

HB 2542 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Patterson

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 05/10/21

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Gorsek, Robinson, Thomsen

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Matt Perreault, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/3, 5/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires each public university and community college to prominently display descriptions of 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:

- Purposes of mandatory enrollment fees
- Transparency of fees charged to students
- Relationship with other costs related to higher education
- Ability of students to budget for tuition and fees

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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.