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.

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct study to determine best method for increasing percentage of students enrolled in public universities who graduate in four years. Directs commission to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to higher education not later than September 15, 2024.

Establishes Task Force on Funding Post-Secondary Education for purpose of reviewing how higher education is funded in Oregon, comparing funding of higher education in Oregon to funding of higher education in other states and making recommendations for how to increase funding for post-secondary institutions of education in manner that can stabilize tuition rates for enrolled students.

Requires task force to submit report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to higher education by September 15, 2024.

Sunsets task force on December 31, 2024.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Funding Post-Secondary Education is established.

(2) The task force consists of 21 members appointed as follows:

(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from among members of the Senate.

(b) The Senate Minority Leader shall appoint one member from among members of the Senate.

(c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among members of the House of Representatives.

(d) The House Minority Leader shall appoint one member from among members of the House of Representatives.

(e) The Governor shall appoint:

(A) Seven members to represent public universities listed in ORS 352.002, with one member representing each public university;

(B) Seven members to represent community colleges operated under ORS chapter 341, with each appointed member affiliated with a different community college;

(C) One member who is a commissioner on the Higher Education Coordinating Commission;
(D) One member who is either a student enrolled at a public university listed in ORS 352.002 or employed by an organization that represents students at public universities; and

(E) One member who is either a student enrolled at a community college operated under ORS chapter 341 or employed by an organization that represents students at community colleges.

(3) The task force shall:

(a) Review how higher education is funded in Oregon, with a focus on what sources the funding comes from and the amount of moneys received by each type of post-secondary institution of education;

(b) Compare the way higher education is funded in Oregon to the way higher education is funded in other states;

(c) Make recommendations on methods for the Legislative Assembly to increase funding for post-secondary institutions of education, including a plan as to how this increase can be reasonably achieved through legislation; and

(d) Demonstrate how an increase in funding recommended under paragraph (c) of this subsection can stabilize tuition rates for enrolled students.

(4) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

(6) The Governor shall designate individuals appointed under subsection (2)(e) of this section as chairperson and vice chairperson of the task force.

(7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

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

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

(10) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 that sets forth the findings and recommendations made by the task force under subsection (3) of this section, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to higher education no later than September 15, 2024.

(11) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission and Legislative Revenue Officer shall jointly provide staff support to the task force.

(12) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task force are nonvoting members of the task force and may act in an advisory capacity only.

(13) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.

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

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on December 31, 2024.

SECTION 3. This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.