

SB 1572 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Neron**House Committee On Education****Action Date:** 02/24/22**Action:** Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill and rescind subsequent referral to Rules. (Printed B-Eng).**Vote:** 9-0-1-0**Yeas:** 9 - Alonso Leon, Hudson, Neron, Owens, Reardon, Ruiz, Smith Warner, Weber, Wright**Exc:** 1 - George**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Matthew Perreault, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 2/22, 2/24**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Adds public universities and community colleges to the 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 the calculation of full-time employment. Requires public universities and community colleges to calculate full-time equivalent work hours for the entire duration of a faculty member's employment using the formula provided. Allows calculation of full-time employment to include hours worked prior to effective date. Allows all subcommittees of Transfer Council to make recommendations relating to a common course numbering system and the transfer of academic credit. Provides that only subcommittees composed of faculty may make recommendations on issues that primarily relate to curriculum, subject matter, or methods of instruction. Extends deadline for Higher Education Coordinating Commission to submit report on an electronic system for academic credit transfer programs to December 15, 2022 and extends sunset to December 31, 2023. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Previous legislation relating to transfer of academic credit
- Eligibility threshold for part-time faculty to access public service loan forgiveness
- Challenges to unification of credit transfer processes
- Independent governance and local control of institutions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires public universities and community colleges to calculate full-time equivalent work hours for the entire duration of a faculty member's employment using the formula provided. Allows calculation of full-time employment to include hours worked prior to effective date. Allows all subcommittees of Transfer Council to make recommendations relating to a common course numbering system and the transfer of academic credit. Provides that only subcommittees composed of faculty may make recommendations on issues that primarily relate to curriculum, subject matter, or methods of instruction. Extends deadline for Higher Education Coordinating Commission to submit report on an electronic system for academic credit transfer programs to December 15, 2022 and extends sunset to December 31, 2023. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

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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. On Oct. 6, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education established a waiver program that expanded eligibility criteria of the PSLF program to include types of loans and loan payments that were previously not considered to be eligible, including years of service that had been applied toward the TLFP.

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.

In addition, in 2021 the Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 233, which established the Transfer Council to advise the Higher Education Coordinating Commission on the creation of a common course numbering system and other methods to streamline the transfer of academic credit between Oregon's public institutions of higher education. Currently, the law allows for Transfer Council subcommittees composed only of faculty members to make recommendations regarding common course numbering, while other subcommittees may advise on other matters related to credit transfer.

Senate Bill 1572 B modifies House Bill 3255 (2021) by adding public universities and community colleges to the list of employers that must provide full-time teachers and school nurses with information regarding the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and modifying the calculation and definition of full-time employment at public institutions of higher education. In addition, Senate Bill 1572 B modifies Senate Bill 233 (2021) by allowing all subcommittees of the Transfer Council to make recommendations regarding the development of a common course numbering system.