

Senate Bill 660

Sponsored by Senator BOQUIST

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 **as introduced**.

Requires public universities, in consultation with Department of Revenue, to develop comprehensive proposal to make public universities as financially independent from state as possible and to reduce hardship imposed on Oregon residents by student loan debt.

Requires public universities to file report containing comprehensive proposal with Legislative Assembly by September 1, 2020.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to higher education; and prescribing an effective date.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The public universities listed in ORS 352.002 shall jointly, in consultation**
5 **with the Department of Revenue, study and develop a comprehensive proposal to:**

6 (a) **Make the public universities as financially independent from the State of Oregon as**
7 **possible; and**

8 (b) **Reduce the hardship imposed on Oregon residents by student loan debt.**

9 (2) **The comprehensive proposal developed under subsection (1) of this section may in-**
10 **clude proposed legislation and shall:**

11 (a) **Consider whether public universities should be reconstituted as public corporations;**

12 (b) **Ensure that the State of Oregon continues to have ownership of all public university**
13 **assets financed with the proceeds of general obligation bonds;**

14 (c) **Design an effective method of prohibiting public universities that increase the current**
15 **levels of tuition and mandatory enrollment fees from receiving moneys appropriated to the**
16 **Higher Education Coordinating Commission by the Legislative Assembly;**

17 (d) **Require that each public university file an annual report with the Department of Re-**
18 **venue identifying the source and amount of all grant moneys received by the public univer-**
19 **sity;**

20 (e) **Require the Department of Revenue to:**

21 (A) **Review the material reported by public universities under paragraph (d) of this sub-**
22 **section; and**

23 (B) **Prepare a grant report that identifies grant moneys that could be assessed fees or**
24 **taxes for the purpose of offsetting student loan debt interest;**

25 (f) **Evaluate the impact of establishing a personal income tax deduction for 100 percent**
26 **of the student loan interest paid by Oregon residents; and**

27 (g) **Analyze any other factors identified by the public universities or Department of Re-**
28 **venue that would assist in the implementation of the policy goals and requirements set forth**
29 **in this section.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **SECTION 2.** No later than September 1, 2020, the public universities listed in ORS 352.002
2 shall jointly file a written report in the manner required under ORS 192.245, to the interim
3 committees of the Legislative Assembly responsible for higher education, setting forth the
4 comprehensive proposal required under section 1 of this 2019 Act.

5 **SECTION 3.** This 2019 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2019
6 regular session of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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