

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 2611

Relating to health care benefits for part-time faculty

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Education Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative McLain

HB 2611 requires employee-only health care benefits to include dental and vision benefits for part-time faculty members at a public institution of higher education, if the part-time faculty member is eligible for membership in PERS or the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan. The measure requires public institutions of higher education to notify all potentially eligible part-time faculty members.

In 2021, the Legislative Assembly passed SB 551 to help part-time faculty qualify for medical insurance. Under current law, eligible part-time faculty members can enroll in employee-only medical plans through the PEBB or OEBC. These employee-only medical plans have a 90% to 10% premium cost share split between employer and employee. Community colleges and public universities are eligible for reimbursement for their 90% cost share through HECC.

The impact of HB 2611 to HECC, PEBB, OEBC is indeterminate depending on part-time faculty participation. However, the impact is anticipated to be absorbable. SB 551 (2021) provided \$12.9 million General Fund for the Part-Time Faculty Insurance Fund for HECC to provide funding to reimburse public universities and community colleges. HECC anticipates a fund balance of \$10.8 million to be available for the 2023-25 biennium to reimburse public universities and community colleges.

The Education Subcommittee recommends HB 2611 be reported out do pass.