

HB 2542 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Reardon

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 03/25/21

Action: Do pass with amendments. (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: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/25, 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires each public university and community college to prominently display descriptions for mandatory fees charged to students. Specifies requirements for display of fees. Requires institutions to report to Higher Education Coordinating Commission annually by September 1 on the status of the display requirement, a description of mandatory fees collected, whether fees collected were transferred for other uses, and a financial overview of fees collected. Applies requirement to 2022-2023 academic year.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Rate of increase of mandatory fees
- Requirements for fees in neighboring states
- Differences in fees between community colleges and universities
- Availability of information on fees

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Modifies definition of mandatory fee. Removes requirement for public post-secondary institutions to submit separate annual reports to Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Requires institutions to report to HECC annually by September 1 on the status of the display requirement, a description of mandatory fees collected, whether fees collected were transferred for other uses, and a financial overview of fees collected.

BACKGROUND:

Students at Oregon's public universities and community colleges are subject to mandatory enrollment and incidental fees in addition to tuition. Oregon law provides that increases in mandatory enrollment fees at public universities are limited to five percent annually unless otherwise approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) or the Legislative Assembly. These fees are overseen by an advisory board composed of administrators, faculty, and students. Mandatory incidental fees at universities and mandatory student-initiated fees at community colleges are requested by student governments and collected by institutional boards. These fees typically cover student activities and programs.

House Bill 2542 A requires each public university and community college to prominently display descriptions for mandatory fees charged to students, specifies requirements for the display of fees, and requires annual reports on compliance to the HECC.