

## HB 2412 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Education

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**Action Date:** 03/30/21

**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, Owens, Reardon, Ruiz, Sollman, Weber, Wright

**Exc:** 1 - Smith DB

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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

**Meeting Dates:** 3/18, 3/30

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$1,000,000 to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone (ASPIRE) program. Appropriates moneys to Higher Education Coordinating Commission to issue grants of \$1,000,000 to College Possible organization, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) organization, BUILD EXITO program at Portland State University, and Oregon TRIO organization. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Diversity of students served by college access programs
- Funding from Governor's recommended budget
- Reasoning for selection of programs named
- Graduation rates for students who participate
- Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on college enrollments
- Difficulty and complexity of college admission and financial aid application process

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

#### BACKGROUND:

Nonprofit college access organizations work to promote access to higher education for students who come from low-income backgrounds, underrepresented communities, are English language learners, or would be first-generation college students. These organizations operate a variety of programs, such as partnerships with schools to offer supplemental educational assistance in K-12 settings.

The Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone (ASPIRE) program was established by the Legislative Assembly in 2007 as part of House Bill 2729. This program connects high school students with volunteer mentors to offer assistance with scholarships and other financial aid opportunities in higher education.

House Bill 2412 A appropriates moneys to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission from the General Fund to issue grants to college access organizations.