

## HB 2590 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Education

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**Action Date:** 03/25/21

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.  
(Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 9-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Alonso Leon, Hudson, Neron, Reardon, Ruiz, Smith DB, Sollman, Weber, Wright

**Exc:** 1 - Owens

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Matt Perreault, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/4, 3/25

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education. Requires task force to visit and consult with higher education students, faculty, staff, and community partners to develop policy proposals that increase likelihood of academic success for underrepresented students. Specifies that task force meet with students who are underrepresented and diverse, are from rural communities, are from low-income families, experience disabilities, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, intersex, asexual, nonbinary, or other gender identity or sexual orientation, are undocumented, and have been in foster care. Specifies membership and responsibilities of task force. Allows task force to create subcommittees and submit proposals directly to interim legislative committees. Requires task force to submit report to Legislative Assembly by December 15, 2022. Directs all public bodies to assist task force in its duties. Sunsets December 31, 2023. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Demographics of higher education student bodies
- Challenges facing underrepresented and first-generation students
- Need for trauma counseling and other services
- Socioeconomic mobility for first-generation students
- Partisan composition of task force

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

#### BACKGROUND:

Oregon law defines people who are underrepresented or diverse as people who identify as Black, Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian, Alaskan Native, or whose first language is not English. According to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, the share of students from these communities at public universities and community colleges has grown each year.

House Bill 2590 A charges a task force with visiting public universities and community colleges to meet with students from populations that are underrepresented in student bodies as compared to Oregon's population. These groups are specified as people who are underrepresented as defined in ORS 342.120, people who are diverse as defined in ORS 342.433, people from rural communities in Oregon, people from low-income families, experience disabilities, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, intersex, asexual, nonbinary, or other gender identity or sexual orientation, are undocumented, and have been in foster care.