

HB 3012 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Matt Perreault, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/3, 5/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies requirements for recognized student governments at public universities and community colleges to interact with institutional governing boards when making recommendations for mandatory incidental fees and mandatory student-initiated fees. Allows mandatory incidental fees to be raised by more than five percent if budget for previous year was at an abnormal level due to declared state of emergency. Modifies requirements for resolving disagreement between university board and recognized student government by written notice. Clarifies criteria for board to refuse requested modifications to fees. Applies provisions to decisions on mandatory fees made on or after effective date.

House Vote: Passed. Ayes, 50; Nays, 8--Bonham, Cate, Hayden, Nearman, Post, Reschke, Stark, Wallan; Excused, 2--Clem, Levy.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Purposes and uses for incidental fees charged by student governments
- Recent changes to fees resulting from budgetary changes during the COVID-19 emergency
- Effects of incidental fees on overall costs of higher education
- Role of student governments on campus

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Students at Oregon's public universities and community colleges are subject to mandatory enrollment, incidental, and student-initiated fees in addition to tuition. These fees typically cover student involvement activities and programs. Mandatory incidental and student-initiated fees differ from mandatory enrollment fees in that they are requested by student governments and collected by institutional boards, and are not subject to the same advisory guidelines as mandatory enrollment fees. Oregon law allows institutional boards or presidents to reject requests for incidental and student-initiated fees for a variety of reasons, including if the fee increase is greater than five percent and if the fee request is determined to not be advantageous to the cultural or physical development of students.

House Bill 3012 A modifies requirements for recognized student governments at public universities and community colleges to interact with institutional governing boards when making recommendations for mandatory incidental fees and mandatory student-initiated fees, removes certain restrictions for refusing fee requests, and modifies requirements for resolving disagreements between university boards and recognized student governments by written notice.