

HB 2519 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/29, 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires institutions of higher education to adopt a written policy on hazing and to provide annual, on-campus training for students on hazing effects, laws, and school policies. Defines hazing as meaning provided in ORS 163.197. Defines institutions of higher education as an Oregon community college or an Oregon college or university that offers baccalaureate degree programs and enrolls students who receive state financial aid. Requires an institution to report the number of hazing incidents reported to and investigated by the institution during the previous academic year to the Legislative Assembly by December 31 of each calendar year. Permits one report for multiple institutions if information is disaggregated by institution.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of preventing hazing
- Current policies on hazing
- Public Universities
- Importance of collecting statewide data on hazing incidents
- Training on hazing policies
- Public awareness of hazing allegations

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 163.197 defines "hazing" as subjecting an individual to physical brutality, sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, or similar activities; compelling an individual to consume food, liquid, alcohol, cannabis, controlled substances, or other similar substances; or inducing, causing or requiring an individual to perform a duty or task that involves the commission of a crime or an act of hazing. A student organization or a member of a student organization commits the offense of hazing if, as a condition or precondition of attaining membership in the organization or of attaining any office or status in the organization, the organization or member intentionally hazes any member, potential member, or person pledged to be a member of the organization. House Bill 2519 A requires Oregon community colleges and most Oregon colleges and universities to adopt hazing policies, conduct annual, on-campus training on hazing, and provide annual reports on hazing incidents to the Legislative Assembly.