

SB 1572 A -A3, -A5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: House Committee On Rules

Meeting Dates: 2/22, 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds public universities and community colleges to list of employers that must provide full-time teachers and school nurses with information regarding the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. Specifies qualifications for full-time employment at a public university or community college. Allows for collective bargaining agreements to increase calculation of full-time employment. Applies provisions retroactively to September 25, 2021. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

Senate Vote: Passed. Ayes, 24; Nays, 2; Absent, 1; Excused, 3

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Previous legislation relating to transfer of academic credit
- Eligibility threshold for part-time faculty to access public service loan forgiveness
- Challenges to unification of credit transfer processes
- Independent governance and local control of institutions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A3 Requires public universities and community colleges to calculate full-time equivalent work hours for the entire duration of a faculty member's employment using the formula provided. Allows calculation of full-time employment to include hours worked prior to effective date.

-A5 Requires public universities and community colleges to calculate full-time equivalent work hours for the entire duration of a faculty member's employment using the formula provided. Allows calculation of full-time employment to include hours worked prior to effective date. Allows all subcommittees of Transfer Council to make recommendations relating to a common course numbering system and the transfer of academic credit. Provides that only subcommittees composed of faculty may make recommendations on issues that primarily relate to curriculum, subject matter, or methods of instruction. Extends deadline for Higher Education Coordinating Commission to submit report on an electronic system for academic credit transfer programs to December 15, 2022 and extends sunset to December 31, 2023.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Education operates several programs that cancel the outstanding balance of certain federal student loans for individuals who are employed in public service professions. The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program allows forgiveness of the remaining loan balance after 120 monthly payments for individuals who are employed by government organizations, certain tax-exempt not-for-profit organizations, and the AmeriCorps and Peace Corps volunteer service organizations. In addition, the Teacher Loan Forgiveness

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Program (TLFP) allows forgiveness of outstanding loan balances for teachers at schools that serve low-income students after five academic years of full-time service. On Oct. 6, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education established a waiver program that expanded eligibility criteria of the PSLF program to include types of loans and loan payments that were previously not considered to be eligible, including years of service that had been applied toward the TLFP.

Senate Bill 670 (2011) specified the classifications of schools in Oregon at which a teacher must teach in order to qualify for public service loan forgiveness. House Bill 3255 (2021) required education employers to provide information and materials to employees on federal public service loan forgiveness programs and directed employees to become familiar with and assist other employees with participating in the program.

Senate Bill 1572 A adds public universities and community colleges to list of employers that must provide full-time teachers and school nurses with information regarding the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and modifies the calculation and definition of full-time employment at public institutions of higher education.