into the workforce, including internships, job and career placement, the cor-  
4 relation between degrees received and jobs entered into and the correlation between the  
5 amount a student pays for a degree and the salary received by the student upon graduation.

6 (5) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction  
7 of business.

8 (6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members  
9 of the task force.

10 (7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

11 (8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-  
12 ment to become immediately effective.

13 (9) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson  
14 or of a majority of the members of the task force.

15 (10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

16 (11) In addition to the tasks described in subsections (3) and (4) of this section, the task  
17 force may pre-session file legislation in the manner provided in ORS 171.130 for interim  
18 committees. All legislation recommended by official action of the task force must indicate  
19 that it is introduced at the request of the task force.

20 (12) The task force shall report its findings and any student success policy proposals de-  
21 veloped under this section to the Legislative Assembly in the manner provided in ORS 192.245  
22 no later than December 15, 2022.

23 (13) The Legislative Policy and Research Director may employ persons necessary for the  
24 performance of the functions of the task force. The Legislative Policy and Research Director  
25 shall fix the duties and amounts of compensation of the employees. The task force shall use  
26 the services of continuing legislative staff, without employing additional persons, to the  
27 greatest extent practicable.

28 (14) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist  
29 the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted  
30 by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task  
31 force consider necessary to perform their duties.

32 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2021 Act is repealed on December 31, 2023.

33 **SECTION 3.** This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
34 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect  
35 on its passage.

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