

SB 262 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to study how to decrease levels of student debt held by students at public institutions of higher education. Requires HECC to submit report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces the measure. Limits eligibility for Oregon Promise program to students and families with adjusted gross income at or below \$100,000. Clarifies commission's ability to limit eligibility based on individual or family adjusted gross income when commission determines that program funding is insufficient. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to adopt rules to determine whether student meets income criteria. Permits HECC to award moneys from Oregon Promise program to students to encourage community college degree program completion, without regard to minimum or maximum Oregon Promise program grant amounts or eligibility criteria. Requires HECC to adopt specified rules for administration of awards for degree completion. Modifies definition of student qualified to receive state scholarship and grant awards. Transfers administration of Oregon Opportunity Grant program from Director of Office of Student Access and Completion to HECC. Applies amendments beginning in fall 2024 academic term.

BACKGROUND:

The Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education (JTUSHE) was a bicameral legislative task force established by House Bill 2590 (2021). The measure charged the task force with visiting public post-secondary institutions of education in order to meet with current, former, and prospective students from underrepresented backgrounds, and with developing policy and funding proposals that focus on increasing the likelihood of student success for underrepresented students in the areas of access, retention, graduation, and entry into the workforce. The task force approved its [Report on Findings and Recommendations for 2023 Legislative Session](#) on December 13, 2022. Senate Bill 262 was among the legislation that the task force pre-session filed in accordance with the authority granted by House Bill 2590 (2021).

Senate Bill 262 requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to study how to decrease levels of student debt held by post-secondary students and to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024.