

SB 564 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/1, 3/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish by rule format and process for public colleges and universities to collect data on students who are parents or are acting as a parent or legal guardian. Requires public colleges and universities to supply data to Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to submit report on summarized data and progress toward compliance to Legislative Assembly. Mandates that changes apply for 2022-2023 academic year. Empowers Higher Education Coordinating Commission to act in preparation for changes to take effect for 2022-2023 academic year.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Challenges faced by students who are parents
- Services offered to student-parents
- Need for data to assess effectiveness of services offered
- Retention of student-parents
- Socioeconomic mobility of student-parents who graduate
- Whether other states collect similar data

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Allows public post-secondary institutions to continue to use existing forms for collecting demographic data from students without updating forms to comply with requirement. Clarifies that requirement applies to forms created for 2022-2023 academic year.

BACKGROUND:

By some estimates, between 3 and 5 million students in higher education are raising children while in school, which is roughly a quarter of all enrolled students. Rates of timely graduation for these student parents tend to be much lower than average. These student parents are also more likely to be women than men, to be older than non-parent students, and to attend community colleges rather than four-year universities.

Senate Bill 645 requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to develop rules that design and implement data collection methods to study parents who are students at Oregon's public colleges and universities, and for institutions to collect this data and provide it to the commission for a report to the Legislative Assembly in time for the 2022-2023 academic year.