

# House Bill 3012

Sponsored by Representatives NOSSE, EVANS

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Limits ability of public university to refuse new mandatory incidental fees or process for collecting mandatory incidental fees. Limits ability of community college to refuse new mandatory student-initiated fees or process for collecting mandatory student-initiated fees.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to student fees at public institutions of higher education; creating new provisions; and  
3 amending ORS 341.470 and 352.105.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 352.105 is amended to read:

6 352.105. (1)(a) The board for each public university listed in ORS 352.002 shall collect mandatory  
7 incidental fees upon the request of the recognized student government under a process established  
8 by the recognized student government of a university [*in consultation with the board*]. **The recog-**  
9 **nized student government shall:**

10 (A) **Make a good faith effort to collaborate with the board and president of the university**  
11 **under the board's control prior to finalizing any process to collect mandatory incidental fees;**  
12 **and**

13 (B) **Notify the board and president of each process to collect mandatory incidental fees**  
14 **that is established by the recognized student government.**

15 (b) The process may include a student body referendum conducted under procedures established  
16 by the recognized student government. Mandatory incidental fees collected under this section shall  
17 be allocated by the recognized student government.

18 (2)(a) The mandatory incidental fee, use of the fee or decision to modify an existing fee may be  
19 refused by the board or the president [*of a university under the board's control*] if the board or  
20 president determines that:

21 (A) The recognized student government assessed or allocated the mandatory incidental fees in  
22 violation of applicable local, state or federal law;

23 (B) The allocation conflicts with a preexisting contractual financial commitment; **or**

24 (C) **Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection,** the total mandatory incidental  
25 fees budget is an increase of more than five percent over the level of the previous year[; *or*]

26 [*(D) The fee request is not advantageous to the cultural or physical development of students*].

27 (b) The mandatory incidental fee, use of the fee or decision to modify an existing fee may not  
28 be refused by the board or the president of a university based on:

29 (A) Considerations about the point of view that the funding seeks to advance; **or**

30 (B) **Paragraph (a)(C) of this subsection, if the mandatory incidental fees budget for the**  
31 **previous year was at an abnormal level due the effects of a declared state of emergency in**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **Oregon that changed the normal operations of the university and altered the anticipated**  
 2 **level of fee collection.**

3 (3) The recognized student government and the board shall seek to reach agreement on any  
 4 dispute involving mandatory incidental fees, if necessary with the aid of mediation, prior to a deci-  
 5 sion by the board.

6 (4)(a) If an agreement is not reached, **the board shall promptly provide written notice to the**  
 7 **recognized student government of how the proposed mandatory incidental fee will be altered**  
 8 **or if the proposed mandatory incidental fee will be rejected.**

9 (b) The decision of the board may be appealed to the Higher Education Coordinating Commis-  
 10 sion by the recognized student government within seven days of the **recognized student**  
 11 **government's receipt of the written notice of the** board's decision. The board shall submit its  
 12 response within seven days of the appeal. The commission shall render its decision within [*seven*]  
 13 **14** days of its receipt of the board's response.

14 (5) Mandatory incidental fees are not subject to ORS 352.102.

15 **SECTION 2.** ORS 341.470 is amended to read:

16 341.470. (1) As used in this section, "mandatory student-initiated fee" means a fee that:

- 17 (a) Is initiated by the recognized student government of the community college;
- 18 (b) Students are required to pay in addition to tuition fees;
- 19 (c) Is collected by the board of the community college; and
- 20 (d) Is allocated by the recognized student government of the community college.

21 (2)(a) The board for each community college shall collect mandatory student-initiated fees upon  
 22 the request of the recognized student government of the community college to the president of the  
 23 community college under a process established by the recognized student government [*in consulta-*  
 24 *tion with the board*]. **The recognized student government shall:**

25 (A) **Make a good faith effort to collaborate with the board and president prior to finaliz-**  
 26 **ing any process to collect mandatory student-initiated fees; and**

27 (B) **Notify the board and president of each process to collect mandatory student-initiated**  
 28 **fees that is established by the recognized student government.**

29 (b) Mandatory student-initiated fees collected under this section must be allocated by the re-  
 30 cognized student government.

31 (3) If the recognized student government makes a request under subsection (2) of this section for  
 32 a new or increased mandatory student-initiated fee, the board may require a campus referendum in  
 33 which the student body votes on whether to approve the fee. If a mandatory student-initiated fee is  
 34 rejected by the student body in a referendum held under this subsection, the recognized student  
 35 government may not request another mandatory student-initiated fee for the remainder of the aca-  
 36 demic year.

37 (4) A request for a mandatory student-initiated fee, use of the fee or decision to modify an ex-  
 38 isting fee may be refused by the president if the president determines that:

- 39 (a) The recognized student government assessed or allocated the mandatory student-initiated fee  
 40 in violation of applicable local, state or federal law;
- 41 (b) The allocation conflicts with a preexisting contractual financial commitment; **or**
- 42 (c) The total mandatory student-initiated fees budget would increase by a percentage that is  
 43 greater than the percentage increase in tuition and other fees approved by the board for the up-  
 44 coming academic year[; *or*]

45 [*(d) The fee request is not advantageous to the cultural or physical development of students*].

1 (5) The recognized student government and the president shall seek to reach agreement on any  
2 dispute involving mandatory student-initiated fees, if necessary with the aid of a process established  
3 by the board, prior to a decision by the president.

4 (6) If an agreement is not reached, the decision of the president may be appealed to the board,  
5 which will render a final decision prior to the adoption, use or modification of a mandatory  
6 student-initiated fee.

7 **SECTION 3. The amendments to ORS 341.470 and 352.105 by sections 1 and 2 of this 2021**  
8 **Act apply to decisions by the recognized student government of a community college oper-**  
9 **ated under ORS chapter 341 or of a public university listed in ORS 352.002 to establish man-**  
10 **datory student-initiated fees or mandatory incidental fees on or after the effective date of**  
11 **this 2021 Act.**

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