

SB 1572 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Gorsek**Senate Committee On Education****Action Date:** 02/10/22**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 4-0-1-0**Yeas:** 4 - Dembrow, Gelser Blouin, Gorsek, Thomsen**Exc:** 1 - Robinson**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Matthew Perreault, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 2/8, 2/10**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Adds public universities and community colleges to list of employers that must provide full-time teachers and school nurses with information regarding the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. Specifies qualifications for full-time employment at a public university or community college. Allows for collective bargaining agreements to increase calculation of full-time employment. Applies provisions retroactively to September 25, 2021. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Financial burden of student loan payments
- Characteristics of federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program
- Role of part-time faculty at institutions of higher education
- Recent legislation affecting part-time faculty

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Education operates several programs that cancel the outstanding balance of certain federal student loans for individuals who are employed in public service professions. The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program allows forgiveness of the remaining loan balance after 120 monthly payments for individuals who are employed by government organizations, certain tax-exempt not-for-profit organizations, and the AmeriCorps and Peace Corps volunteer service organizations. In addition, the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program (TLFP) allows forgiveness of outstanding loan balances for teachers at schools that serve low-income students after five academic years of full-time service.

Senate Bill 670 (2011) specified the classifications of schools in Oregon at which a teacher must teach in order to qualify for public service loan forgiveness. House Bill 3255 (2021) required education employers to provide information and materials to employees on federal public service loan forgiveness programs and directed employees to become familiar with and assist other employees with participating in the program.

Senate Bill 1572 A adds public universities and community colleges to list of employers that must provide full-time teachers and school nurses with information regarding the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and modifies the calculation and definition of full-time employment at public institutions of higher education.